

Fungi Foundation

---

# Main Achievements & Activities **2025**

January, 2026

**Fungi**  
FOUNDATION





# Executive Summary

During 2025, at the Fungi Foundation we continued working toward a mycologically inclusive world, in which fungi are fully considered in global conversations on biodiversity, conservation, education, art and culture. The year marked significant progress in how fungi are recognised and protected across public policy, scientific research, education, and the arts, while also strengthening long-term collaborations with Indigenous communities, governments, researchers, and cultural institutions.

From concrete policy advances in Chile, the UK, Austria, and international UN processes to new research initiatives, ethical ethnomycology, and growing public engagement, these achievements reflect a shared momentum to ensure fungi are finally seen, valued, and protected as a fundamental part of life on Earth.

Supporting this work, we continued to build on our organisational capacity by expanding our team to 14 people working across eight countries, an international structure that reflects both the global relevance of fungi and our commitment to advancing conservation, research, policy, education, and public engagement through diverse perspectives and locally grounded expertise.



# 2025 achievements

- **National fungal agendas strengthened in Chile and the United Kingdom (UK)**, including the launch of a binational platform to implement the Fungal Conservation Pledge.
- **Fungi re-incorporated into the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)**, the UK government's environmental strategy.
- **Pioneer study of rust fungi in Tierra del Fuego and Alerce Andino National Park**, led by Dr. Mary Catherine Aime's team and the Fungi Foundation as local partners.
- Traditional Mycological Knowledge documentation conducted together with **Mapuche, Q'ero, Ccorca, and Kichwa communities** across Chile, Peru, and Ecuador.
- Fungi were brought into leading international art and cultural spaces through **exhibitions in Brussels, Santiago, and Hamburg**.
- "Funga" formally included alongside flora and fauna in **Vienna's Nature Conservation Law, Austria**.
- Published a **new version of our Ethnomycology Ethical Guidelines** with Indigenous community endorsement.
- Opened a new museum in **Huautla de Jiménez: Historias y Memorias Mazatecas**, a meeting place for Mazatec culture and traditions.
- Scientists from the **Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku (Ecuador)** were trained in molecular identification techniques for mushrooms, in collaboration with New York University (NYU).



# 2025 achievements

- Co-authored **three new peer-reviewed scientific papers**.
- **Participated in ten international events** including keynote address at the School of World Religions in Harvard Divinity School, Ladera Sur Festival in Chile, and Telluride Mushroom Festival in the US.
- **Expanded our team to fourteen people working across eight countries.** This reflects our commitment to advancing conservation, research, policy, education, and public engagement globally.
- **Forty-five news publications**, featuring articles, podcasts, and videos about our work across 14 countries, including the UK, US, Chile, India, Germany, Brazil, and Spain, among others.



Photos by: Mateo Barrenengoa



# Important advances in 2025

- The Fungal Conservation Pledge is now **signed by 13 countries, including Ethiopia.**
- Chilean and British delegations aligned to formally **include fungi within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).**
- **Formal recognition of fungi advanced within UN CBD processes toward COP17.**
- We have continued to contribute to the drafting of targets for the **Global Strategy for Fungal Conservation.**
- Fungi moving towards full integration into **Chile's education system through their inclusion in the national school curriculum.**
- **Conservation plans for *Loyo* and *Gargal*:** foundations laid for conservation plans of two endangered edible Chilean species.





# Conservation Program

- Progress in developing an agenda for **fungal conservation within the framework of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD) towards COP17.
- Chilean and British delegations aligned to formally include fungi **within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** (CITES).
- Fungi re-incorporated into the **Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)**, the UK government's environmental strategy.
- National fungal agendas strengthened in Chile and the United Kingdom, including an **upcoming MOU with Chile's Ministry of the Environment and the launch of a binational platform to implement the Fungal Conservation Pledge.**
- "Funga" formally included alongside flora and fauna in **Vienna's Nature Conservation Law, Austria.**
- Scientists from the **Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku (Ecuador)** were trained in molecular identification techniques for mushrooms, in collaboration with New York University (NYU).
- We have continued to contribute to the drafting of targets for the **Global Strategy for Fungal Conservation.**



## Engagement with international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

- We advanced our mission to make sure fungi are taken into account in major international environmental agreements. This included **becoming a formal observer in order to secure formal recognition of fungi within the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) process** and submitting a detailed Position Paper for the Parties at the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 27) discussions.
- At the same time, we collaborated with the delegations of Chile and the United Kingdom as they prepared for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties 20 (COP20), helping support the implementation of the COP12 decision that confirmed that CITES also applies to fungal species.





## Building National Agendas for Fungal Conservation

We promoted national engagement through the development of national fungal agendas involving public institutions, research networks, NGOs, and mycological societies. In particular, we are continually supporting the implementation process of the Pledge for Fungal Conservation in the lead countries by successfully promoting the recognition of fungi into the environmental law of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and specifically including fungi into the UK's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP).



