

Priceless or Worthless?







“This book does not merely tell us which species are most endangered, it shows us how we can save them. It challenges us to commit to safeguarding our priceless natural heritage for future generations”

His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge

Cover image of a juvenile *Eleutherodactylus thorectes*
© Robin Moore

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Priceless or Worthless?

The world's most threatened species

by Jonathan E M Baillie and Ellen R Butcher

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by members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups
and Red List Authorities



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Amphibian Specialist Group
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Iguana Specialist Group
Marine Turtle Specialist Group
North American Reptile Red List Authority
Sea Snake Specialist Group
Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

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Orchid Specialist Group
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Please accept our apologies for any accidental omissions.



“Conservation began with a focus on species, especially those in danger of extinction, and a major species focus needs to continue as a central element in all efforts to ensure the long-term viability of our living planet”

*Dr Russell A Mittermeier
President, Conservation International*

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Foreword

Written by: Dr Simon Stuart, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission



Simon Stuart



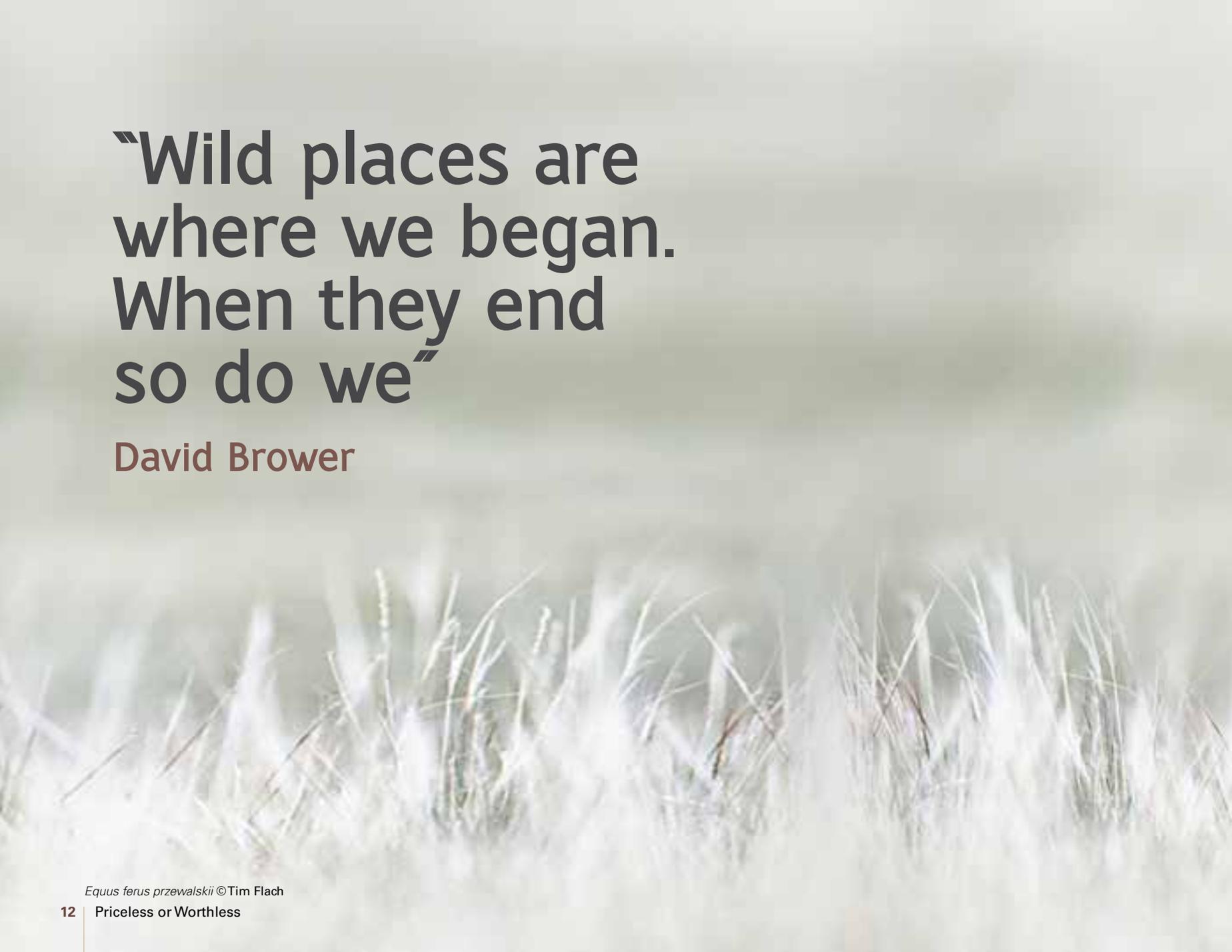
The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of more than 8,000 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world. SSC members include experts on plants, fungi, birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates, and are deployed in over 100 Specialist Groups. It is these experts who have nominated the species featured in this book to draw attention to those which, without urgent conservation intervention, might no longer be with us in the near future.

The SSC vision is of a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth. This diversity includes the huge variety of species highlighted in the book: the aptly named Suicide palm, a colossus tree that dies shortly after flowering, and the iconic Red River giant softshell turtle, tightly woven into Vietnamese mythology. Teetering on the edge of extinction, these species and many others urgently need strong, global collaboration to survive.

'Priceless or Worthless' identifies the threats that these 100 species face, but it also identifies how they can be addressed. In addition, to remind us that all is not lost and that conservation has tangible benefits, the book highlights the successful efforts which have rescued species from the brink of extinction. We should be greatly encouraged that, worldwide, there are people with the determination and dedication to prevent species being lost. By learning from our mistakes, sharing our skills and knowledge and placing value on the life around us, we can help to ensure that, as custodians of our environment, we save species rather than accelerate their loss.

Launched in time for the world's largest gathering of conservationists (the IUCN World Conservation Congress), 'Priceless or Worthless' challenges us to confront our moral and ethical beliefs about the value of nature. The future of many species is going to depend on reconciling the needs of people and nature, and ensuring economic development and conservation do not undermine each other. If society believes that all species have a right to exist on the planet, then why are 100 of the most threatened species on the planet receiving so little funding or attention? At a time when thousands of species are truly on the edge of extinction, it is time to ask society to take a stand – to declare that the 100 species in this book, and millions of others like them, have the right to exist on this planet. This then needs to be followed with appropriate conservation action, innovation, community participation, policies, legislation and enforcement. If we ignore the question, and fail to take action, we shall be inadvertently accepting the ethical position that human-caused mass extinction is acceptable. This book signals a wake-up call and challenges us all to take the necessary action on behalf of our fellow species as a matter of urgency.





“Wild places are
where we began.
When they end
so do we”

David Brower



Chapter 1

The value of extinction

“Nowadays we know the price of
everything, and the value of nothing”

Oscar Wilde

Priceless or worthless; you decide.

Written by: Professor Jonathan Baillie, Director of Conservation Programmes, Zoological Society of London



Jonathan Baillie

The future existence of the 100 species in this book lies squarely in our hands. Do these species have a right to exist, or do we have the right to drive them to extinction?

For the first time the IUCN SSC network of 8,000 scientists have identified 100 of the most threatened animals, plants and fungi. The declines of most of these species have been caused by humans and in almost all cases their extinction can be avoided and the decline reversed. Thus, their future existence lies squarely in our hands. Whether they disappear forever or remain on the planet simply depends on whether we as a society believe they are worth protecting. In this book we ask you to consider whether the 100 most threatened species are priceless or worthless. Do they have the right to exist or do we have the right to drive them to extinction?

The book starts by introducing 100 species from 48 different countries that will be the next to go if conservation action is not taken immediately. Twenty-five of the 100 are highlighted to demonstrate the diversity of life that is about to be lost. We introduce the reader to the unique traits and characteristics of each species – essentially the wonder and natural beauty of each creature, plant and fungi. We then highlight examples of species that have been brought back from the brink of extinction such as Przewalski's horse or the Chatham Island's black robin, demonstrating that averting extinction is possible.

Although a few species on the list provide economic benefits to people, such as the sale of the Giant yellow croaker's swim bladder (worth over seven times the price of gold in 2001) for use in traditional medicine, the majority do little for society other than represent cultural or existence values. If the 100 species on this list were to disappear tomorrow there would be little impact on the global economy, jobs or security. This is in fact the case for millions of species on the planet, where their value to humanity is unknown or tangential at best.

With the threats to biodiversity rapidly escalating, and growing numbers of species on the doorstep of extinction, society is at a point in history where a decision needs to be made. Do these species have the right to exist? A decision not to tolerate human-caused extinction would of course be entirely value based – but so is the alternative of allowing extinction to occur. We need to decide where we stand on this moral and ethical issue and implement and enforce national and international laws accordingly. So – it is up to us. The future of these species depends on our values, are they priceless or worthless?



*“Every living species represents one unique pathway to success, developed over millions of years. What we lose with each passing species can never be replaced”
Professor Georgina Mace, CBE, FRS*

Game changing

For the value of these 100 species to be recognised in our political, legal, social and economic systems, changes will need to be made. Here four leading figures from the policy, legal, funding and communications arenas give their personal opinions on what would need to be done.

Disclaimer:
The views expressed in this section are the opinions of the individual authors themselves, and as such do not necessarily reflect those of the authors of this book, the Zoological Society of London, IUCN or other participating organizations.

Marketing and Communications

The truth is I don't know if it is possible to save the 100 species listed in this book. That's a punchy start, but it's just me being honest. It may be too late and it may require too much effort. That's a sweeping value judgement that us humans will make, based on an analysis of four basic points that we have embedded in our psyche:

- Do I know anything about this, is it on my radar?
- What's the rational argument (economically speaking) for doing something?
- What's the emotional argument for doing something?
- Can I actually do anything anyway?

If we, as conservationists, want to give saving these species a shot then the first stage is to consider our answers to these questions. It is in answering these questions that communications and marketing has a significant role to play.

We may not be able to craft a convincing argument in all instances, but we will be able to flush out the most convincing angles. The first question is often the hardest; it is also the most important. As conservationists we frequently assume that everyone else should have the same degree of care and passion about the natural world that we have. This is not the case. Nature is not prominent in the media; increasingly we are divorced from

nature in our day to day lives, surrounded by tarmac, concrete and glass. Caring about nature is increasingly not natural.

In order for people to be moved to action they firstly need to be aware of the issue (no mean feat in a world where we are bombarded by messages about soap, sport and smartphones, 24/7). Then we need a powerful rational and/or an emotional argument - you only need a powerful response to one of them to get some traction. Then finally, when you have established interest you have to be sure not to fall at the final hurdle by neglecting to provide a call to action, something that your audience can do themselves to help. Get all that in place, or even part of it, and you are well on the way to saving species and getting nature back on the agenda.

Dr Arlo Brady
*Managing Director
freud Communications*



Policy

Politics is driven by [moral] values and economics. The influence that each has on public policy varies according to both national context and the individuals involved. Although their respective importance is determined by their context, the combination of the [moral] values and economics defines and determines the public policies on which a political party will fight an election.

The conservation movement faces competition for politicians' time, interest and commitment. How it addresses these driving forces will be the key factor determining its relevance to, and impact on, politicians and the key decisions that they will make in the coming years.

For most of its history the conservation movement has largely advanced moral and ethical (values-based) arguments for protecting nature, rather than promoting a more utilitarian, ecosystem-service based approach. This balance is now changing, with focus turning towards functional arguments. Commitment to a more utilitarian approach may be at the expense of some of the world's most endangered species. However, it would be politically naïve to use this as a reason completely to reject it, when it demonstrates the material benefits some components of biodiversity provide to people.

There is now a real political opportunity for the conservation movement to continue to maintain the moral and ethical arguments that are the foundation of its legitimacy, while at the same time highlighting the economic benefits that biodiversity provides. The Natural Capital approach provides a framework to do exactly this – to recognise simultaneously both the intrinsic and utilitarian values of nature. It encourages governments to measure and monitor species and ecosystems and calls on society to decide how these should be valued. They can then be protected through legislation and viewed as a national asset, with degradation showing up as a loss on the national balance sheet. This does not undermine or displace the long-standing cultural or ethical values people may have in and for nature, but provides another politically relevant reason for decisions to be made that support conservation.

