and (5) scientific outreach to specialists and the general public highlighting the importance of fungal conservation. If these initial goals are met, we expect that Brazil will be recognized as a country that values and conserves its fungi and contributes to the Reverse the Red Initiative.

Elisandro Ricardo Drechsler-Santos (orcid.org/0000-0002-3702-8715, drechslersantos@yahoo.com.br), Francisco J. Simões Calaça (orcid.org/0000-0002-0623-8306), Kelmer Martins-Cunha (orcid.org/0000-0002-0545-5966), Diogo H. Costa-Rezende (orcid.org/0000-0002-7381-6954), Jadson D.P. Bezerra (orcid.org/0000-0002-7782-8602), Larissa Trierveiler-Pereira (orcid.org/0000-0002-1276-2083), Nelson Menolli Jr. (orcid.org/0000-0002-1841-8179), Luciana Canêz (orcid.org/0000-0002-0735-953X) and Tiara S. Cabral (orcid.org/0000-0003-0187-3498) IUCN Species Survival Commission Brazil Fungal Specialist Group. Cátia Canteiro (orcid.org/0000-0001-6588-4773) Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, USA. Gregory M. Mueller (orcid.org/0000-0001-8316-9319) Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, USA

Updating the action plan of the national strategy for the conservation of fungi in Cuba

The Strategy for the Conservation of Fungal Diversity in Cuba (cybertruffle.org.uk/cubacons/index.html) was concluded during the implementation of the Fungi of the Caribbean project (1997–2000), which was funded by the UK Darwin Initiative. The strategy was a key reference for national and international projects but given the time since its preparation, an update of the Strategy's Action Plan was required. The Action Plan was updated through workshop discussions in which members of the project Implementation of the Strategy for the Conservation of Fungal Diversity in Cuba (2019–2021) and relevant invited specialists participated. In these discussions, the Action Plan was analysed to ensure it corresponds to the goals and actions of the National Programme on Biological Diversity. The update of the Action Plan was published in November 2022 (Mena-Portales et al., 2022, *Acta Botánica Cubana*, 221, 438).

Of the 65 actions in the updated Action Plan, 22 are currently being carried out related to: (1) the awareness of Cuban society in general, and some target groups in particular, of the importance of fungal conservation, (2) scientific research and technological innovation, monitoring and evaluation of fungal diversity and institutional strengthening, (3) assessment of the conservation status of Cuban mycobiota using the IUCN Red List criteria, (4) integrated agroecological pest management, including the use of fungi as biofertilizers and for biological control, (5) the inclusion of information about fungi in the approval and management of protected areas of national and local significance, (6) in situ and ex situ conservation of the genetic diversity of fungal species, with emphasis on species useful for food and agriculture, and (7) the incorporation of fungal species into methodologies for the restoration and/or rehabilitation of priority ecosystems and landscapes.

This update of the Action Plan is essential for advancing efforts to conserve not only the mycobiota, but also the habitats, ecosystems and landscapes where these organisms play a leading role.

J. Mena-Portales (orcid.org/0000-0002-2964-7217, jmena@ecologia.cu) and M. Camino Vilaró (orcid.org/0000-0002-6206-2106) Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Havana, Cuba. D.W. Minter (orcid.org/0000-0001-9763-3303) CABI, Egham, UK

Conservation of the Critically Endangered dark sitana in Nepal through education campaigns

The 42 lizard species known from Nepal have received little conservation attention. In many Nepalese communities, lizards are portrayed as relatives of snakes and considered to be venomous, and in folklore they are treated as lazy and dishonest animals. There are three species of sitana lizards in Nepal: the Siwalik sitana *Sitana sivalensis,* Shuklaphanta sitana *Sitana schleichi* and dark sitana *Sitana fusca*. The dark sitana is an agamid lizard endemic to Nepal and known only from its type locality in Madhesh province. It is categorized as Critically Endangered as a result of habitat loss, forest fragmentation and urbanization.

With support from The Rufford Foundation, UK, Auckland Zoo, New Zealand, and Katie Adamson Conservation Fund, USA, a conservation and research project for the dark sitana has been jointly initiated by the Nepal Conservation and Research Center and the Mithila Wildlife Trust. Outreach education sessions were jointly conducted by these two institutions in March and April 2023. We worked with students in 15 schools and five peri-forest communities (i.e. living immediately adjacent to the forest and dependent on it). A total 1,055 students (492 boys and 563 girls) and 123 community members attended these sessions. We also distributed a conservation poster about the dark sitana to each student and community member.

In these education sessions, the communities and students, who previously perceived the dark sitana to be venomous, were able to learn that this lizard occurs only in their province, is non-venomous and is an important component