Photos by: Mateo Barrenengoa



## The 3F campaign reaches Austria

Vienna has officially added “funga” alongside fauna and flora in its nature conservation agenda, becoming the first major European capital to do so. This was achieved thanks to the leadership of Dr. Irmgard Greilhuber, mycologist and Austria’s leading expert on fungal biodiversity, together with René Lux from Pilzfestspiele and with our direct support.

## Territorial Knowledge and Biocultural Research Collaborations

In September 2025, two scientists from the Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku, received formal laboratory training in molecular identification techniques for mushrooms at the National Institute of Biodiversity (INABIO) of Ecuador. The training was led by Pamela Lojan, Innovation Management Analyst, and Pablo Jarrín, Director of the Molecular Biology and Sequencing Laboratory. The sessions were organized and led by Daniela Torres of the Fungi Foundation, with the support from the More Than Human Rights initiative (MOTH) at New York University (NYU).

This training built upon work from September 2024, when the foundation team sampled fungal species within the Sarayaku forest and deposited the specimens at INABIO. These activities are part of the Sciences Across Cultures Initiative (SACI), established in 2024 by the Fungi Foundation in collaboration with the NYU School of Law, the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN), and Cosmo Sheldrake. The initiative led to an expedition conducted at the request of the Sarayaku community as part of their Kawsak Sacha (Living Forest) project, which included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku to protect and safeguard their traditional knowledge and the data generated from their territory.



Photos by: Mateo Barrenengoa



## Aligning Global Efforts for Fungal Conservation

- We established and strengthened strategic partnerships among governments, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to coordinate fungal conservation efforts globally. These collaborations include the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), PlantLife International, and Royal Botanic Garden KEW, among others.
- **The Global Strategy for Fungal Conservation (GSFC) seeks to secure the full inclusion of fungi in global biodiversity agreements, national conservation strategies, and public policy.** Its goals include increasing the number of assessed fungal species, including fungi into targets such as the 30×30 commitment to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030, raising public awareness of their ecological value, and advancing concrete conservation actions through policy and practice.

This year, we actively contributed to global fungal conservation by supporting the drafting of proposed GSFC Targets. Our work focused on:

**Target 1:** Planning and managing all areas to reduce biodiversity loss

**Target 3:** Conserving 40% of land, inland waters, and seas

**Target 4:** Halting species extinctions, protecting genetic diversity, and managing human–wildlife conflicts

**Target 5:** Ensuring sustainable, safe, and legal harvesting and trade of wild species

**Target 9:** Managing wild species sustainably for the benefit of people

**Target 20:** Strengthening capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity



## Co-National Platform for the Implementation of the Fungal Conservation Pledge

A co-national platform led by Chile and the United Kingdom was established, involving the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs of Chile, alongside the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs UK (DEFRA), RBG Kew, and the Fungi Foundation. The initiative is coordinated by the Fungi Foundation.



Photos by: Giuliana Furci



# Education Program

- Fungi moving towards full integration into Chile's education system through their **inclusion in the national school curriculum** and a new alliance with the Ministry of Education.
- Students, teachers, and educators engaged through a dynamic workshop, interactive booth, and documentary screening at **Chile's largest environmental education fair**.

## Consolidating our role in bringing fungi into classrooms

- For the first time, **Chile's national curriculum includes fungi (funga) alongside plants and animals**. Although the official publication of the curriculum is still pending, we are already collaborating with the Chilean Ministry of Education to develop teacher training programs for 2026.

We participated in the **XXI Environmental Education Fair in Chile's Metropolitan Region, the country's largest environmental education event**. Through an interactive stand, an urban graffiti booth, a workshop for 2nd- and 3rd-grade primary school children, and a screening of National Geographic's documentary *Flora Fauna Funga*, we engaged with ministers, mayors, and public servants, as well as school teachers, scientific committees, students from public and private schools, and their families.



# Elders Program

- Published a new and **improved version of our Ethnomycology Ethical Guidelines** with Indigenous community endorsement.
- Opened a **new museum in Huautla de Jiménez: Historias y Memorias Mazatecas**, a meeting place for Mazatec culture and traditions.
- In the process of developing a **Rights of Nature position paper** and fieldwork with Waorani and Kichwa communities
- Traditional Mycological Knowledge documentation conducted together with **Mapuche, Q'ero, Ccorca, and Kichwa communities** across Chile, Peru, and Ecuador

## Ethnomycology Ethical Guidelines

We published an updated and improved version of our Ethnomycology Ethical Guidelines. This revision was made possible through the collaboration of an international team including anthropologists and ethnobotanists who contributed to strengthening the previous version. The updated guidelines amplify Latin American perspectives, emphasize the role of scientists in supporting these processes, and highlight the importance of collaboration among academia, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant communities. This document has been revised and endorsed by Pueblo Kichwa de Sarayaku (POKS), Sciences Across Cultures Initiative (SACI), and Historias y Memorias Mazatecas (HMM).