Adam CT Matthews
Secretary General
Globe International



Legal

What would have to change about the law to protect the threatened species celebrated in this book? The main problem is that there is simply no enforceable law globally that protects threatened species in their habitats. We have the Convention on Biological Diversity, under which action plans and protected areas are created, but it is not legally binding. We have the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species which is legally binding, but only covers species threatened by trade. We have the IUCN Red List prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is a key tool in identifying species at risk of extinction. But it has no effect in law. Many countries also have National Red Lists, but few are linked with any legal obligations. What we need to do to protect the species in this book and a host of other threatened species is create a system of law that tracks species at risk and creates real enforceable protections.

What might this look like? We could start with the Convention on Biological Diversity and give it some real teeth. Here's how. Placing a species on a National Red List would trigger the requirement to produce a biodiversity action plan for the most threatened species. These plans would differ from the current ones in that they would be binding. They would come with targets, timetables and a pathway to the desired outcome. There would also be sanctions attached for not complying with the plan. Crucially, technical help and funds must also be made available for the countries that will be doing the conservation work needed to help threatened species to thrive. The critical issue is whether we can generate the understanding to create the political will to make the legal regime work.

James Thornton
CEO
ClientEarth



Funding

There are few universal causes that require massive mobilization from all sectors of society. Preserving the diversity of life on Earth is one of them. Governments have repeatedly recognized the need to do so, but this is no longer an option; we must do it. Thousands of enthusiastic people are trying to do miracles around the globe, often anonymously and with very limited support. Most of the time it is to preserve one species or one natural site. This publication features some of their successes. These committed conservationists and conservation groups stand ready to do more but unfortunately, we cannot rely indefinitely on the contributions of volunteers, nor the passion of a few committed individuals, to undertake such a mammoth task. They need money.

Billions of dollars are being invested to carry out research on other planets. The landing of the robot Curiosity on Mars with the objective of finding tracks of new forms of life is the most recent example. At the same time, the diversity of life, on which our very existence depends, is disappearing fast. If equal amounts of money and ingenuity were invested to protect the natural resources of our world, our future on Earth would be secured. Then species such as those featured in this publication would not disappear.

Wildlife generates interest and arouses our passion which is demonstrated by the huge popularity of zoos or botanical gardens visited worldwide. Species have the power to communicate; their conservation is portrayed through wonderful photos, amazing stories and dedicated, driven individuals working with local communities. We have first and foremost an ethical obligation to conserve wild species. Our materialistic world, however, tends to restrict its attention to what is useful to human kind, has an immediate monetary value and considers the rest as obstacles. For this utilitarian view of nature, we are not short of powerful reasons to conserve the diversity of species that we have inherited. Wild animals, plants and fungi are excellent indicators of environmental change, contribute significantly to ecosystem services. Conserving species also helps to tackle complex environmental problems. Species are also of great value to companies which depend on their use for business or for promotion and for brand logos. What is the gain for species from their extensively valuable and free contribution to the world economy?

It is time to scale up funding efforts and call upon the governments to increase their contribution towards a better understanding and monitoring of biodiversity, as well as conservation action on the ground, directly, through multilateral bodies such as the Global Environment Facility or dedicated species conservation funds. However this responsibility cannot be left solely to governments. SOS – Save Our Species, is a global partnership initiated by leading conservation organizations aimed at mobilizing new sources of funding for threatened species, their habitats and the people depending on them. By joining SOS, governments, foundations, companies, wealthy individuals can join forces and ensure that species featured in this book prosper again. www.SaveOurSpecies.org

Dr Jean-Christophe Vié
*Deputy Director
Global Species
Programme Director
SOS - Save Our
Species IUCN*



A close-up photograph of several green leaves, likely from a tree, showing their intricate vein structure. The leaves are layered, with some in the foreground and others behind. The veins are dark green and clearly defined against the lighter green of the leaf blades. There are several small, dark, circular spots scattered across the leaves, possibly due to insect damage or natural leaf aging. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast image with some shadows and highlights on the leaf surfaces.

**“There’s no better
designer than nature”**

Alexander McQueen



Chapter 2

Species at a tipping point

The species featured here represent the 100 most critically endangered species in the world. If we don't rapidly increase the amount of conservation attention that they receive they may soon be lost forever.





Astrochelys yniphora

Ploughshare tortoise, Angonoka

Text reviewed by the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

Population size:
440 - 770 individuals

Range:
**12km² in Baly Bay region,
northwestern Madagascar**

Primary threats:
**Illegal collection for international
pet trade**

Action required:
**Enforcement of legal protection
and protected area management**

Often referred to as the most endangered tortoise in the world, the ploughshare tortoise (*Astrochelys yniphora*) is named after the plough-like projection that protrudes between its front legs. Having narrowly survived hunting pressure and habitat destruction by fire in the past, this species' good looks may be its ultimate downfall as illegal collection for the international pet trade is likely to push it to extinction in the wild in the near future.

Baly Bay, the location of the single remaining metapopulation of the ploughshare tortoise, was gazetted as a national park in 1997 by the Malagasy government to protect the remaining fragments of the species' habitat. Another layer of security for this attractive reptile is accorded by its listing in CITES Appendix I, outlawing its international trade. However, poor enforcement undermines these legal protections, with illegal trade and collection escalating in recent years. In 1996, 73 individuals were stolen from the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust's offsite captive breeding facility, while in May 2009 four tortoises were stolen from their onsite quarantine facility, where they were being monitored prior to their planned release into the wild. Many wild animals have been poached off national park lands and appeared in the illegal pet trade, especially in Southeast Asia and China. Relying only on the current levels of legal protection to save this species has an extremely poor chance of success.

The illegal trade of ploughshare tortoises is undermining the otherwise laudable attempts of local conservationists and organizations to protect this species. There have been concerted efforts to stop illegal collection with the presence of the Madagascar National Parks Authority in the town of Saolala, close to the species' habitat, and the establishment of a small network of village para-rangers. These para-rangers monitor for possible smugglers and outbreaks of fire.

What needs to be done?

Expansion of the current network of para-rangers, along with an increase in the level of protection provided by government authorities, would go a considerable way toward ensuring the survival of ploughshare tortoises in the wild. These efforts need to be coupled with ongoing monitoring of the species' presence in the illegal global pet trade, along with effective repatriation of confiscated animals. Unless these measures are implemented rapidly, human desire to own one of these fascinating creatures will rob future generations of the opportunity to ever see them in the wild.

Atelopus balios

Rio Pescado stubfoot toad

Text reviewed by the Amphibian Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

**Azuay, Cañar and Guayas provinces,
south-western Ecuador**

Threats:

**Chytridiomycosis and habitat
destruction due to logging and
agricultural expansion**

Action required:

Protection of last remaining habitat

Drawing its name from the Greek word for dappled or spotted, 'balios', the beautiful Rio Pescado stubfoot toad (*Atelopus balios*) is clinging to existence in a fragment of habitat in the Pacific lowlands of south-western Ecuador. Unseen since 1995, the rediscovery of this species in 2010 was one of few high points in the 'Search for Lost Frogs'. Launched in August 2010 by the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group and Conservation International, with support from Global Wildlife Conservation, this campaign resulted in expeditions by 26 researchers in 21 countries. Sadly only four of the high priority 'lost amphibians' were found, only one of which featured in the 'top ten'. This was the Rio Pescado stubfoot toad.

Only a tip-off from the local community led researchers to find a single adult toad by a river during their search in 2010. This discovery partially allayed fears that the species had already succumbed to chytridiomycosis. However, the spot where it was found was not under any form of protection. As habitat degradation and loss due to agriculture, logging and pollution also severely threaten the survival of this species, protection of the last remaining fragments of the toad's habitat is needed without delay.

Also known as harlequin toads, the rediscovery of this species was a rare moment of celebration in an otherwise sobering search for 'lost' amphibians. However, amphibian lovers should draw hope from the fact that they now have a rare opportunity to rescue a member of a group that has been hit particularly hard by amphibian declines.

What needs to be done?

The immediate protection of this species' habitat in the Pacific lowlands of south-western Ecuador, coupled with further intensive searches for other individuals that could be used for captive breeding, may yet save the Rio Pescado stubfoot toad. Ecuadorians must take rapid, decisive action if this beautiful piece of their natural heritage is to be saved.





Brachyteles hypoxanthus

Northern Muriqui, Woolly Spider Monkey

Text contributed by Karen B. Strier, Primate Specialist Group

Population size:
< 1,000 individuals

Range:
Atlantic forest, south-eastern Brazil

Primary threats:
**Habitat loss and fragmentation
due to large-scale deforestation
and selective logging**

Action required:
**Habitat protection and
commitment of resources to
support the implementation
of the national action plan**

The long-limbed northern muriqui (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*), or woolly spider monkey, is found exclusively in the Atlantic forest of south-eastern Brazil. This peaceful primate is quite peculiar as, instead of fighting to monopolize fertile females, males wait patiently for their turn to copulate. It is not unusual for an ovulating female to mate with multiple males in close succession. These low levels of aggression give females the opportunity to choose their own mates without the risk of violence that other female primates may face. Revelations about the northern muriqui's egalitarian social relationships and promiscuous sex lives have captured attention both in Brazil and internationally, leading to the proposal for it to be a flagship species for the upcoming (2016) Olympic Games in Brazil.

Large-scale deforestation in the past and selective logging has reduced the northern muriqui's unique ecosystem to a fraction of its original extent, and hunting pressures have taken their toll on local populations. Today, fewer than 1,000 northern muriquis are known to survive, distributed among about a dozen private and government owned forests in the states of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santos and Bahia. Habitat fragmentation has isolated these populations from one another and most of the remaining populations are now alarmingly small.

To address these threats, current conservation tactics are aimed at the preservation and expansion of remaining habitats and at the protection and management of existing populations. This often requires delicately balancing research, ecotourism, and environmental education programs, with both the well-being of the animals and environmental impact concerns.

What needs to be done?

With the formation of an advisory committee of experts and the recent completion of a national action plan for the muriquis (O Plano de Ação Nacional para a Conservação dos Muriquis), the Brazilian government has taken impressive steps in demonstrating its commitment to the development of informed conservation policies for its endangered and critically endangered species. The success of these policies now depends upon the appropriate allocation of global resources for conservation initiatives.

Bradypus pygmaeus

Pygmy three-toed sloth

Text reviewed by the Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

Population size:

< 500 individuals

Range:

Approximately 1.3km² – 1.5km² on Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama

Threats:

Habitat loss due to illegal logging of mangrove forests for firewood and construction and hunting of the sloths

Action required:

Enforcement of protection of the Isla Escudo de Veraguas nature sanctuary and raising awareness

Less than half the size of its mainland cousin – the brown-throated sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) – the pygmy three-toed sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) lives almost exclusively in the red mangrove forests which cover between 1.3km² to 1.5km² of the Isla Escudo de Veraguas, off the Caribbean coast of Panama. This small sloth has blotchy, pale grey-brown fur with a slight greenish tinge. This green hue is actually a cunning camouflage created by a coat of algae, helping the sloths to blend in with their habitat.

Although the island is uninhabited, seasonal visitors pose an increasing threat with reports of fishermen and lobster divers opportunistically hunting the sloths. There is also evidence of clearance of their mangrove habitat for use as firewood and in local construction, endangering the survival of this tiny creature. Anecdotal observations from researchers visiting the island have estimated the population of the pygmy three-toed sloths to be around 200 individuals. The small size of the population and the limited extent of their habitat increase the species vulnerability to unexpected environmental events, and reduce their ability to withstand continued and increasing anthropogenic pressure.

Isla Escudo de Veraguas is already gazetted as a protected nature sanctuary. However, enforcement of this status is currently nonexistent, leading to the exploitation of both the sloths and their habitat. Though there is currently some evidence of local indigenous governance, this needs better coordination and enforcement, via engagement of all the stakeholders.

The pygmy three-toed sloth is a quintessential charismatic species. The willingness of humanity to save such species is well documented and if this little sloth could be elevated to flagship status in the minds of Panamanians and the global community, it could become a valuable ambassador for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem on which it depends.

What needs to be done?

As the primary threat to this species is of human origin, transforming the current perception of the species is of paramount importance. Local awareness programmes could improve its profile of and, when coupled with increased law enforcement to protect the nature sanctuary, could help to reduce the myriad of pressures that these little sloths face. Furthermore, the use of the pygmy three-toed sloth as a flagship species for both its mangrove habitat and Panama could increase its value to the Panamanian people and their government.





