



An example Tik Tok post that depicts wild songbird trade in Indonesia. *Cak ijo* is shorthand for *cucak ijo*, the trade name for leafbirds (*Chloropsis* spp.), PH, *paruh hitam* (black beak); *jamin jantan* (guaranteed male, although the photo could show either a juvenile male or an adult female of the greater green leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*); 450 ecer: IDR 450,000 (c. GBP 24); WA is shorthand for WhatsApp. We have obscured the telephone number and the name of the shop.

Here we present an example of the greater green leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*, an Endangered and protected species (under law P.106 of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry) that is a popular pet across Java (Marshall et al., 2019, *Biological Conservation*, 241, 108237). In presenting this image, we have used a privacy-compliant image processing tool to limit the risk of this TikTok user's identity being discoverable by reverse image search.

The proliferation of bird trade on online platforms poses new challenges for monitoring the trade of caged birds in Indonesia. There may be incentives to trade species online rather than in physical marketplaces, given the perception of enhanced anonymity and the potential to reach a wider market and secure higher sale prices (Fink et al., 2021, op. cit.). Our observation indicates that TikTok users are flouting the platform's guidelines. We recommend that the monitoring of bird trade and other illegal wildlife trade should include emerging and popular platforms such as TikTok.

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A new specialist group for Brazilian fungi

In January 2023, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) created a new specialist group to focus on the conservation of Brazilian fungi: the IUCN SSC Brazil Fungal Specialist Group (iucnbrazfun.com, [@iucfungibrazil](https://twitter.com/iucfungibrazil) and [iucnssc_fungibrazil](https://iucnssc_fungibrazil.org/)). As a megadiverse country with key biodiversity hotspots, Brazil and its fauna, flora and funga face numerous challenges related to threats such as climate change and anthropogenic activities. This is of particular concern in centres of endemism, which for fungi include the Araucaria and cloud forests of southern Brazil. As there is currently no public policy to include fungi in the conservation agenda in Brazil, in part because of the absence of an official national Red List for fungi (for an unofficial national list, see mindfunga.ufsc.br/mind-funga), the diversity of fungi is being neglected by decision-makers, despite their importance for ecosystem dynamics and health.

With a vision of Brazil as a country that values and conserves fungi, the new specialist group was formed by a diverse group of Brazilian mycologists and lichenologists with a common aim to include fungi in species conservation programmes, environmental legislation, public policy, ecosystem management and science outreach initiatives. These efforts have already included the assessment of fungal species for the IUCN Red List (Mueller et al., 2022, *Diversity*, 14, 736), promotion of integrative approaches for fungal conservation (Costa-Rezende et al., 2022, *Oryx*, 56, 13), capacity building and scientific popularization and communication.

The next steps for the new specialist group include: (1) a series of initiatives to disseminate and strengthen the group in Brazil and elsewhere, (2) the promotion of IUCN Red Listing workshops and training of specialists in the application of the Red List categories and criteria, (3) periodic updating of the list of Brazilian fungal species as part of the Flora and Funga of Brazil Project (floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br), (4) political engagement at municipal, state and federal levels,



Parmotrema pachydermum (Hue) O. Blanco, A. Crespo, Divakar, Elix & Lumbsch, a Critically Endangered lichen species. Photo: Adriano Spielmann.

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.

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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.

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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