## Traditional Mycological Knowledge (TMK)

Fieldwork and oral documentation have been conducted in Curarrehue with the Mapuche People (Andes, Chile), in Ccorca with local communities and in Quico with members of the Q'ero community (Andes, Peru), as well as with the Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku (Amazon, Ecuador). In each place, we worked directly with the People who hold and transmit knowledge, through forest walks, shared observation, and conversations in context. This allowed us not only to record information, but to understand the relationships with fungi as they are lived: grounded in territory, language, memory, and daily practice. **All interviews were carried out with prior free, educated and informed consent, transcribed with care, and reviewed together with participants to ensure that their voices remain in their own terms and intentions.**

Testimonies are securely stored with consent both online in encrypted storage clouds and on two offline hard drives in different regions of the world, and can be used only with participants' permission. Each contributor receives their own copy, and is ensured full control over their knowledge. Beyond documentation, the work supports the continuity and self-determination of local knowledge systems, fostering long-term relationships, community-led data sovereignty, and culturally grounded forms of knowledge protection and transmission. Supporting this effort helps safeguard living, place-based, and endangered ecological and ceremonial knowledge.



Photos by: Tomás Munita



## ***Historias y Memorias Mazatecas (HMM), Mexico***

After almost eight years of work, the *Museum of Mazatec Histories and Memories* achieved the most significant milestone in establishing itself as a vibrant cultural and community center in Huautla de Jiménez, Oaxaca. Despite challenges related to infrastructure, the region's remote geography, limited access to specialized materials, and the need for trained personnel, the museum successfully completed its initial setup and officially opened its doors to the public on October 26th. The project has laid a strong foundation for its next phase, which will expand educational and cultural programming designed to further engage the community and safeguard Mazatec heritage.



Photos by: Inti García



## Remembering the Forest

How to bring the forest to elderly people in permanent care? After years of planning, during 2024 we piloted the first experience of "*Remembering the Forest*", a project that aims to provide elders at Long-Stay Establishments in Chile (ELEAM, in Spanish) the opportunity to relive their childhood experiences of the forest. We have published the two reels featuring the participation of two older adults with a degree of physical dependence, which prevents them from accessing open spaces like forests. These videos allow us to show the impact of experiences such as these, that make it possible for older adults to connect with nature. We are currently seeking funding to continue taking the forest to the elderly in nursing homes.

## ***Fungi in Relation to Conservation of Land and Ways of Life in Yasuni, Ecuador***

We will develop a position paper highlighting the opportunities of including fungi in the Rights of Nature framework. This will be co-authored by recognized experts in law, science, and the Rights of Nature movement. The project will also include fieldwork with Waorani and Kichwa communities to document ancestral knowledge and cultural practices related to fungi, with all data managed under strict sovereignty agreements ensuring community ownership.

As part of our engagement process, we participated in the First International Conference on the Closure, Dismantling, and Remediation of the Yasuni Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT), strengthening connections with local initiatives focused on ecological restoration and knowledge recovery. We will proceed with interviews across Amazonian territories during 2026 to raise awareness of fungal diversity and advocate for the recognition of both scientific and Traditional Mycological Knowledge as key elements in current processes of territorial recovery and resistance.



# Expeditions Program

- Conducted ethnomycological fieldwork in Peru, documenting Traditional Fungal Knowledge.
- **Pioneer study of rust fungi in Tierra del Fuego and Alerce Andino National Park**, led by Dr. Mary Catherine Aime's team and the Fungi Foundation as local partners.

## Ethnomycological Fieldwork in Peru

Fieldwork was conducted between March and April 2025 in a trip organized by SPUN and the Fungi Foundation. The expedition visited areas near Cusco and Manu National Park, in collaboration with SPUN, Merlin Sheldrake, and Cosmo Sheldrake and was documented by photographer Tomás Munita. Co-led by Toby Kiers and Giuliana Furci, the Fungi Foundation expedition focused on ethnomycological research, with visits to the Q'ero community in Quico and a Quechua community in Ccorca, Cusibamba.

During this fieldwork, the team carried out in-depth soil samples and also conducted interviews that were audio-recorded and later transcribed for the Foundation's database. These interviews document personal and communal narratives about fungi, including women's perspectives on their relationships with macroscopic fungi and yeasts used in traditional practices such as chicha fermentation, their uses, and the cultural meanings attached to them.

## Seeking Micro-fungi in Patagonia, Chile

We participated as local partners in a pioneer expedition led by Dr. Mary Catherine Aime, mycologist-phytopathologist from Purdue University. We visited Tierra del Fuego and Alerce Andino National Park, with her laboratory team to study fungi from the *Pucciniales* and *Laboulbeniales* orders. Both are parasites and a key component of the ecosystems they inhabit. This expedition was recorded, and we expect to have a film next year to highlight the role of these fungal groups in biodiversity and ecosystems.