Calumma tarzan

Tarzan's chameleon

Text reviewed by the Chameleon Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

< 10km² in Anosibe An'Ala region, eastern Madagascar

Primary threats:

Habitat destruction for agriculture

Action required:

Support for nascent community conservation initiatives and protection of habitat

Named in the hope that it would be a clarion 'Tarzan' call for conservation, the arresting Tarzan's chameleon (*Calumma tarzan*) was discovered in a small, and shrinking, patch of rain forest close to the village formerly known as Tarzanville (now Ambodimeloka) in eastern Madagascar. Madagascar has rich chameleon diversity with numerous strikingly beautiful species occurring throughout its remaining forests. The bright green and yellow Tarzan's chameleon is a spectacular species, with the yellow stripes that males display when agitated being particularly eye-catching.

Sadly, habitat destruction as a result of slash-and-burn agriculture is threatening the survival of this recently discovered species. Currently only known from three small rainforest fragments, covering an area less than 10km², the species faces an uncertain future.

Thankfully there are some legal restrictions in place and forest clearance, enforced by local community associations, is prohibited in two of the small fragments in which the species is found. However, during a recent visit to Ampotaka Forest, a provisional protected area, researchers found evidence of forest clearance for the creation of trails for logging. Community conservation efforts, including the establishment of new protected areas, are underway in two of the sites where this species occurs. These tiny patches of rainforest harbour a variety of endemic plants and animals, and their value to the local economy and environment is well understood locally. Communities that use these forests are strongly supportive of conservation efforts that focus on sustainable use.

The preservation of tiny fragments of forest, while seemingly less important for the conservation of larger animals such as lemurs, play a critical role in plant, amphibian and reptile conservation on Madagascar. In light of the current rapid rates of habitat degradation and destruction, the protection of these refugia is of utmost importance. While the situation may seem dire, prior experience shows us that the 'Tarzan' calls of species such as this charismatic chameleon can inspire communities to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to preserve their heritage.

What needs to be done?

Local community organisations require support, as well as the promotion of economic activities that don't require forest clearance, to effectively manage the remaining fragments of forest. One such activity could be the development of a basic infrastructure for ecotourism as a partial alternative to destructive agricultural practices. Eco-tourism that rests on the survival of Tarzan's chameleon, coupled with the provision of better education and health services, could provide the impetus needed for locals to protect this valuable habitat.

Coleura seychellensis

Seychelles sheath-tailed bat

Text reviewed by the Bat Specialist Group

Population size:

< 100 mature individuals

Range:

Two small caves on Silhouette and Mahé, Seychelles

Threats:

Habitat degradation and predation by invasive species

Action required:

Removal of invasive vegetation and control of introduced predators, coupled with legal protection of habitat and roosting sites

A member of an ancient family, the tiny Seychelles sheath-tailed bat (*Coleura seychellensis*) owes its name to the membrane stretched between its hind legs. The bat's aerial acrobatics are facilitated by the presence of this membrane - by shifting its hind legs the bat can adjust the length of the membrane, enabling it to rapidly duck and dive whilst in flight. Sadly, this winged aerialist is now flying ever closer to the edge of existence and may soon be lost for good.

Already extinct on the islands of La Digue and Praslin, this captivating species is now clinging to life in several caves on the islands of Silhouette and Mahé. However, even these caves are no longer safe havens as the world's most endangered bat is beset from all sides. The most significant declines of this species were probably driven by lowland forest clearance and the extensive use of horticultural pesticides in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Now however, the proliferation of invasive species, such as the Kudzu vine (*Pueraria phaseoloides*), seems to be the primary factor imperilling the species' survival due to damage to forest habitat and the entrances to roosts. Human disturbance to the bat's roosts in well lit boulder caves, coupled with predation by voracious feral cats, rats, and introduced barn owls may seal the fate of this aerial acrobat.

What needs to be done?

Aggressive control of invasive vegetation and predators, drawing from international experience in the eradication of these threats, could assist this little bat's recovery. These activities should be coupled with the restoration of the bats' lowland forest home which should increase the bats' invertebrate prey and augment the currently limited habitat available to the species. Finally, legal protection of habitat and roosting sites, combined with the initiatives mentioned above, could secure the persistence of this species into the future.



Aggressive control of invasive vegetation and predators, drawing from international experience in the eradication of these threats, could assist this little bats recovery.





Cyclura collei

Jamaican iguana, Jamaican rock iguana

Text reviewed by the Iguana Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

< 10km² in Hellshire Hills, Jamaica

Primary threats:

Predation by introduced species and habitat destruction

Action required:

Translocation to predator-free islands and control of deforestation

Believed to be extinct for much of the last century following its disappearance from the Goat Islands, two small islands off the Jamaican coast, the Jamaican iguana (*Cyclura collei*) was re-discovered on the mainland in 1970. Hanging on in a remote section of the harsh Hellshire Hills, this large lizard seems determined to fight on. When cornered the species will strike out with its front claws, and there are reports of it putting out the eye of hunter's dogs when attacked.

Once common on the southern coast of Jamaica, the introduction of invasive predators (particularly the Indian mongoose in 1872) coupled with changing land-use patterns and human population growth, have driven the rapid decline of this species. In the absence of reintroductions from a head-starting programme run from Hope Zoo in Kingston, and extensive predator control managed by the University of the West Indies, the species would probably have vanished entirely from its refuge in the Hellshire Hills. As it is, they persist only within a 10km² core zone that is protected from predators by a series of traps.

The iguana's forest habitat is protected under the Forest Act of 1996, but a lack of enforcement has meant that the area continues to be exploited for wood used in charcoal production. If this destruction is not controlled within the near future, there is a real risk that forest users will enter the remaining iguana habitat and destroy it, wiping out the species within it. The Hellshire Hills is also

within the Portland Bight Protected Area, which was declared in 1999, and should provide further legal weight to stop current levels of abuse. These legal instruments could also be used to limit the expansion of development projects into the area that would open up the forest to further exploitation.

What needs to be done?

The reintroduction of the Jamaican iguana to the offshore Goat Island cays, which also fall within the Portland Bight Protected Area, should proceed without delay. The establishment of a dry forest biodiversity reserve on these islands, and the eradication of predators, would provide the iguanas with a safe haven and is critical in ensuring the species long-term survival. The head-starting programme, which has released over 174 iguanas back into the wild since 1996, could then be used to boost populations in these sanctuaries. The establishment of populations on these offshore islands would provide a lifeline for the iguanas and secure their future.

Dendrophylax fawcettii

Cayman Islands ghost orchid

Text reviewed by the Orchid Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

< 1km² Ironwood Forest, George Town, Grand Cayman

Threats:

Habitat destruction due to infrastructure development

Action required:

Development of legislation that will facilitate the protection of the Ironwood Forests

Known only from Grand Cayman Island, the ethereal ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax fawcettii*) grows on the trunks of trees and bare rocky limestone karst pinnacles. A leafless, spider-like network of roots for most of the year, delicate pale cream flowers bloom between April and June, decorating the moist forest adjoining the wetlands. Sadly, this beautiful orchid faces an uncertain future. The Ironwood Forest, the last remaining fragment of old-growth forest in George Town, is bounded on all sides by the urban development of the nation's capital. The forest extends to just 46 acres; of this, while the ghost orchids are confined to an area of only six acres.

Development of the west side of Grand Cayman has been voracious in recent years. In 2008, government plans to construct a bypass through the forest, and through the portion occupied by the orchids, provoked outcry from both the public and the owners of the privately-held Ironwood Forest land. The forest won a stay of execution thanks to the campaign by the protestors and the bypass plans were shelved. However, this temporary reprieve will be insufficient to ensure the long-term survival of the enchanting ghost orchid as the Ironwood Forest continues to remain without any formal protection. The successful protection of the forest would also preserve (among numerous other native species) four additional Cayman Islands endemics of cultural as well as natural significance (Ironwood: *Chionanthus caymanensis*, Thatch palm: *Coccothrinax proctorii*, the Banana orchid: *Myrmecophila thomsoniana* (Cayman's National

Flower), and *Hohenbergia caymanensis*). The latter, a giant bromeliad nick-named "Old George", is known naturally only from this area.

What needs to be done?

The Cayman Islands currently lack the comprehensive conservation legislation necessary to establish national protected areas, and only five per cent is under the protection of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. With appropriate legislation, protection of the Ironwood Forest would be possible, either by purchase or through establishing management agreements with the private landowners. This would benefit the landowners by enabling them to maintain their land in its natural state, as they have done for generations. All that is required to enable this is the political will.





Dioscorea strydomiana

Wild yam

Text reviewed by the South African Plant Specialist Group

Population size:
200 individuals

Range:
**Oshoek area, Mpumalanga,
South Africa**

Primary threats:
Collection for medicinal use

Action required:
**Develop strategy for sustainable
use and establish ex-situ populations**

Touted as a cure for cancer in South African traditional medicines, the recently discovered wild yam (*Dioscorea strydomiana*) holds the unenviable title of the most threatened yam in the world. While claims of its healing properties are currently unsubstantiated, related species are rich in elements which formed the original basis of steroidal drugs and the contraceptive pill.

Unfortunately, the plants purported curative attributes may be the cause of its destruction. Excessive levels of collection for medicinal use are currently the primary threat to this slow-growing species. In fact, the most recent survey of the wild yam population found over 89 per cent of the plants had harvesting scars. Collectors remove large parts of the tuber, which protrudes from the ground, often leading to the death of the plant. If the species continues to be exploited at the current rate, its persistence in the wild is highly unlikely. In addition, burning, mining, cattle farming and firewood collection are threatening the surrounding area, adding to the pressure on this valuable species.

As the primary threat to the wild yam is unsustainable levels of collection, developing solutions that will alleviate this are essential. Concerned parties, including the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority, the South African National Biodiversity Institute and the Mpumalanga Plant Specialist Group, are currently collaborating to address this. These groups will also need to develop conservation programmes in conjunction with the community that has primary custodianship over the wild yam if they are to have any chance of success.

What needs to be done?

Possible solutions could include substituting other similar species in medicinal products or developing systems for harvesting the seeds and selling plants post-cultivation. The development of a successful cultivation project in particular could provide a lifeline for the species, alleviating pressure on the wild population. Ex-situ cultivation projects have been started, but after eight years no plants have reached reproductive maturity. Although cultivation and the stockpiling of seed may provide an emergency parachute of sorts for the species, they alone can't be relied on to save the wild yam. This makes immediate protection of the species in the wild of paramount importance.

Eurynorhynchus pygmeus

Spoon-billed sandpiper

Text contributed by Rebecca Lee and reviewed by the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group

Population size:

< 100 breeding pairs

Range:

Breeds in Russia, migrates along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway to wintering grounds in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Primary threats:

Trapping on wintering grounds and land reclamation.

Actions required:

Maintenance of critical intertidal staging posts and reducing trapping on wintering grounds.

The spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*) is a weird and wonderful bird, having a uniquely shaped bill that resembles a flattened spoon. It is also a species in deep trouble and is today considered to be one of the most endangered birds on the planet. With the global population estimated at less than 100 breeding pairs, and an annual rate of decline of 26 per cent over the last decade, the species could be extinct within the next ten years. On leaving its breeding grounds in the coastal tundra in far north-eastern Russia, the spoon-billed sandpiper undertakes an epic 8,000km migration along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway to winter in southern and Southeast Asia.

The most acute cause of the species' very rapid recent decline is believed to be trapping and hunting, primarily on the wintering grounds including the Bay of Martaban in Myanmar and Sonadia Island off the Bangladesh coast. This small wader has also undoubtedly been affected by the loss of intertidal habitats along its migratory route, particularly in the Yellow Sea. This problem also affects many other birds and local communities who depend on the region's coastal natural resources. The precipitous decline of waterbirds along this flyway has been described as the gravest bird extinction crisis on Earth.

Many organisations across the conservation community have united to attempt to save the spoon-billed sandpiper and preliminary results are positive. In Myanmar, efforts to reduce trapping by providing local communities with livelihood alternatives have shown success, and two arduous expeditions to far north eastern Russia have resulted in a captive population of spoon-billed sandpipers, as well as birds being released on the breeding grounds after being hatched and reared in captivity, which has helped to alleviate the high mortality rate of chicks in the wild.

