

The Global Fungal Red List Initiative



Fungi are rarely included in broader conservation discussions, policy decisions, or land management plans. However, species of fungi are not immune to the threats that put species of animals and plants at risk.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk of animal, fungus, and plant species. The information in the List is widely used to set political conservation policies and to inform scientists, decision makers, and the public about the status and trends of global biodiversity. The IUCN Red List is the global gold standard for informing conservation action. Yet there are only three fungi (two lichens and one mushroom) out of 21,286 globally listed species on the Red List (2013). This gross underrepresentation of fungi on the global Red List greatly hinders the inclusion of fungi in conservation policy decisions, discussions, access to funding programs, and conservation action. The List is developed through data submitted by organizations and individuals. To date, few data have been provided for fungi.

The **Global Fungal Red List Initiative** was developed to begin to rectify this problem. The goal of the Initiative is to engage the mycological community (professional and amateur) to get at least 300 species of threatened fungi assessed and globally red listed by the end of 2015. Nominations of fungal species (including lichens) to be assessed, along with data required for making the assessment, are needed by the end of 2014 to meet this deadline. In doing so, the Initiative will raise the awareness of fungal conservation among mycologists, the conservation community, policy makers and the general public.

The success of this initiative depends on contributions from you and rest of the mycological community. Firstly, go to the Initiative's website <http://iucn.ekoo.se/>. There you can nominate species and/or add information to nominated species to ensure accuracy and completeness. Secondly, and as importantly, please promptly spread the word about the Initiative and encourage your colleagues to participate. .

With your participation, the Initiative will highlight that: (1) Fungi are in need of conservation, and (2) Fungi can be, and need to be, part of the broader conservation agenda.

THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES™

The initiative is a joint action from the five IUCN fungal specialist groups. For further information, please go to <http://iucn.ekoo.se/> or contact:

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