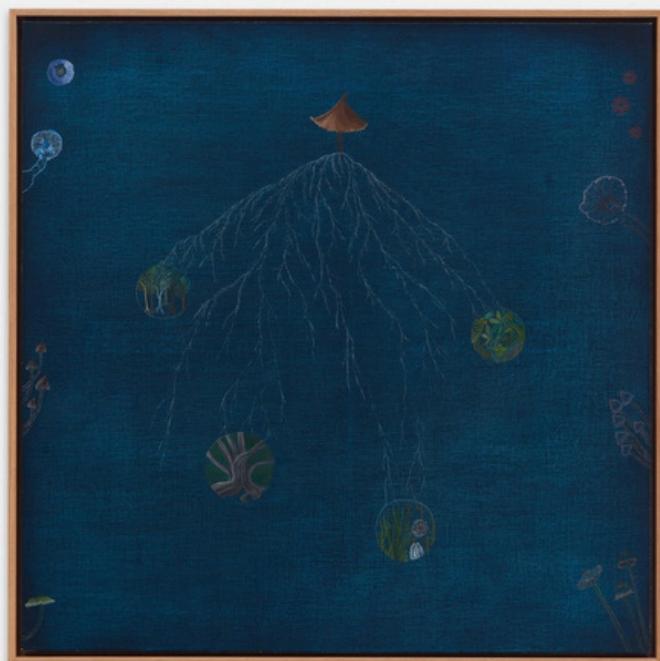
# Artistic collaborations



Fungi were brought into leading international art and cultural spaces through **large exhibitions in Brussels, Santiago, and Hamburg.**

## Arch Future

Renowned Chilean artist Cecilia Vicuña held a solo exhibition at Xavier Hufkens Gallery in Brussels, Belgium. Among the featured works there was one that centers around an oil painting created in homage to the discovery of *Psilocybe stametsii*, a fungal species co-described by foundress of the Fungi Foundation, Giuliana Furci in 2023 and named after the renowned mycologist Paul Stamets. Accompanying the painting there was a sound piece *Honguito niño*, composed from the vocalizations of Vicuña and Furci, woven together with the music of composer Cosmo Sheldrake.



Cecilia Vicuña, Psylocibyn (stametsii), 2023. Oil on canvas. 81,3 x 81,3 cm.  
Courtesy of the artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels.  
Photo credit: Thomas Müller.



## MUT x Spora

Spora Foundation curated an immersive fungi exhibition at Mercado Urbano Tobalaba (MUT) in Santiago, a space that mixes gastronomy, culture, and design. It's a great way to reach audiences beyond the environmental sphere. We contributed content about notable Chilean mycologists, including Giuliana Furci, and provided materials for a panel on native fungi. The installation included a QR code linking to our website and the short film *In Search of a Lost Fungus*.

## Fungi. Interwoven Worlds

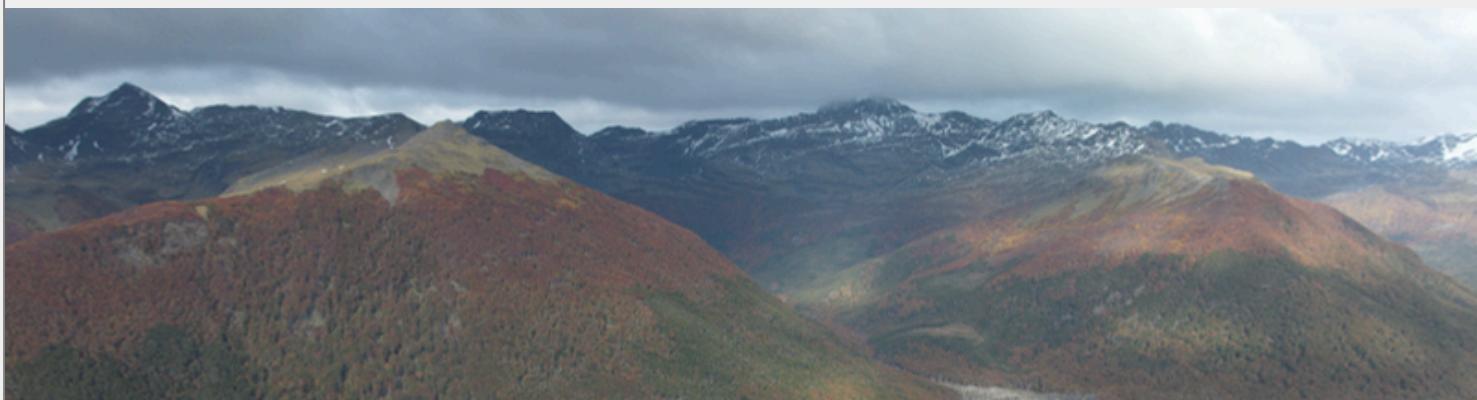
The exhibition at Museum Sinclair-Haus, located in Hamburg, Germany, successfully concluded on February 9, 2025. We were proud to participate in our documentaries, 10 Days in the Forest and Let Things Rot. The exhibition welcomed over 12,000 visitors of all ages.