What needs to be done?

A flagship species for the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, the spoon-billed sandpiper's fate, and that of the millions of other waterbirds that migrate along the same flyway, hangs on the preservation of key staging sites. In addition to the long-term measures needed to protect these sites, activities such as conservation breeding and a reduction in winter trapping pressure are essential.

It will not be easy to save the spoon-billed sandpiper – time is short, funds are limited and the logistical problems are considerable. Success is by no means guaranteed, but with a huge collaborative effort on habitat protection, reduction of trapping and conservation breeding, there is still hope for this remarkable bird.





Heteromirafa sidamoensis

Liben lark

Text reviewed by the Bird Red List Authority

Population size:

90 - 256 individuals

Range:

**< 35km² in the Liben Plains,
southern Ethiopia**

Threats:

**Habitat loss and degradation due
to agricultural expansion, over-
grazing and fire suppression**

Action required:

**Restoration of grasslands, including
establishing sustainable land
management practices, clearing
scrub and reinstating fire regime**

Perfectly camouflaged amongst the sunburnt Ethiopian grassland, the cryptic Liben lark (*Heteromirafa sidamoensis*) resides solely in the open, tall grass habitat of the Liben Plains. Sadly this enigmatic species looks as though it could become mainland Africa's first recorded bird extinction. Between 2007 and 2009 the number of Liben larks dropped by 40 per cent with the population now numbering between 90 and 256 individuals. Unless current trends of habitat loss are reversed, there seems little hope for the species survival.

While as insidious and disastrous for the biodiversity they contain, the degradation of rangelands globally attracts far less attention than the destruction of tropical forests. It is this destruction of rangelands that is pushing the Liben lark to the edge. The loss of habitat in this area has been driven by crop planting, overgrazing and scrub encroachment, a result of both excessive grazing and fire suppression. Modelling suggests that apart from a small, politically insecure area near Somalia, there is no other suitable habitat for the species anywhere in the Horn of Africa. This makes the protection of remaining patches in the Liben Plains critically important.

As well as threatening the Liben lark, the decline in pasture quality is impacting the livelihoods of the local Borana pastoralists. Deteriorating pasture quality has transformed the homelands of the Borana from some of the most productive in Africa to a landscape overrun with famine and ethnic hostilities. Regeneration of these once productive areas is urgently required.

What needs to be done?

As the Liben lark avoids woody vegetation, very short grass, and bare ground, regeneration of the open, tall grass habitat on which it depends will be pivotal to any recovery programme. The establishment of cattle enclosures could facilitate this. In addition, implementing sustainable management practices, including clearing scrub and abolishing fire suppression policies, is necessary to ensure the species long-term survival. By reinvigorating traditional land and water management strategies and increasing the appeal and sustainability of pastoralism, both the livelihoods of the local people and their biodiversity may yet be saved.

Johora singaporensis

Singapore freshwater crab

Text reviewed by the Freshwater Crab and Crayfish Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and streamlet near Bukit Batok, Singapore

Primary threats:

Habitat degradation – reduction in water quality and quantity

Actions required:

Protection of remaining habitat and establishment of ex-situ populations

Hiding under rocks and dank leaf litter in just two or three streams in central Singapore can be found the Singapore freshwater crab, *Johora singaporensis*. One of only three endemic freshwater crabs in this highly developed island city state, for over half a century it had been assumed to be a population of the Malaysian species *Johora johorensis*. However, morphological and genetic studies have since confirmed it to be a distinct species, and it was formally named in 1986 – underlining the need to conduct careful analysis of taxonomy when developing conservation strategies. This tiny (up to 30 mm in size), mainly nocturnal creature feeds on detritus and worms found in the stream bed.

Until recently the Singapore freshwater crab was assumed to be relatively well protected with one of its two populations occurring in a stream drainage within the country's oldest and best protected national park, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. However, studies in 2008 surprisingly found that it had completely disappeared from this particular stream within the reserve. Acid rain was suspected to be one of the culprits as the water in this stream had become too acidic for the crabs to persist. Most recently, however, follow-up surveys revealed the presence of a hitherto unknown population in another part of the reserve but in a different drainage, which fortunately does not appear to be experiencing similar problems of stream acidification.

The survival of this freshwater species now hinges on this stream in the reserve and a small drainage canal near Bukit Batok within five kilometres of this stronghold. Worryingly, the latter site remains unprotected, and lowering of the water-table that sustains the stream, pesticide use, and urban development could all result in the loss of this species from it altogether. However, the National Parks Board of Singapore is working with other government agencies in an urgent bid to prevent impacts to this unprotected site and help to prevent the impending extinction of one of the country's iconic species.

What needs to be done?

Protection of the crabs' habitat and the surrounding stream systems offers the only chance to ensure the long-term survival of this species in the wild. In addition to in-situ conservation by protecting the species' habitat, the establishment of an ex-situ population is being explored; as this could provide some insurance in the short term against the sudden disappearance of the Singapore freshwater crab. Without the rapid implementation of these measures, the loss of this species seems almost inevitable.





Lophura edwardsi

Edwards's pheasant

Text reviewed by the Galliforme Specialist Group and the World Pheasant Association

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue, Viet Nam

Threats:

Hunting and habitat loss

Action required:

Effective law enforcement, habitat restoration and development of a captive breeding programme

Since proper records began 400 years ago, no pheasant species has been lost from the wild in Asia. It now looks as though Edwards's pheasant (*Lophura edwardsi*) from central Viet Nam may succumb to this fate, leaving its shimmering blue and black plumage and bright red wattles to adorn only display cases and zoo exhibits.

Rediscovered in 1996 after a 70-year gap in records, there have been no confirmed sightings of this species in the wild since 2000 despite intensive surveys in previously known areas. Deforestation has left the species' historical range almost completely devoid of the original tree cover. The spraying of herbicide during the Viet Nam war, and logging and clearance for agriculture have driven this loss which has left only fragments standing. In addition, indiscriminate hunting practices have pushed Edwards's pheasant to what may be a point of no return.

Previous experience with highly threatened bird species gives us reason to hope that this seemingly desperate situation could be reversed. Intensive surveys may yet uncover small remnant populations, and attempts to find these survivors should be continued. Critically though, the key to the survival of this striking species in the wild lies in effective law enforcement, coupled with awareness raising within local communities. Although current hunting practices do not specifically target Edwards's pheasants, the random nature of the activity still results in bird deaths.

What needs to be done?

Complete cessation of hunting is necessary in any protected areas found to hold Edwards's pheasant, as will increased control of hunting in the surrounding habitat. In addition, habitat restoration and management will need to be incorporated into a comprehensive conservation plan that includes the full establishment of protected areas in the known range. Phong Dien and Dakrong have already been classified as nature reserves, but their status needs to be confirmed without delay.

Fortunately, there are a large number of individuals held in captivity around the globe, although the genetic purity of this population is uncertain and requires investigation. If this captive population is deemed suitable for a breeding programme, then this could be considered as part of a long-term management strategy to save the species. Habitat restoration and management, coupled with conservation breeding and reintroduction within the historical range of the Edwards's pheasant, could provide a much-needed reprieve for this enigmatic bird.

Nepenthes attenboroughii

Attenborough's pitcher plant

Text reviewed by members of the Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

< 1km² on either side of the summit of Mount Victoria, Palawan, Philippines

Primary threats:

Poaching

Actions required:

Creation of a protected area and enforcement of current legal protection

Named after one of the world's most famous broadcasters and naturalists, Sir David Attenborough, Attenborough's pitcher plant (*Nepenthes attenboroughii*) is one of the world's largest, with traps reaching up to 30cm in height. This spectacular, colourful species was discovered by science in 2007 and three colonies have since been found on the uppermost slopes of the Mount Victoria Massif.

The location of Attenborough's pitcher plant is currently relatively inaccessible, meaning that habitat degradation and destruction do not yet pose a major threat. Instead, the primary risk is that of over-collection by locals and visitors. The monetary and curiosity value of this species is high, particularly in Asian markets and if unregulated, could drive this fascinating and iconic plant towards extinction. Elsewhere in the Philippines, the locals have noted the interest of foreigners in rare plants and may occasionally respond by collecting plants from the wild and selling them at roadside stalls. As the profile of this species continues to rise, this practice may escalate in Palawan, especially in the absence of an enforced protected status. Another potential threat to Attenborough's pitcher plant relates to mining expansion. Though operations are currently suspended at the nickel mine at the base of Mount Victoria, the soils in the area are rich in heavy metals and have been prospected for future mining operations. Such expansion would result in habitat destruction and open up the area, facilitating poaching.

Had Attenborough's pitcher plant been discovered any later, attempts to protect the plant and its species-rich habitat may have been too late. Fortunately, governments, scientists and the local inhabitants have been given an early opportunity to safeguard this remarkable pitcher plant and Palawan's unique biological heritage for the benefit of future generations.

What needs to be done?

Attenborough's pitcher plant currently has little monetary value, apart from that gained through its collection and sale - a practice that is ultimately futile since harvested plants are unlikely to survive. An education programme focusing on developing responsible eco-tourism, coupled with better enforcement of existing laws prohibiting wild collection of the species, could ensure the plant's continued existence. Designation of the species' habitat as a protected area under Philippine law would also assist in ensuring its long-term survival, as would escalating cultivation efforts with the aim of reducing demand for wild-collected plants while potentially facilitating future reintroductions.





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"This project is clearly a most valuable initiative, focussing attention as it does on species that are particularly endangered. I was greatly flattered when a pitcher plant with perhaps the biggest pitchers yet discovered was given my name, but aware too that such a potential record-breaker could attract the attention of unscrupulous collectors. So it is good to know that the Zoological Society of London and IUCN SSC have decided to include it among the species to be given special attention"

Sir David Attenborough
OM, CH, CVO, CBE, FRS, FZS, FSA



Neurergus kaiseri

Luristan newt

Text reviewed by the Amphibian Specialist Group

Population size:

< 1,000 mature individuals

Range:

**< 10km² Zagros Mountains,
Lorestan, Iran**

Primary threats:

Illegal collection for pet trade

Action required:

Enforcement of protection

Restricted to only three fast-flowing streams in the southern Zagros mountains of Lorestan in Iran, the stunning Luristan newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*) was described relatively recently in 1952. Spending the winter hibernating in arid shrub land under stones, the species then returns to spring-fed streams to breed. The males of the species perform an intricate courtship dance prior to mating, but after expending all that effort the pair don't even touch. Instead the male deposits a sperm packet for the female to retrieve.

Cloaked in black, white and flashes of bright orange, this handsome amphibian has experienced a dramatic decline in its population over the last ten years with numbers now estimated to be less than 1,000 mature individuals. A significant threat to the survival of the Luristan newt is the growing demand from the international pet trade. Prized for their distinctive colouring, a warning of their toxic skin secretions, some individuals have been spotted for sale in markets in Tehran. Wood collection, together with the effects of severe droughts in the region, is severely limiting the suitable habitat available for the species. Finally, damming of the streams in which the species lives, and the spread of non-native cyprinid species that predate on larvae and eggs, may be the final nail in the coffin for the species.

The Luristan newt is protected by Iranian national legislation and was listed on CITES Appendix I in 2010. This listing renders all trade in the species illegal, unless in exceptional circumstances which require a licence. However, enforcement of this legislation is currently insufficient and needs to be strengthened to respond to increasing international demand.

What needs to be done?

Monitoring movement of the species both locally and internationally should be an important component of any management plan, in order to map the illegal trade flows. In addition, the expansion of the Zagros Oak Forest to include the range of the Luristan newt would provide a strong legal framework for tackling current levels of habitat destruction. Finally, a habitat restoration project should be initiated to connect the remaining fragments and to ensure that genetic isolation of the remaining populations does not further threaten the chances of survival for this colourful amphibian.

Phocoena sinus

Vaquita

Text contributed by the Cetacean Specialist Group

Population size:

< 200 individuals and declining

Range:

core area of approximately 2,500km² in Northern Gulf of California, Mexico

Primary threats:

Incidental capture in gillnets

Actions required:

Ban on use of gillnets throughout the species' range

During the last decades of the twentieth century, the population of baijis, China's endemic Yangtze River dolphins, declined from several hundred to nothing. Sadly, the global attention and political will needed to save this charismatic species was too little and arrived too late. The world's smallest porpoise, a beautiful desert species known as vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), is now facing a similar fate.

