

2016-2017 Report



Irene Bisang



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Number of members

28

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Bryophyte Specialist Group is to promote the exploration of bryological diversity across all geographic scales and its long-term conservation.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. The 1,800 European bryophyte species have been assessed and assessment workshops held. The assessments are currently being reviewed by experts and IUCN staff, which is planned to be finalized during the coming year. It will be followed by analysis of the results and writing of the Red List. (KSR #1)

ii. We have compiled a candidate list for the selection of the ten bryophyte species at high risk for extinction for the African continent. (KSR #1)

iii. To get an idea of what happened to the most endangered and/or rarest bryophyte species in Switzerland in the last decades, a field work campaign has already been started where old sites are being resurveyed. At the same time, herbarium specimens of critical species are being revised. (KSR #1)

■ Research activities

i. We have contributed with scientific information on bryophyte traits to the spreadsheets on "Sensitivity traits" and "Adaptability traits" to the initiative by the Global Species Program, Climate Change Unit.

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. We have initiated the planning of the IUCN Red List Assessment Methodology Workshop, contacted the organizers for the IAB meeting and established contact with a potential funder. (KSR #5)

■ Research activities

i. Paper published on the edge effect on epiphyllous bryophytes in Taita Hills fragmented afro-montane forests: Malombe et al. (2016), in *Journal of Bryology* 38(1): 33-46. (KSR #32)

ii. Paper published on the contribution to the evaluation of areas to be considered for priority bryophyte conservation action in southern Africa: Van Rooy and Phephu. (2016), in *Bryophyte Diversity and Evolution* 38(1): 27-39. (KSR #32)

■ Scientific meetings

i. 9th Conference of European Committee for Conservation of Bryophytes. "Bryophyte Conservation – Towards the new European Red List of Bryophytes". 26-29 April 2016, Bečići, Montenegro. (KSR #28)

Communications

■ Communication

i. We suggested three bryophyte candidates, *Anacamptodon marginata* (Amblystegiaceae), *Cheilolejeunea omphalogastris* (Lejeuneaceae) and *Leucoperichaetium eremophilum* (Grimmiaceae), to be included in the search for lost species. (KSR #43)

■ Research activities

i. Paper publication in progress on the most strongly threatened African bryophytes, to be submitted shortly to *Bothalia*. (KSR #43)



Wardia hygrometrica habit,
Jonkershoek Mountains, Cape Region, South Africa
Photo: Jonathan Sleath

Echinodium renauldii, Vulnerable
and native from Azores, Portugal
Photo: L. Hedenäs



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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) complete assessment of 1,800 European bryophytes and publication of an European bryophyte Red List; (2) top10-Initiative: 10 species per continent that are most highly at risk for extinction comprehensively assessed; (3) Red List assessment of all Swiss bryophytes; (4) Red List assessment of South African Pottiaceae.

Research activities: analysis of the endemic bryophyte element of southern Africa (S-Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho).

Capacity building

Capacity building: capacity building among BSG members: workshop on IUCN Red List assessment methodology.

Communications

Research activities: publish paper on the most strongly threatened African bryophytes.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we expect that substantially more bryophyte species are properly assessed or reassessed at the global scale, following the latest IUCN guidelines. The members of the BSG are familiar with the IUCN methodology for Red List assessment and its application, and awareness of the IUCN methods and their implications has spread to national levels. We anticipate that the workshop to be held in 2019 will have a catalysing effect on regional and national Red List assessment. We expect that the published "European Red List of threatened Bryophyte Species" will support priority making for conservation actions and inform policy decisions on biodiversity conservation in Europe. It will serve as a critical instrument to measure some aspects of the progress towards achieving the EU 2020 Biodiversity strategy.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (4 activities)
- Capacity building (4 activities)
- Communications (2 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 28, 32, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Echinodium spinosum, endemic of Macaronesia
Photo: L. Hedenäs