# Scientific publications

- Torres, D., Cordobés, F. M., Furci, G., Álvarez-Navarro, F., Palfner, G., et al. (2025). Rediscovery of the Patagonian mushroom *Austrooomphaliaster nahuelbutensis* 41 years after the type collection. *Lilloa*, 62(1), 297–309.  
<https://lillo.org.ar/journals/index.php/lilloa/article/view/2151/2044>
- Caiafa, M. V., Rowe, M. A., Healy, R., Lemmond, B., Nouhra, E., Pfister, D. H., Sandoval-Leiva, P., Furci, G., & Smith, M. E. (2025). **Unearthing two new ectomycorrhizal *Pezizales* truffle species from *Nothofagaceae* forests in southern South America.** *Mycologia*, 1–15.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00275514.2025.2562792>
- Van Nuland, M. E., Averill, C., Stewart, J. D., Prylutskyi, O., Corrales, A., van Galen, L. G., Manley, B. F., Qin, C., Lauber, T., Mikryukov, V., Dulia, O., Furci, G., et al. (2025). **Global hotspots of mycorrhizal fungal richness are poorly protected.** *Nature*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-09277-4>





# Our main donors

## Planet Wild + Ecosia

Supporting our conservation and public policy program as well as the education program.

## The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

Supporting the development of a conservation and recovery action plan for the endangered fungus *Grifola gargal* (EN [2acd]) in southern Chile.

## Reverse the Red Grant

Supporting the project Pioneering Conservation Plan for *Butyriboletus loyo* (EN [A2cd+3cd+4cd]): Integrating Fungi into Chile's National Strategy.

## Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Supporting the project *Fungi in Relation to Conservation of Land & Ways of Life in Yasuní, Ecuador* (June 2025–April 2026), an exploratory initiative to strengthen conservation in Yasuní National Park through an ethnomycological and Indigenous rights approach.

## Oak Foundation

Provided multi-year core support to strengthen the organization's global leadership in fungal conservation, education, and ethnomycology.

**And the generous support of dozens of donors across the world.**



# Awards and recognitions

## Climate Breakthrough Award

Giuliana Furci, together with Merlin Sheldrake and Toby Kiers, were selected for the [2025 Climate Breakthrough Award](#). Over the next 3 years, Climate Breakthrough will provide them with support to lay the legal, regulatory, and scientific groundwork required to help write fungi into global climate agendas. This work will be conducted through Fungi Foundation and the Society for the Protection of the Underground (SPUN).

## 100 Latinos Most Committed to Climate Action 2025

Recognition of Giuliana Furci amongst the [“100 Latinos Most Committed to Climate Action 2025”](#) by Sachamama and EFE news.

## Recognition in Chile’s Scientific Community

Giuliana Furci was featured in the [Periodic Table of Chilean Women Scientists](#), an initiative by the Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional that highlights the contributions of 118 outstanding women scientists across diverse disciplines in Chile.

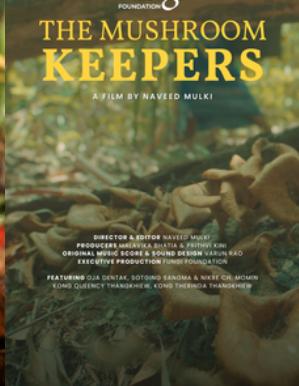


Photos by: Giuliana Furci



# Communications and events

- Participated in **Planet Wild** video, reaching 65,000 views in 24 hours and **boosting global visibility**.
- Now available on YouTube: *The Mushroom Keepers*, *Flora Fauna Funga* (Spanish), *Seeing Fungi*, and *Remembering the Forest* clips.
- Participation in large events in Chile and internationally, including the Telluride Mushroom Festival, Vienna Pilzfestspiele, and delivered a keynote at Harvard.
- Featured in **45 media outlets across 14 countries**, including Atmos, New Humanist, Interview Magazine, Emergence Magazine, NZZ, and Ladera Sur.
- Our combined Instagram accounts total **more than 350,000 followers**. Between @FungiFoundation and @FundacionFungi alone, our content was viewed 2.7 million times and reached more than 1.2 million individual accounts.





## Planet Wild video

Planet Wild joined us during an expedition to the Araucanía Region and produced [a video showcasing our work](#). It was published on Planet Wild's YouTube channel, where it reached 65,000 views, and received 166 comments within its first day. With an audience of over 290,000 subscribers, their platform provides significant visibility.