The only immediate threat to the vaquita's existence is accidental drowning in gillnets deployed by artisanal fishermen. This makes saving the species as simple as removing these nets from its small range. However, doing that presents an economic and socially complex problem as fishing is one of the primary sources of income in the region. The government of Mexico has taken important steps to reduce fishing effort in the upper Gulf, and has banned gillnets and other fishing gear from central parts of the vaquita's range. However, models indicate that the current levels of protection have only slowed, not stopped, this species decline. Winning the race to alter human behavior in time to save this desert porpoise will require a complex mixture of governmental will, genuine economic alternatives for local people (including access to alternative fishing gear), and the funds for implementing and enforcing some difficult changes to the status quo.

Creation of the Upper Gulf of California and Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve in 1993 and the Vaquita Refuge in 2005 gave cause for optimism that protection for this species was on its way, but these initiatives proved far from adequate. Initial implementation of the 2008 'Action Plan to Protect the Vaquita' was designed to reduce fishing pressure through a voluntary buy-out programme and there was a strong effort to enforce the refuge boundaries. Today, however, fishing effort, although reduced, is still higher than in the early 1990s and while fishing is banned in the Refuge, both gillnetting and trawling continue to occur there.

What needs to be done?

Gillnets will need to be removed from the vaquita's entire range within the next few years. Alternative 'vaquita-safe' shrimp gear has been developed, but its adoption by local fishermen awaits governmental approval, training in its use, and initiatives to support gear replacement. Alternative gear for catching finfish still needs to be developed. Only with the wide-scale adoption of 'vaquita-safe' fishing methods will it be possible to ensure the species' survival. International support of gear-switching efforts and a mandatory timetable for gillnet phase-out will be critically important.



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The government of Mexico has taken important steps to reduce fishing effort in the upper Gulf, and has banned gillnets and other fishing gear from central parts of the vaquita's range.



Prolemur simus

Greater bamboo lemur

Text reviewed by the Primate Specialist Group

Population size:

100-160 individuals

Range:

Southeastern and southcentral rainforests of Madagascar

Primary threats:

Habitat destruction due to slash-and-burn agriculture, mining and illegal logging

Action required:

Habitat protection and reforestation in the Ivato and Karlanaga regions

Possessing powerful jaws that can crack through the tough bamboo that makes up the majority of its diet, the greater bamboo lemur (*Prolemur simus*) has returned from supposed extinction once before. Discovered in 1870, the species was believed extinct for almost fifty years before being rediscovered in 1972. Since that date there has been a near constant struggle to protect the species' last remaining strongholds.

The greater bamboo lemur was once widespread throughout Madagascar but now survives in only about 1 - 4 per cent of its historical range. In fact, it may have the smallest population size of any lemur in Madagascar, and hence the world. The major threat to this species is habitat destruction as a result of slash-and-burn agriculture, mining and illegal logging.

The establishment of the Ranomafana National Park in 1991 and the Andringitra National Park in 1999 provided legal protection for large chunks of the greater bamboo lemur's habitat, throwing a lifeline to populations in this area. However, there may also be additional groups that are clinging to existence in the Ivato and Karlanaga regions, where their home range is completely unprotected and severely threatened by slash-and-burn agriculture. Without immediate protection the habitat and populations in these areas may be lost, significantly undermining the genetic viability of the species.

Encouragingly, positive collaboration between national and international non-governmental organisations and local communities provides hope that this species will continue to chew through stocks of bamboo well into the future.

What needs to be done?

Protection of suitable habitat in the Ivato and Karlanaga regions should be implemented immediately. In addition, to reduce the impact of continuing destruction outside reserve areas, the development of a reforestation programme to create corridors between the forest fragments needs urgent consideration. This would also facilitate movement, and therefore the transfer of genes, between populations. If the survival of the greater bamboo lemur is to be ensured, as well as that of many other Malagasy species, community education and the development of more sustainable agricultural practices, which drives large amounts of habitat destruction, will be of paramount importance.

Pseudoryx nghetinhensis

Saola

Text contributed by Barney Long and reviewed by the Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

Annamite mountains, on the Viet Nam - PDR Laos border

Threats:

Hunting and habitat destruction

Action required:

Increase enforcement efforts and habitat protection

The saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) is such a distinctive species that no general English descriptor, such as cat or dog, can be applied to it. It is simply a saola – a relative of cows and goats – and its name represents the only Lao word in the English language. Despite its recent and remarkable discovery in 1992, this modern day unicorn remains under immediate threat of extinction. Residing in the dense rainforests that cloak the steep Annamite Mountains along the Viet Nam-Laos PDR border the saola has yet to be seen in the wild by a scientist.

Intensive hunting in the species habitat is the greatest threat to the saola's survival, with ubiquitous and uncontrolled snaring to supply the illegal trade in wildlife products being the principle driver. Although hunters are not targeting saola, their incidental capture results in a similar outcome. The failure to address this, due to a lack of control of hunting in both Viet Nam and Laos PDR, is driving the declines in populations of numerous threatened species. The lack of enforcement of national laws that govern the sale and trafficking of wildlife products only adds to the difficult situation. Finally, habitat loss and fragmentation, driven by agricultural expansion, infrastructure development and extractive industries is increasing the extreme pressures currently facing saola populations. Though researchers are unable to provide any confident estimates of numbers, they are aware that the species has only been found in less than 15 patches of forest.

To have any hope of stemming the unsustainable loss of species throughout Asia national and international groups must collaborate to stem the illegal wildlife trade. Preventing the sale of illegally caught wildlife in restaurants across the area would help to save species, but demand in other sectors will also need to be addressed. Finally, reducing the rate of forest loss in the saola's habitat and improving protected area management will be critical. The situation seems dismal, but if local, national and international support can be mustered there is still hope that the saola can be saved.

What needs to be done?

A reduction in snaring effort in the areas where saola are thought to still survive will be an essential conservation measure for this species and could be achieved with an increase in both the number of rangers and their operational budgets. A pilot programme in Thua-Thien Hien Saola Reserve in Viet Nam was extremely successful with 12,000 snares removed in the first year it was implemented. Financial and operational support from the international community is urgently needed to expand this programme to other areas in which the saola may still roam.



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To have any hope of stemming the loss of species throughout Asia national and international groups must work together to stem the illegal wildlife trade.



© W Robichaud/ Ban Vangban village/ WCS/ IUCN



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Rafetus swinhoei

Red River giant softshell turtle

Text reviewed by the Freshwater Turtle and Tortoise Specialist Group

Population size:

4 individuals

Range:

Hoan Kiem Lake and Dong Mo Lake, Viet Nam, and Suzhou Zoo, China

Primary threats:

Hunting for consumption and habitat destruction and degradation as a result of wetland destruction and pollution

Actions required:

Education and awareness programmes, and captive breeding

The enormous Red River giant softshell turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) can reach up to 120kg in weight, with a shell over 100cm long. The species plays a significant role in the cultural history of the area. In fact, the turtle in Hoan Kiem Lake is fabled to be the legendary Kim Qui, or Golden Turtle God, and has appeared at notable points in Vietnamese history. Unfortunately this cultural icon may soon be lost forever as hunting and habitat destruction have devastated populations. Previously found throughout the Red River of Yunnan, China and Vietnam, the known global population now consists of four individuals.

An intensive conservation breeding programme at Suzhou Zoo with an old male and the last known female has been running since 2008. Unfortunately, despite multiple attempts, none of the clutches of eggs laid by the female have produced hatchlings, and in 2011 were all found to be infertile. Attempts continue and efforts may be made to pair the female with a younger Vietnamese male discovered in 2007 in Dong Mo Lake.

As well as continuing conservation breeding efforts, scientists have made several missions to Yunnan in recent years to assess reports of possible sightings of the species by the forestry bureaus and others in the area. Although awareness levels of the species and its significance was encouragingly high, there were no confirmed recent sightings. The forestry bureaus in the area were continuing to monitor markets in order to rescue any individuals that might

be on sale there. However, as officials focus their hunt on gigantic specimens (large adults), younger individuals may be slipping through under the assumption that they are a more common species.

What needs to be done?

The creation of a clear identification kit for officials that distinguishes between all size classes of softshell turtle species in the area would be invaluable. If these were then distributed throughout the area other individuals could possibly be rescued and included in captive breeding programmes. In addition, options to include the turtle in Dong Mo Lake in the breeding programme should continue to be explored.

Finally, comprehensive surveys and awareness campaigns across the region need to be continued. The value of these was demonstrated in 2010, when Dong Mo Lake broke its dam and a turtle was caught downriver. In the absence of an awareness campaign this individual would have found his way onto a dinner table, rather than being rescued and released back into its wetland home.

Rhinoceros sondaicus

Javan rhino

Text reviewed by the Asian Rhino Specialist Group

Population size:

< 100 individuals

Range:

**Ujung Kulon National Park,
Java, Indonesia**

Threats:

**Hunting for traditional medicine
and small population size**

Action required:

**Enforcement of protection laws
and possible establishment of
a captive breeding programme**

Formerly found throughout south-east Asia, as far afield as Bangladesh and southern China through to peninsular Malaysia and the islands of Sumatra and Java in Indonesia, the Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) is now the rarest of all the living rhinoceros species. Like many rhinos, their horns are prized in traditional medicine and can fetch up to \$30,000 (US) on the black market.

This charismatic species is battling to survive, with only a small population of between 40 - 60 individuals remaining in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java. Until recently a population hung on in the Cat Tien National Park in Viet Nam. However the last individual was poached from the protected area in early 2010, the value of its horn in traditional medicine is overshadowing any intrinsic value that the species has.

A principal form of legal protection for the species is its listing on CITES Appendix I, and since 1975 this has made the trade of individuals or any component parts illegal. However, the often under-resourced nation states that hold CITES Appendix I species require increased levels of international support to enforce this legislation and protect what is of global value.

Rhinos are one of the world's most recognisable species, filling children's story books and providing inspiration for generations. Losing one of their species due to the human desire to consume ever more resources would be inexcusable.

What needs to be done?

As the primary threat to the survival of the Javan rhino is hunting, then the success of rescue efforts will hinge on understanding the motivations for these activities and effectively addressing them. Ramping up patrolling efforts and the enforcement of protection laws in the area will also be of critical importance to save this species. Due to the small population size, disease is also a significant threat and needs to be continually monitored. In addition, habitat management, to enhance its suitability for the Javan rhino, should continue.

With the loss of the final population in Viet Nam, there is an urgent need to review the feasibility of a conservation breeding programme and the potential for reintroductions and translocations. Any translocation or reintroduction would carry substantial risk, but as the sole remaining population of this rhino exists in a geographically limited area of Java, not implementing these ambitious conservation measures may no longer be an option.





Risioconemis seidenschwarzi

Cebu frill-wing

Text contributed by Reagan Joseph Villanueva and reviewed by the Dragonfly Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

< 1km² in a rivulet beside the Kawasan River, Cebu, Philippines

Primary threats:

Habitat degradation and destruction

Actions required:

Designation of area as 'Critical Habitat' – restricting human access to the area

Discovered in 1999, the Cebu frill-wing (*Risioconemis seidenschwarzi*) is a beautiful black damselfly with unusual blue eyes and is found only on the island of Cebu, in the Philippines. Two years after its discovery a local farmer moved onto the only site from which the species was known, destroying the original vegetation. With its forested habitat lost, the population of Cebu frill-wings began to decline rapidly. After the farmer was found washing his pesticide sprayer in the frill-wing's only known habitat, thus poisoning the water, the species seemed to be lost forever. Extensive efforts to locate the species and to raise awareness of its plight came to no avail.

Fortunately, in 2009, a small population was discovered at a spring located by Kawasan Falls, near the source of the Kawasan River. This population is confined to a narrow area measuring less than 30m² and may itself have only narrowly escaped destruction. According to locals, the site was nearly destroyed in 1990 by the construction of a house. In a strange twist of fate, the delicate frill-wings were saved only by the deportation of the owner, leaving nature to reclaim the abandoned property and return it to its former state.

