

Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group



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I am based in the USA and work internationally. I am affiliated with the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois, USA 60022.

The group currently has 14 members, but there are plans to expand.

2011 Update

The SG focused attention on increasing the voice of fungi in conservation conversations and action and on providing tools for mycologists to use to document the conservation status of fungi using IUCN guidelines

- Organized the 1st fungal conservation symposium held at a Latin American Mycological Congress.
- Led workshop on red listing at European Mycological Congress
- Participated in discussions on proposed plan to develop an annotated / illustrated checklist of the macrofungi of North America.
- Published "Applying IUCN red-listing criteria for assessing and reporting on the conservation status of fungal species" in *Fungal Ecology* 4: 147-162 (2011)

Success Stories

- Latin American Mycological Association established a Fungal Conservation Committee to facilitate work throughout the region.
- Increased discussions and programing focused on conservation at Latin American, North American, and European Mycological Congresses
- International Society for Fungal Conservation established

Challenges

- Building awareness and acceptance that fungi can be, and need to be, included in conservation conversations and action.
- Increasing knowledge on the biology of these fungi to better monitor and assess their conservation status and to develop management plans.

Future Goals

- Continue to raise awareness – aimed at mycologists and other biologists, land managers, and policy makers.
- Facilitate discussions among mycologists to focus research on topics that inform conservation assessment and management
- Add species to the global Red List. Initial target species have been identified; need to convene a working group to undertake the global assessments.