## *The Mushroom Keepers*

Our first [ethnomycology documentary in India](#) successfully toured festivals throughout the country last year and was released on YouTube on June 21st. It has been viewed over 6,000 times.

## Spanish version of National Geographic Society's *Flora Fauna Funga*

Official release of the [documentary on National Geographic's educational YouTube channel](#)—something we had been requesting due to frequent audience demand.

## *Seeing Fungi*

[Official release of Seeing Fungi on YouTube](#), in collaboration with SPUN. The film was featured in Santiago Wild Film Festival and a screening at Universidad Andrés Bello in Santiago.

## philoSOPHIA

We contributed to the editing of the transcript of an interview with Giuliana Furci for philoSOPHIA, an international, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal of feminist philosophy, published by the State University of New York Press: "[Mycorrhizal Movements: A Conversation with Giuliana Furci](#)".



## Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

The rediscovery of the Big Puma Fungus was highlighted this year on MBZ's podcast Conservation Calls through an interview with Daniela Torres, as well as in an exhibition feature at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi.

### Social Media

- Our combined Instagram accounts total more than 350,000 followers. Between @FungiFoundation and @FundacionFungi alone, our content was viewed 2.7 million times and reached more than 1.2 million individual accounts.
- Our most-viewed reel so far features Neftalí, a Mapuche mushroom knowledge keeper and teacher of the Mapuzungún language. The reel reached 221,000 views and received 532 comments, powerfully resonating with the mission of our Elders Program.
- Giuliana Furci was invited to participate in a cooking session with Executive City Councillor Jürgen Czernohorszky and other department heads, as well as mushroom experts and enthusiasts from various fields. The City of Vienna's social media platforms published clips from the experience. This meeting was held following the announcement that the term "funga" will be included alongside "fauna" and "flora" in the Nature Conservation Law of Vienna.



Photos by: Giuliana Furci



## Events in Chile

We participated in several events that showcased our work, the importance of fungi, and some of the foundation's documentaries: *Fridays of Scientific Culture*, organized by the Fonck Museum; *Heritage Day* at the Natural History Museum in Valparaíso; the *LAV* environmental education event in the Santiago Subway and Universidad Andrés Bello; the *Ñam Festival*, a gastronomic event promoting awareness of the sustainable use of natural resources in food and cooking and *Ladera Sur Festival* in Chile.

## International events

We were also present in major mushroom events around the world, such as *Telluride Mushroom Festival* in the US, *Vienna Pilzfestspiele* in Austria, and an online talk at *8va Feria del Hongo del Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias (CUCBA)* in Mexico.

## Keynote by Giuliana Furci at Harvard's Thinking with Plants and Fungi Conference

The keynote, titled "*Global Patterns of Ancestral Human Relationships with Fungi*", focused on the role of ethnomycology in conservation policy, the work done in our Elders Programs, and future steps. The conference was housed at the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School.

## Lollapalooza

For the second year in a row, we were part of *Lollapalooza Music Festival* in Chile. Our interactive booth and live-painting mural attracted hundreds of visitors, while we kept our online community engaged with behind-the-scenes stories and a mural time-lapse, shared in collaboration with the artist. This project was supported by Re:wild.



# Press



This year, our work and initiatives were featured in 45 news pieces, articles, podcasts and videos across 14 countries including the UK, US, Chile, India, Germany, Brazil and Spain, among others. Some of the most notable articles and stories about our work are listed here:

- **Interview Magazine, Cecilia Vicuña and Giuliana Furci on Mushrooms, Brain Rot, and the End of the World**
- **Current Conservation Magazine, India: Exploring fungal relationships: Lessons from ethnomycology**
- **Emergence Magazine, US: Song of the Cedars: A Conversation with Giuliana Furci, Robert Macfarlane, César Rodríguez-Garavito, and Cosmo Sheldrake**
- **Atmos, UK: Did Nature Write This Song? Ecuador Deliberates Pivotal Case**
- **Ladera Sur, Chile: Un llamado a la precaución: Alertan por aumento de intoxicaciones con hongos silvestres**
- **La Tercera, Chile: Arte y micología: nueva exhibición de Cecilia Vicuña presenta obra colaborativa**

**Interview**

ART MUSIC FASHION CULTURE FILM

IN CONVERSATION

Cecilia Vicuña and Giuliana Furci on Mushrooms, Brain Rot, and the End of the World

By Giuliana Furci

field notes ethnomycology fungal ecology traditional knowledge wild foods

## exploring fungal relationships: lessons from ethnomycology

December 16, 2024



## Song of the Cedars

A Conversation with Giuliana Furci, Robert Macfarlane, César Rodríguez-Garavito, and Cosmo Sheldrake