The fate of this distinctive, blue-eyed damselfly (and *Protosticta plicata*, another endangered damselfly) depends largely on encouraging various stakeholders to protect the habitat around the Kawasan Falls. There is a high risk of this site being destroyed, with the lower section having already been developed with concrete paving and ornamental plantings. Clearance of vegetation above the waterfalls has also been noted. As the area is not currently protected, there are no legal restrictions to prevent landowners modifying the area further.

What needs to be done?

The presence of the two threatened odonata species, four other island-endemics and a number of other Philippine endemics, should accord the Kawasan Falls 'Critical Habitat' status. This would restrict human access to the area and remove the threat of habitat modification. It would also reduce the risk of the site being poisoned, which wiped out the previous population. Careful management of the designation process will be of paramount importance, to avoid negative reactions from the current landowners which could have disastrous consequences for the Cebu frill-wing.

Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis

Red-finned Blue-eye

Text contributed by Adam Kerezszy, Freshwater Fish Specialist Group

Population size:

2,000 - 4,000 individuals

Range:

Eggbaston Station, central western Queensland, Australia

Threats:

Predation by introduced species

Action required:

Control of the invasive species *Gambusia holbrooki*, and reintroduction of *S.vermeilipinnis*

The red-finned blue-eye (*Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis*) is a tiny fish which has an extremely restricted range in an isolated group of artesian springs on Eggbaston, a former sheep and cattle station in central western Queensland, Australia. First discovered in 1990, the existence of a beautifully-coloured member of the blue-eye family in such an unlikely environment was exciting to everyone.

However, from the onset of its discovery there was recognition of an impending disaster: the presence of the fish *Gambusia holbrooki*. Introduced as a biological control for mosquitoes, feral populations of gambusia are associated with catastrophic declines in indigenous fish populations, and this is certainly the case in the spring complex at Eggbaston where the species predate on red-finned blue-eyes.

During the 1990s, staff from the state fisheries agency in Queensland worked to get red-finned blue-eye listed as an endangered species. These efforts were successful and it is now listed as endangered under Australian and Queensland legislation. Unfortunately, conservation breeding efforts failed so the best hope for this fish now rests on conservation efforts in its arid homeland.

In 2008, Eggbaston was purchased by Bush Heritage Australia and a project commenced to attempt to control gambusia and save the red-finned blue-eye. An audit of all springs in March 2009 revealed only four springs with the fish, and

total numbers were estimated at between 2,000 and 4,000 individuals. In contrast, the gambusia population had exploded and they were present in their millions in thirty springs. It is thought that gambusia invaded the springs following extensive flooding of the region, and there is a high risk that the species could colonise the final strongholds of the red-finned blue-eye. The situation is a little better in 2012, but is still precarious. Rotenone – a substance used to kill fishes - has been trialled at Eggbaston. It successfully eliminates gambusia and, when applied correctly, doesn't damage populations of non-target taxa. Red-finned blue-eyes have also been successfully relocated to three springs which were free of gambusia, opening up the possibility for future successful reintroductions. Work is currently underway to trial methods of preventing future gambusia colonisation, barricading springs using a range of materials.

What needs to be done?

The red-finned blue-eye has survived in an extremely harsh aquatic environment, but unfortunately this little fish's impressive adaptability is nothing in the face of a gambusia invasion. Although much progress has been made in protecting the red-finned blue-eye, there is still a long way to go. Rescue currently hinges on red-finned blue eye reintroductions and prevention of further gambusia colonisations. While this is possible, the species requires dedicated funding and support to ensure its long-term recovery. Without this, the extinction of this unique species remains likely.



The species was previously found in six estuaries in the Eastern Cape Province, but is believed to have disappeared from five. Its situation was so dire that it was feared extinct in 1994.



Syngnathus watermeyeri

Estuarine pipefish

Text reviewed by the Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Red List Authority

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

Kariega Estuary to East Kleinemonde Estuary, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

Threats:

Construction of dams altering river flows and flood events into estuaries

Action required:

Establishment of a freshwater 'reserve', pollution control and implementation of water use allocations

A relative of the seahorse and sea dragon, the estuarine pipefish (*Syngnathus watermeyeri*), like all species in its family, has flipped reproductive roles with the male being the one that gets pregnant. Females deposit eggs into the male's brood pouch after mating, where the male then carries them to term – between 12 and 14 days. Unfortunately this diverting species and its quirks may soon be lost due to continued declines of habitat quality and food resources in its estuarine home.

The estuarine pipefish relies on pulses of river water that both nourish its food supply and maintain habitable saline levels. The construction of dams and other barriers along waterways, and the direct abstraction of water from rivers, in the Eastern Cape Province have reduced the frequency and intensity of these flows – resulting in a decline in food availability for the larval stages of development. The species was previously found in six estuaries in this area, but is believed to have disappeared from five. Its situation was so dire that it was feared extinct in 1994, before a new population was discovered in East Kleinemonde Estuary. Sadly this population was wiped out by a flood in 1998, which resulted in the loss of submerged aquatic grass beds on which this species depends.

Fortunately, a population of estuarine pipefish returned to the Kariega Estuary after an absence of four decades. This re-emergence was probably linked to a period of heavy rain in the area, which resulted in the Kariega River flowing once again and giving rise to optimal levels of salinity and nutrients in the estuary. Ensuring that this quirky little species improves its currently shaky grip on life will require careful management of the water flows into the estuary.

What needs to be done?

The establishment of a freshwater 'reserve', which could help to ensure regular pulses of freshwater into the system, coupled with habitat conservation and pollution control are the main measures needed to protect this species. Management of these freshwater flows, that supply both food and living space for the species, should be achieved without too much difficulty since allocations for water use have been agreed for other estuaries in the area. Now all that is required is for them to be implemented, and then effectively managed, on the Kariega and Bushman's rivers. Appropriate land-use management and ecological water allocations could avoid potentially catastrophic outcomes for this species in the future.

Tahina spectabilis

Suicide Palm, Dimaka

Text reviewed by the Palm Specialist Group

Population size:

90 individuals

Range:

Analalava district, north-western Madagascar

Threats:

Habitat loss due to fires, logging and agricultural developments

Action required:

Establishment of a protected area and development of a management plan

Large enough to be seen in satellite imagery, the suicide palm (*Tahina spectabilis*) can grow a trunk up to 18m tall which is topped by a crown of leaves over five metres in diameter. This enormous palm remained undetected until 2007, when it was first discovered at the foot of a tiny limestone outcrop in Madagascar's seasonal west. Once mature, the suicide palm extends a 4 - 5m high inflorescence which is covered in a multitude of small yellow flowers. This impressive reproductive effort is so taxing that, true to its common name, the palm dies a few months after flowering and fruiting. Described in 2008, the palm's generic name, *Tahina*, is based on the Malagasy for 'blessed'.

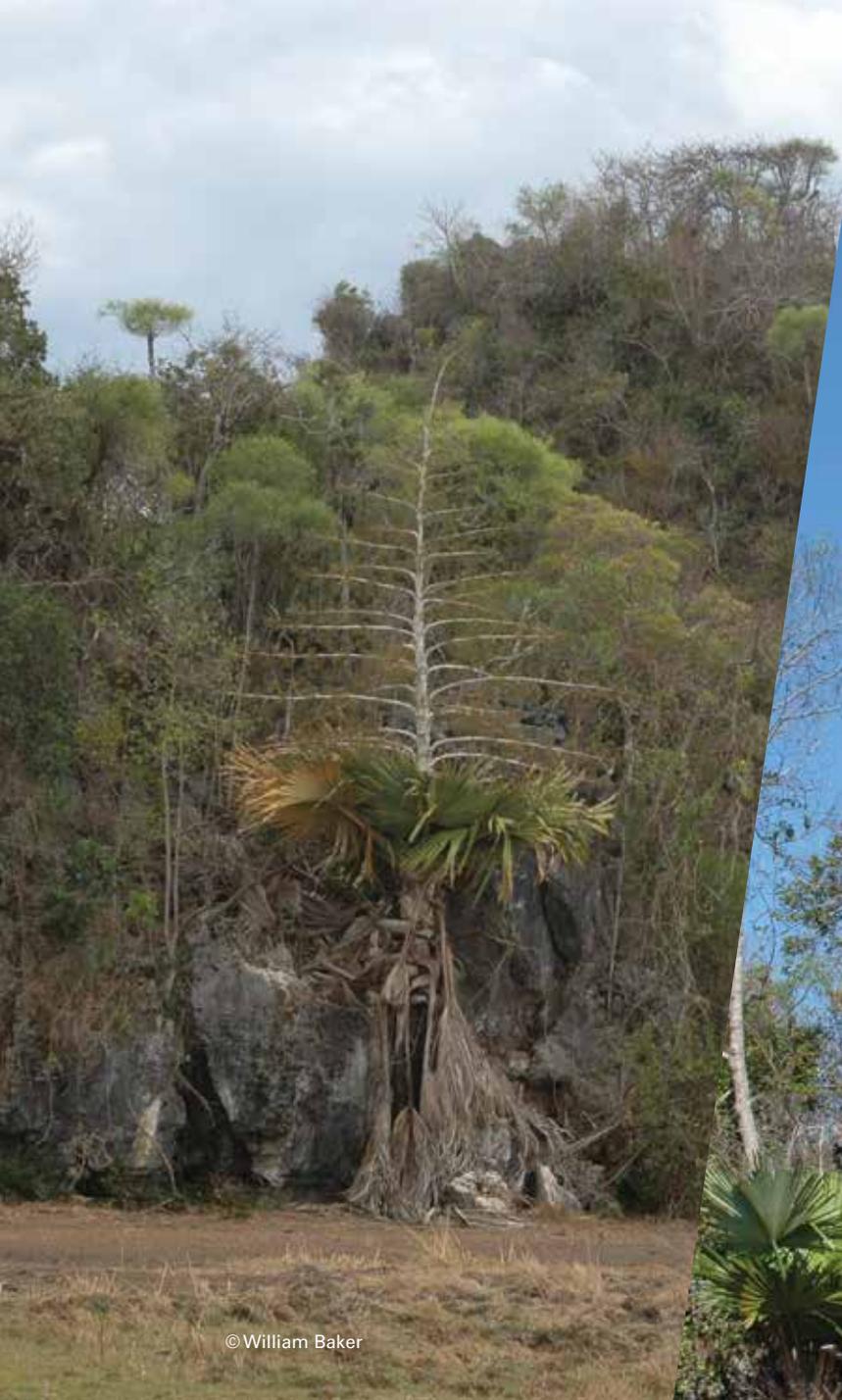
Habitat loss, as with so many of Madagascar's endemic species, is the most serious threat to this species. Its small population size and its restricted range, makes the suicide palm particularly vulnerable. Even small-scale modifications to the surrounding area may have a devastating impact while unforeseen events, such as a cyclone or wildfire, could result in the species' swift extinction in the wild. Establishing new populations of the species is, therefore, of critical importance.

Seed has been harvested from wild specimens through collaboration between the Madagascar National Seed Bank (Silo Nationale des Graines Forestières), the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and a commercial seed distributor. These seeds were then distributed to botanic gardens and private palm enthusiasts around the world to ensure a

well distributed collection. The financial proceeds from this enterprise were returned to the local population, who used the revenue to build fire breaks around the site and construct fences to keep cattle out. An additional benefit included refurbishment of the local school, demonstrating the advantages of conserving the site and the species to the surrounding community.

What needs to be done?

Although ex-situ conservation efforts have provided the suicide palm with a level of security, an ongoing sustainable management plan now needs to be developed. This could include the establishment of a protected area, enrichment planting and ongoing monitoring, as well as the maintenance of current conservation measures. These efforts will be instrumental in sustaining the species for the long term in the wild. Encouragingly, progress so far indicates that an increase in resources and effort really could help this species defy its 'suicide' moniker and pull itself back from the brink of extinction.





Telmatobufo bullocki

Bullock's false toad

Text reviewed by the Amphibian Specialist Group

Population size:

Unknown

Range:

< 500km², Nahuelbuta, Arauco Province, Chile

Primary threats:

Habitat destruction as a result of construction of a hydro-electricity scheme

Actions required:

Halting development of the hydro-electricity scheme and protecting habitat

The mottled greyish-brown Bullock's false toad (*Telmatobufo bullocki*) was discovered in 1952 but, being extremely rare, there have only been three recorded sightings since 1992. Found hiding under logs in temperate southern beech forests of Nahuelbuta, this tiny frog is considered one of the most evolutionarily distinct amphibians in the world. Its family, the Calyptocephalellidae, split off from other amphibians around 130 million years ago. This means that the toad's relatives were developing separately from other amphibians when dinosaurs were still roaming the planet.

