



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat







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**Mission statement**

The Fungal Conservation Committee (FunCC) aims to raise awareness of the importance of fungi and the need to conserve them, enhance coordination among the fungal and the broader conser-

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**T-007** Continue to build capacity within Fungal Specialist Groups across the Species Conservation Cycle, communication and other issues.

Status: On track

**T-008** Continue building capacity within the mycological community through symposia, short courses and workshops.

Status: Achieved

#### **COMMUNICATE**

**T-005** Develop and implement a communication strategy engaging all members of the FunCC including a logo, website, and social media.

Status: On track

**T-006** Work with fungal NGOs and associations, conservation agencies, etc., on campaigns to highlight the importance of fungi, include fungi when talking about biodiversity (fauna, flora, funga), and incorporate fungi in conservation initiatives and land management decisions, education initiatives, etc.

Status: On track

**T-009** Raise awareness and importance of conservation initiatives and action within the mycological community through symposia, short courses, and workshops.

Status: On track

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### **Activities and results 2023**

#### **ASSESS**

##### **Red List**

**T-004 Coordinate and support Fungal Specialist Groups to produce and submit 3,000 global assessments.** (KSR 6)

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distribution and brought it into *ex situ* conservation. Also, a project led by Dr Zhu-Liang Yang is focused on documenting the diversity, distribution and conservation status of macrofungi occurring in Yunnan Province, China. Likewise, with support from the MBZ Species Conservation Fund, Reda Iršėnaitė is undertaking a project entitled 'Distribution and ecology of Vulnerable wood-inhabiting fungus *Baeospora myriadophylla* in Lithuania: site selection for protection'. The project is contributing to the knowledge of the distribution, habitat requirements of the species to help select suitable habitats and tools for conservation. Additionally

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Result description: A working group on *ex situ* conservation collections led by a member of the FunCC was established in 2023. While there are between 25,000 species of fungi preserved in culture collections throughout the world, these collections only house 25 of the over 352 species assessed as globally Threatened or Near Threatened (data from Tuula, 2023). Thus, a concerted effort is needed to get species that can be cultured into culture collections.

**T-022 Produce intervention letters and policy recommendations to address specific needed actions.** (KSR 10)

Number of intervention letters addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: FunCC members and their networks continue to work with national and regional agencies, landowners / land trusts and corporations that manage land to include fungi in conservation policies and planning.

**Technical advice**

**T-016 Work with national and regional agencies, landowners/land trusts and corporations that manage land to include fungi in conservation planning.** (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: Efforts to collate existing conservation action plans to be published on the FunCC website are ongoing with an anticipated completion date in 2024. The year 2023 saw concerted efforts to engage the NatureServe Network – the network that collects, analyses and delivers biodiversity knowledge to support biodiversity conservation in the US and

Canada. Efforts included interviewing selected state and province Heritage Botanists to understand the needs of the community, developing a set of recommendations/options for including fungi based on the findings of these interviews, identifying potential partners for sampling/ monitoring and identification of fungi that would work with state and province Heritage teams, and plan a workshop at the 2024 NatureServe biannual meeting.

**T-021 Enhance *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation and sustainable use initiatives.** (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 1

Result description: A Fungal Use Group within the Sustainable Use and Livelihood Specialist Group (SULi) was established in 2023. Additionally, collaboration with the FairWild Foundation continued in 2023 to develop standards and criteria for certifying sustainably collected and marketed wild fungi. A pilot project focused on edible fungi in Malawi is testing the protocols being developed.

**NETWORK  
Capacity building**

## **Membership**

**T-002 Add additional members to the FunCC as additional thematic needs are identified.**



Result description: Online stories were posted throughout the year through the