CONTRIBUTOR BIOS >



- **Wonderstuck Podcast, US:** Mushrooms Will Change How You See the World: Expert Giuliana Furci (Episode 25)
- **philoSOPHIA Journal, US:** Mycorrhizal Movements: A Conversation with Giuliana Furci
- **Ladera Sur, Chile:** Micóloga chilena Giuliana Furci, junto a Merlin Sheldrake y Toby Kiers ganan premio Climate Breakthrough 2025, gran fondo de filantropía climática, para integrar a los hongos en la agenda mundial
- **Falter, Germany:** Mykologin Giuliana Furci : „Ohne Pilze würde die Welt nicht existieren“
- **NZZ, Switzerland:** «Warum glauben wir eigentlich, dass Intelligenz nur einem Gehirn vorbehalten sei?», sagt die berühmte Pilzforscherin Giuliana Furci
- **Sachamama, US:** The 100 Latinos Most Committed to Climate Action 2025
- **TV USACH, Chile:** All you need is LAB - Chistes científicos y el mundo de los hongos

NZZ am Sonntag Magazin

NZZ

INTERVIEW

«Warum glauben wir eigentlich, dass Intelligenz nur einem Gehirn vorbehalten sei?», sagt die berühmte Pilzforscherin Giuliana Furci

## Mykologin Giuliana Furci / „Ohne Pilze würde die Welt nicht existieren“

Die chilenisch-italienische Wissenschaftlerin über die magische Welt der Pilze und wie sie unsere Welt formen



VON KATHARINA KROPSHOFER  
INTERVIEW, FALTER 41/2025, 07.10.2025

THE 100 LATINOS MOST COMMITTED TO CLIMATE ACTION 2025

Strengthening the voices of Latinos in the climate movement.

Micóloga chilena Giuliana Furci, junto a Merlin Sheldrake y Toby Kiers ganan premio Climate Breakthrough 2025, gran fondo de filantropía climática, para integrar a los hongos en la agenda mundial

Ciencia y Biodiversidad, Medio Ambiente, Noticias, Concursos y Panoramas



# Collaborations and Partnerships

## **North American Mycological Association (NA)**

In early April, we partnered with the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) on a series of posts to highlight the important role fungi play in sustaining life on Earth.

## **Natural History Museum in Valparaíso, Chile**

We have signed a collaboration agreement that, for the first time, commits to the inclusion of fungi in the thematic areas of the Natural History Museum of Valparaíso. The commitments include mutual support for teacher training development, activities for children and older adults, curation of exhibition spaces, and training for the museum staff.

# Supporting students

## **Donation for the Chilean Biology Students Congress**

We are proud to have supported the successful hosting of the XX Congress of Biology Students of Chile 2025. Specifically, we were able to fund the travel expenses for several speakers and provide scholarships to help students from outside the Metropolitan Region to attend.

## **Scholarship in the Patagonia Expedition**

Thanks to the support of Purdue University through Dr. Mary Catherine Aime, and Dr. Jean-Baptiste Ramond of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), we were able to include Karolay Montecinos in the expedition, a PhD student currently pursuing a doctorate in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at PUC and working at the Extreme Ecosystem Microbiomics & Ecogenomics Laboratory.



# Our growing team

At the Fungi Foundation, we continue to strengthen our capacity by expanding our team, which now includes 14 people working across 8 countries. This growing, international structure reflects both the global relevance of fungi and our commitment to advancing conservation, research, policy, education, and public engagement through diverse perspectives and locally grounded expertise.





# Some of the Next Steps

## ➤ Conservation Program

### Expand Global Fungal Support

Expand the number of countries committed to the Fungal Conservation Pledge, as well as increase signatory country engagement, taking into account that multiple countries have submitted information on national fungal initiatives to the UN CBD Secretariat.

### National Strategy for Fungal Conservation in Chile

We aim to work collaboratively toward the implementation of a National Board for Fungal Conservation in Chile. Through this governance we expect to advance the development of a National Strategy for Fungal Conservation underpinned by an agreement managed jointly with the Chilean Ministry of Environment.

### Strengthen Fungal Partnerships Globally

Strengthen strategic partnerships among NGOs and research institutions by coordinating and aligning fungal conservation efforts globally: SPUN, Kew Gardens, IUCN, PlantLife, Global Strategy For Fungal Conservation, among others.

## ➤ Education Program

### Expanding Our Educational Material

During 2026, we will be working on the translation of the newest modules of our mycological curriculum. The modules cover lichens, yeasts, and molds, and will be translated into Spanish. Hundreds of Spanish-speaking teachers have shown interest in our educational resources, which is one of the reasons it is our mission to make these resources accessible.



## ➤ Elders Program

### Article on Ethics, Fungi, and Biocultural Governance

This publication synthesizes the ethical principles necessary for conducting mycological and ethnomycological research in culturally diverse and biodiversity-rich territories. The paper integrates biocultural perspectives, Indigenous epistemologies, and international standards (ISE, CARE, Local Contexts) to provide a clear framework for equitable collaboration, data governance, and responsible scientific practice. Its aim is to inform policy discussions within the CBD and support Parties in adopting ethical approaches to fungal research and Traditional Knowledge.