Sadly, this curious creature is now facing a fight for its life due to ever-increasing demands for energy. Its sole known breeding population, discovered in 2011 in the Nahuelbuta forests in Chile, is threatened by plans to establish a hydro-electric project. Adult Bullock's false toads spend the majority of their time on land, as evidenced by analysis of their stomach contents, whilst the tadpoles seem to be adapted to swimming in fast-flowing streams. Alteration of these habitats could be disastrous for this species. The construction of this hydro-electric scheme would irrevocably alter this amphibian's home and probably wipe out the only known breeding population, pushing this little toad closer to extinction. An additional threat to this species is the expansion of pine and eucalyptus plantations; the resulting deforestation and habitat modification destroying the habitat of the Bullock's false toad.

The hydro-electricity project, and the continuing habitat destruction from agricultural expansion, also threatens the 17 other amphibians (including five endemic species) that inhabit the Nahuelbuta forests. This devastating loss must be prevented, and the treacherous position these species are currently in necessitates quick and decisive action.

What needs to be done?

If the hydro-electricity development goes ahead, the known wild populations of this species will almost certainly be wiped out. Therefore, the Chilean national government must decide whether increasing energy supplies is worth the cost of a species extinction.

Expansion of the existing Parque Nacional Nahuelbuta, and enforcement of the protection it provides, would help alleviate the pressure on the Bullock's false toad from pine and wood collection. Planting buffer strips along the toad's breeding streams would also improve habitat quality by reducing the levels of siltation – a by-product of tree removal. Finally, the establishment of an ex-situ population, to act as an insurance policy of sorts for the species, should be explored without delay.



© Gregory A. Payton, The Dawes Arboretum

Abies beshanzuensis
Baishan fir

Population size: 5 mature individuals
Range: Baishanzu Mountain, Zhejiang, China
Primary threats: Agricultural expansion and fire
Actions required: Ex-situ conservation and re-introduction, and establishment of a protected area



© Andre Freitas

Actinote zikani

Population size: Unknown
Range: Near Sao Paulo, Atlantic forest, Brazil
Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to pressure from human populations
Action required: Protection of habitat and *Mikania obsoleta* (host plant)



© Vimoksalehi Lukoschek

Aipysurus foliosquama
Leaf scaled sea-snake

Population size: Unknown
Range: Ashmore Reef and Hibernia Reef, Timor Sea
Primary threats: Unknown - likely degradation of coral reef habitat
Action required: Evaluate reasons for population decline and formulate appropriate management plans



© Viola Clausnitzer

Amanipodagrion gilliesi
Amani flatwing

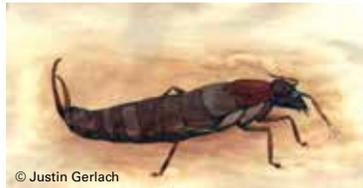
Population size: < 500 individuals
Range: 10km², Amani-Sigi Forest, Usamabara Mountains, Tanzania
Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to increasing population pressure and water pollution
Action required: Habitat protection



©Ciro Albano www.nebrazilbirding.com

Antilophia bokermanni
Araripe manakin

Population size: 779 individuals
Range: 28km², Chapado do Araripe, South Ceará, Brazil
Primary threats: Habitat destruction due to expansion of agriculture and recreational facilities and water diversion
Actions required: Formal protection of remaining habitat and protection of springs and streams



© Justin Gerlach

Antisolabis seychellensis

Population size: Unknown
Range: 5km², Morne Blanc, Mahé island, Seychelles
Primary threats: Invasive species and climate change
Action required: Habitat management to prevent further invasion by introduced plants



© Barbara Nicca

Aphanius transgrediens
Aci Göl toothcarp

Population size: few hundred pairs
Range: small springs, south-eastern shore of former Lake Aci, Turkey
Primary threats: Competition and predation by Gambusia and road construction
Action required: Raise awareness in national conservation groups and governments, monitor and conserve current springs, develop action plan for lost springs and maintain captive populations



© Rudy Potthin

Aproteles bulmerae
Bulmer's fruit bat

Population size: approximately 150 individuals
Range: <10km², Luplupwintern Cave, Western Province, Papua New Guinea
Primary threats: Hunting and cave disturbance
Action required: Protection of Luplupwintern cave and enforced prohibition of hunting



Ardea insignis
White bellied heron

Population size: 70 - 400 individuals
Range: 56,300km² in Bhutan, North East India and Myanmar
Primary threats: Habitat destruction and degradation due to hydropower development
Actions required: Develop captive rearing and release program, eliminate adverse uses of riverine habitat, and mitigate effects of hydroelectric development



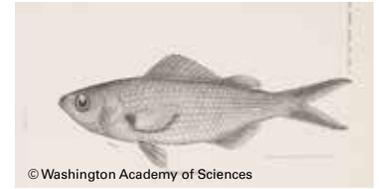
Ardeotis nigriceps
Great indian bustard

Population size: 50 - 249 mature individuals
Range: 570,000km² in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya, India
Primary threats: Habitat loss and modification due to agricultural development
Action required: Establishment of protected areas and community reserves, and realignment of Indira Gandhi Nahar Canal Project



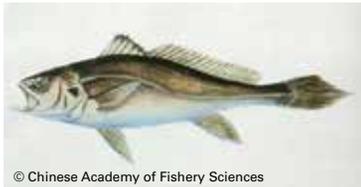
Aythya innotata
Madagascar pochard

Population size: approx 20 mature individuals
Range: 1km² volcanic lakes north of Bealanana, Madagascar
Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to slash-and-burn agriculture, hunting, and fishing / introduced fish
Action required: Formal protection of current breeding site, habitat restoration, and development of release programme for captive-bred individuals



Azurina eupalma
Galapagos damsel fish

Population size: Unknown
Range: Unknown
Primary threats: Climate Change - oceanographic changes associated with the 1982 / 1983 El Nino are presumed to be responsible for the apparent disappearance of this species from the Galapagos
Action required: Surveys to identify if the species still exists in Los Lobos Islands



Bahaba taipingensis
Giant yellow croaker

Population size: Unknown
Range: Chinese coast from Yangtze River, China to Hong Kong
Primary threats: Over-fishing, primarily due to value of swim-bladder for traditional medicine - cost per kilogram exceeded that of gold in 2001
Actions required: Establishment of appropriate protection in Hong Kong and enforcement of legal protection in China



Batagur baska
Common batagur, Four-toed terrapin

Population size: Unknown
Range: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and Malaysia
Primary threats: Illegal export and trade from Indonesia to China
Action required: Enforcement of CITES Appendix I restrictions and control of illegal trade



Bazzania bhutanica

Population size: Individuals unknown, two populations
Range: <10km² in Budini and Lafeti Khola, Bhutan
Primary threats: Habitat degradation and destruction due to forest clearance, overgrazing and development
Action required: Protection of area to prevent future development damaging remaining habitat



Beatragus hunteri
Hirola

Population size: <1,000 individuals
Range: South-east Kenya and possibly south-west Somalia
Primary threats: Habitat loss and degradation, competition with livestock, poaching
Action required: Establishment of protected areas and community conservancies, increase in level of management and protection of wild population



© Brendan White / USFWS

Bombus franklini
Franklin's bumblebee

Population size: Unknown
Range: Oregon and California, United States of America
Primary threats: Disease from commercially bred bumblebees and habitat destruction and degradation
Actions required: Protection of habitat containing nectar and pollen sources



© Richard Lansdown

Callitriche pulchra

Population size: Unknown
Range: 2m x 1m pool on Gavdos, Greece
Primary threats: Exploitation of the species' habitat by stock, and modification of the pool by local people
Action required: Provide alternative water sources for stock, involve local people in the protection of the pool and document remaining water bodies on Gavdos



© Luciano Candisani/ www.lucianocandisani.com

Cavia intermedia
Santa Catarina's guinea pig

Population size: 40-60 individuals
Range: 0.04km² on Moleques do Sul Island, Santa Catarina, Brazil
Primary threats: Habitat disturbance and possible hunting; small population effects
Action required: Protected area enforcement and regulation of access to the island



© Neila Curtin

Cercopithecus roloway
Roloway guenon

Population size: Unknown
Range: Cote d'Ivoire
Primary threats: Hunting for consumption as bushmeat and habitat loss
Action required: Protection of habitat from logging and conversion to agricultural land



© David Harries

Cryptomyces maximus
Willow blister

Population size: Unknown
Range: Pembrokeshire, United Kingdom
Primary threats: Limited availability of habitat
Actions required: Continue protection of current populations and habitat regeneration projects



© Lázaro Guevara

Cryptotis nelsoni
Nelson's small-eared shrew

Population size: Unknown
Range: <100km², Volcán San Martín Tuxtla, Veracruz, Mexico
Primary threats: Habitat loss due to logging, cattle grazing, fire and agriculture
Action required: Surveys to map species range; improved protected area management



© Save the Rhino International

Dicerorhinus sumatrensis
Sumatran rhino

Population size: <250 mature individuals
Range: Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia, Kalimantan and Sumatra, Indonesia
Primary threats: Hunting for horn - used in traditional medicine
Action required: Expansion and reinforcement of anti-poaching programmes and continuation of captive breeding efforts



© Eric van der Vliet

Diomedea amsterdamensis
Amsterdam albatross

Population size: 100 mature individuals
Range: Breeds on Plateau des Tourbières, Amsterdam Island, Indian Ocean.
Primary threats: Disease and incidental by-catch in long-line fishing operations
Action required: Prevention of the spread of disease and promotion of best-practice measures in all fisheries within the species range

IMAGE NOT
YET AVAILABLE

Diospyros katendei

Population size: 20 individuals, one population
Range: Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve, Uganda
Primary threats: High pressure from communities for agricultural activity, illegal tree felling, habitat degradation due to alluvial gold digging and small population
Actions required: Enforcement of legal protection of area, field surveys for further search and ex-situ conservation in arboreta / botanic gardens



Dipterocarpus lamellatus

Population size: 12 individuals
Range: Siangau Forest Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia
Primary threats: Habitat loss and degradation due to logging of lowland forest and creation of industrial plantations
Action required: Restoration of Sianggau Forest Reserve and re-introduction of species to previous range



Discoglossus nigriventer Hula painted frog

Population size: Unknown
Range: <2km² in Hula Valley, Israel
Primary threats: Predation by birds and range restriction due to habitat destruction
Action required: Restoration of habitat



Dombeya mauritania

Population size: Unknown
Range: Mauritius
Primary threats: Habitat degradation and destruction due to encroachment by alien invasive plant species and cannabis cultivation
Action required: Control of invasive plant species, habitat protection and re-introduction of propagated individuals



Elaeocarpus bojeri

Population size: <10 individuals
Range: Grand Bassin, Mauritius
Primary threats: Habitat degradation
Actions required: Unknown - trees are currently being closely monitored to determine level of threat and how these should be addressed



Eleutherodactylus glandulifer La Hotte glanded frog

Population size: Unknown
Range: Massif de la Hotte, Haiti
Primary threats: Habitat destruction due to charcoal production and slash-and-burn agriculture
Action required: Habitat protection



Eleutherodactylus thorcetes Macaya breast-spot frog

Population size: Unknown
Range: Formon and Macaya peaks, Masif de la Hotte, Haiti
Primary threats: Habitat destruction due to charcoal production and slash-and-burn agriculture
Action required: Protection of habitat



Eriosyce chilensis Chilenito

Population size: <500 individuals
Range: Pta Molles and Pichidungui, Chile
Primary threats: Collection of flowering individuals
Action required: Protection of plants through construction of a fence and signage alerting people to threatened status



Erythrina schliebenii

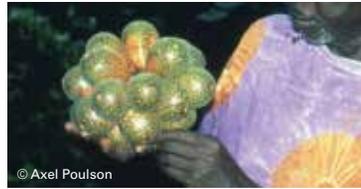
Coral tree

Population size: < 50 individuals
Range: Namatimbili-Ngarama Forest, Tanzania
Primary threats: Limited habitat and small population size increasing vulnerability to stochastic events
Actions required: Complete establishment of Forest Reserves and continue propagation efforts, ex-situ conservation