### Translation of the FF Ethical Guidelines into Indigenous Language

This initiative focuses on translating and culturally adapting the *Fungi Foundation's Ethical Guidelines* into Indigenous languages spoken in territories where we have worked. The work is carried out collaboratively with community members, linguistic specialists, and knowledge holders to ensure the guidelines are accessible, culturally meaningful, and aligned with local governance systems. This process strengthens biocultural conservation efforts, supports community participation in decision-making, and reinforces the recognition of Traditional Mycological Knowledge within global biodiversity frameworks



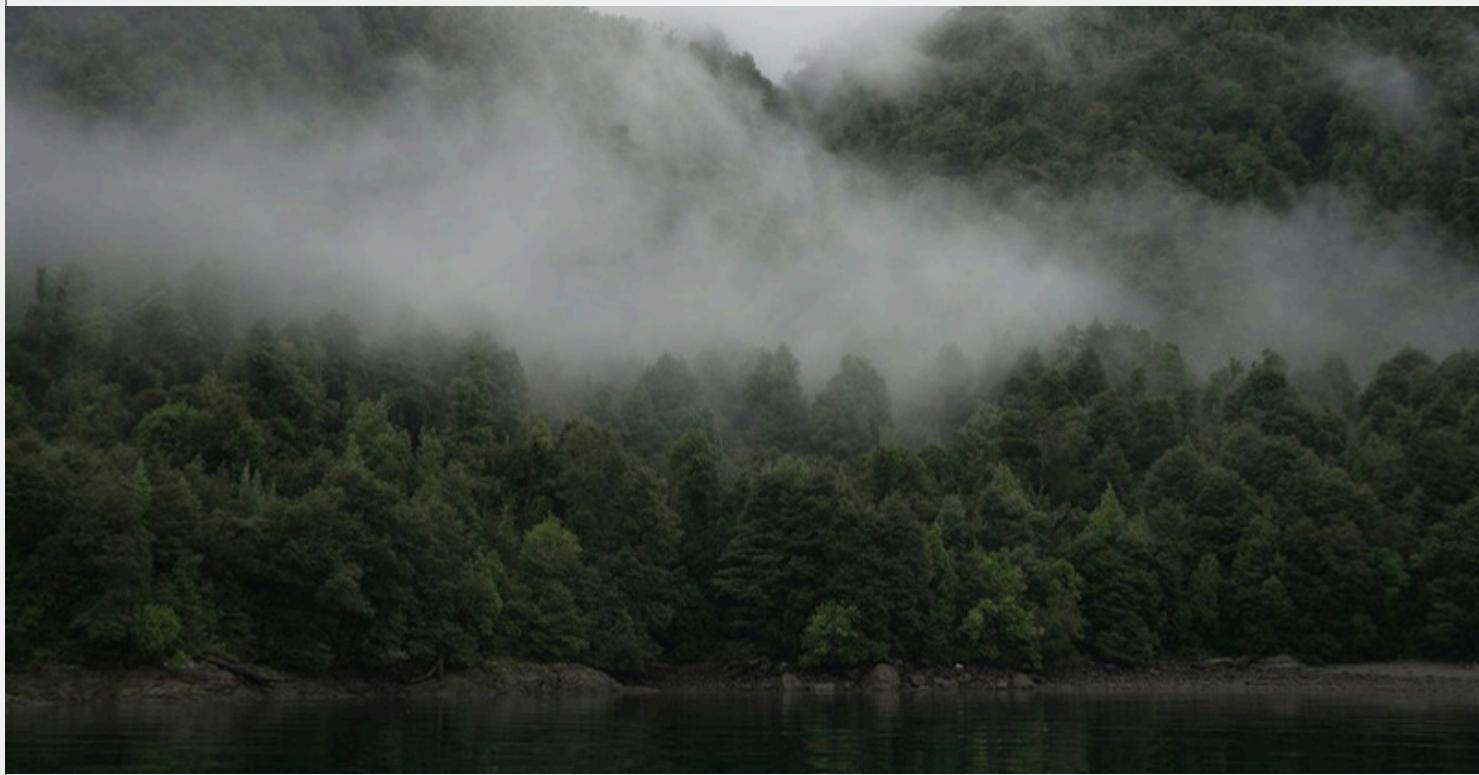
Photos by: Tomás Munita



## ➤ Expeditions Program

### Documentaries

Next year, we will publish two documentaries, one related to Old-Growth Temperate Rainforests, filmed in Queulat National Park in Chile, and another which follows the expedition recently held in collaboration with Dr. Mary Catherine Aime and her team working with rust fungi.



Photos by: Mateo Barrenengoa



○ @fungifoundation

○ @fundacionfungi

○ @fungifoundationindia

🌐 www.ffungi.org

**Fungi**  
FOUNDATION