Euphorbia tanaensis

Population size: 4 mature individuals
Range: Witu Forest Reserve, Kenya
Primary threats: Illegal logging and habitat degradation due to agricultural expansion and infrastructure development
Action required: Enforcement of legal protection in the Witu Forest Reserve, which has diminished due to civil insecurity



Ficus katendei

Population size: < 50 mature individuals
Range: Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve, Ishasha River, Uganda
Primary threats: Agricultural activity, illegal tree felling and habitat degradation due to alluvial gold digging
Action required: ex-situ conservation in arboreta / botanic gardens; enforcement of protection to contain encroachment and habitat degradation; community development programmes in areas adjacent to the reserve



Geronticus eremita

Northern bald ibis

Population size: 200 – 249 mature individuals
Range: Breeds in Morocco, Turkey and Syria. Syrian population winters in central Ethiopia
Primary threats: Habitat degradation and destruction, and hunting
Action required: Protection of key breeding and roosting sites



Gigasiphon macrosiphon

Population size: 33 mature individuals
Range: Kaya Muhaka, Gongoni and Mrima Forest Reserves, Kenya, Amani Nature Reserve, West Kilombero Scarp Forest Reserve, and Kihansi Gorge, Tanzania
Primary threats: Timber extraction and habitat degradation due to agricultural encroachment and development, seed predation by wild pigs
Actions required: Enforcement of protection in reserves and establishment of management plan to mitigate effects of water loss from hydroelectricity developments



Gocea ohridana

Population size: Unknown
Range: <10km², Lake Ohrid, Macedonia
Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to increasing pollution levels, off-take of water and sedimentation events
Action required: Implement transboundary agreements to improve habitat management



Heleophryne rosei

Table mountain ghost frog

Population size: Unknown
Range: < 9km², Table Mountain, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to invasive plants and water abstraction
Action required: Protection of habitat, continued implementation of management plans and integration of activities between sites



Hemicycla paeteliana

Population: Unknown
Range: < 8km², Jandia peninsula, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands
Primary threats: Habitat destruction due to overgrazing and trampling by goats and tourists
Action required: Conservation of habitat and control of goats, and limiting recreational access to area by tourists



Hibiscadelphus woodii

Population size: Unknown
 Range: Kalalau Valley, Hawaii
 Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to feral ungulates and invasive introduced plant species
 Actions required: Survey the extremely steep terrain for additional individuals
 Control of invasive species in the remaining suitable habitat so that species can be reintroduced if more individuals are located



Hucho perryi
 Sakhalin taimen

Population size: Unknown
 Range: 233,498km², Russian far east and northern Japan
 Primary threats: Overfishing (sport fishing and commercial bycatch) and habitat loss from damming, agriculture and other land use practices
 Action required: Expansion of conservation protection in rivers in Russia and Japan and enforcement of fishing regulations



Lathyrus belinensis
 Belin vetchling

Population size: < 1,000
 Range: < 2km², outskirts of Belin village, Antalya, Turkey
 Primary threats: Habitat destruction due to urbanisation, over-grazing, conifer planting and road widening
 Action required: Habitat protection, control of grazing, halt conifer planting and periodic sampling for ex-situ seed conservation



Leiopelma archeyi
 Archey's frog

Population size: Unknown
 Range: Coromandel peninsula and Whareorino Forest, New Zealand
 Primary threats: Chytridiomycosis and predation by invasive species
 Action required: Continuation of current conservation efforts



Lithobates sevosus
 Dusky gopher frog

Population size: 60-100 individuals
 Range: < 10km² in Harrison County, Mississippi, USA
 Primary threats: Fungal disease and habitat limitation due to climate change and land-use changes
 Actions required: Protection of habitat and management of population to prevent spread of disease



Magnolia wolfii

Population size: < 5 individuals
 Range: Risaralda, Columbia
 Primary threats: Isolation of species and low regeneration rates
 Action required: Protection of remaining population and exploration of potential for ex-situ conservation

Image © Dr. Jan Wolf, University of Amsterdam Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, Dorian Ruiz Penagos, Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, Colombia, Grupo de Investigación Jardín Botánico



Margaritifera marocana

Population size: < 250 individuals
 Range: Oued Denna, Oued Abid and Oued Beth, Morocco
 Primary threats: Habitat degradation and disturbance due to pollution and development
 Action required: Habitat protection to mitigate effects of construction of hydroelectricity schemes and agricultural abstraction



Moominia willii

Population size: <500 individuals
 Range: 0.02km² Silhouette Island, Seychelles
 Primary threats: Invasive species and climate change
 Action required: Protection of habitat and control of invasive species



Natalus primus

Cuban greater funnel eared bat

Population size: <100 individuals
Range: Cueva La Barca, Isle of Pines, Cuba
Primary threats: Habitat loss and human disturbance
Actions required: Protection of Cueva La Barca and its surrounds



Nomascus hainanus

Hainan gibbon

Population size: <20 individuals
Range: 10km², Hainan Island, China
Primary threats: Hunting
Action required: Gun confiscation in the area of the Bawangling population and habitat protection



Oreocnemis phoenix

Mulanje red damsel

Population size: Unknown
Range: <10km² Mulanje Plateau, Malawi
Primary threats: Habitat destruction and degradation due to drainage, agricultural expansion and exploitation of forest
Action required: Enforcement of habitat protection



Pangasius sanitwongsei

Pangasid catfish

Population size: Unknown
Range: Chao Phraya and Mekong basins in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam
Primary threats: Overfishing and collection for aquarium trade
Action required: Protection from overfishing and collection



Parides burchellanus

Population size: <100 individuals
Range: Cerrado, Brazil
Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to pressure from human populations and range restriction
Actions required: Protection of gallery forest habitat



Picea neveitchii

Population size: Unknown
Range: Qinling Range, China
Primary threats: Forest destruction
Action required: Ex-situ conservation and re-introduction; establishment of protected areas



Pinus squamata

Qiaojia pine

Population size: <25 mature individuals remaining
Range: Qiaojia, Yunnan, China
Primary threats: Limited distribution and small population size
Action required: Ex-situ conservation and re-introduction; establishment of protected areas



Poecilotheria metallica

Gooty tarantula, metallic tarantula, peacock parachute spider, peacock tarantula, Salepurgu

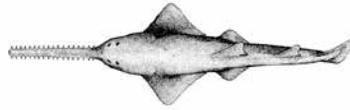
Population size: Unknown
Range: Nandyal and Giddalur, Andhra Pradesh, India
Primary threats: Habitat loss and degradation as a result of deforestation, firewood collection and civil unrest
Action required: Habitat protection, awareness at community level, inclusion in the national Wildlife Protection Act and national and international trade legislation



© Tom Ghestemntje

Pomarea whitneyi Fatuhiva monarch

Population size: 50 individuals
Range: Fatu Hiva, Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia
Primary threats: Predation by introduced species - *Rattus rattus* and feral cats
Actions required: Increase control of introduced species and consider translocation, either to another island or by creating another, larger controlled area in an accessible part of Fatu Hiva



© FAO

Pristis pristis

Common sawfish
Population size: Unknown
Range: Coastal tropical and subtropical waters of Indo-Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Currently largely restricted to northern Australia
Primary threats: Exploitation - has removed the species from 95 per cent of its historical range
Action required: Further research required to understand current distribution and threats and ways of managing these



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Propithecus candidus Silky sifaka

Population size: 100-1,000 individuals
Range: Maroantsetra to Andapa basin, and Marojeju Massif, Madagascar
Primary threats: Hunting and habitat disturbance
Action required: Continuation and expansion of efforts to end hunting and establishment of protected areas



© Atherton de Villiers

Psammobates geometricus Geometric tortoise

Population size: Unknown
Range: Western Cape Province, South Africa
Primary threats: Habitat destruction and degradation, and predation
Action required: Establishment of additional reserves and management of fire regimes



© Loïc Ruellan

Psiadia cataractae

Population size: Unknown
Range: Mauritius
Primary threats: Habitat degradation and destruction due to development project and alien invasive plant species
Actions required: Effective protection of the area, continuous and effective control of invasive alien plants particularly grasses and replanting of hardened nursery ground plants



© Battal Ciplak and Sarp Kaya

Psorodonotus ebneri Beydaglari bush-cricket

Population size: Unknown
Range: Beydaglari range, Antalya, Turkey
Primary threats: Climate change / habitat loss
Action required: Development of a bioacoustic monitoring scheme and strategic conservation action plan, establishment of a nature reserve, implementation of habitat management scheme, and research on population size, trends, distribution, and ecology



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Rhinopithecus avunculus Tonkin snub-nosed monkey

Population size: < 200 individuals
Range: Northeastern Viet Nam
Primary threats: Habitat loss and hunting
Action required: Establishment of a conservation area for Khau Ca Conservation area in Ha Giang province and increase law enforcement to reduce hunting pressure



© Kingsley Dixon

Rhizanthella gardneri West Australian underground orchid

Population size: < 100 individuals
Range: Western Australia, Australia
Primary threats: Land clearance for agriculture (96 per cent habitat cleared to date), climate change and salinisation
Action required: In-situ protection of the two supporting organisms, and protection of seed stocks and the fungus partner in a seed bank



Rhynchocyon sp.

Boni giant sengi

Population size: Unknown

Range: Boni-Dodori Forest, Lamu area, Kenya

Primary threats: Habitat destruction due to development

Actions required: Formal protection of Boni-Dodori forest and finalisation of formal identification



Rosa arabica

Population size: unknown, 10 sub-populations

Range: 14.6km², St Katherine Mountains, Egypt

Primary threats: Domestic animals grazing, climate change and drought, medicinal plant collection and restricted range

Action required: Protection of individuals from exploitation



Salanoia durrelli

Durrell's vontsira

Population size: Unknown

Range: 200km² in marshes of Lake Alaotra, Madagascar

Primary threats: Habitat loss

Action required: Improved management of the Lake Alaotra protected area



Santamartamys rufodorsalis

Red crested tree rat

Population size: Unknown

Range: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia

Primary threats: Habitat loss through urban development and coffee cultivation

Action required: Surveys to map species range and continued habitat protection at known site of occurrence



Squatina squatina

Angel shark

Population size: Unknown

Range: Formerly coastal waters of NE Atlantic as far north as Norway and into the Mediterranean Sea. Now restricted to Canary Islands only

Primary threats: Benthic trawling

Actions required: Protection of Canary Islands habitat and nearby continental shelf habitats from trawling



Sterna bernsteini

Chinese crested tern

Population size: <50 mature individuals

Range: Breeding in Zhejiang and Fujian, China, and outside breeding season in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand

Primary threats: Egg collection and habitat destruction

Action required: Protect breeding sites, strengthen legal protection status and raise awareness at breeding colonies



Tokudaia muenninki

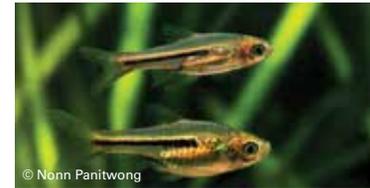
Okinawa spiny rat

Population size: Unknown

Range: 3km² on Okinawa Island, Japan

Primary threats: Habitat loss and predation by feral cats

Action required: Surveys to map species range, protection of remaining habitat and feral cat control programme



Trigonostigma somphongsii

Somphongs's rasbora

Population size: Unknown

Range: Mae Khlong basin, Thailand

Primary threats: Habitat loss and degradation from farmland conversion and urbanization

Action required: Wetland restoration



Valencia letourneuxi

Population size: Unknown
 Range: Southern Albania and Western Greece
 Primary threats: Habitat destruction, water abstraction and aggressive interaction with *Gambusia*
 Actions required: Protection of habitat and control of *Gambusia*



Voanioala gerardii

Forest coconut

Population size: <10 individuals
 Range: Masoala peninsula, Madagascar
 Primary threats: Harvesting for consumption of palm heart and deforestation
 Action required: Protection of individuals and habitat coupled with public awareness campaigns



Zaglossus attenboroughi

Attenborough's echidna

Population size: Unknown
 Range: Cyclops Mountains, Papua Province, Indonesia
 Primary threats: Habitat modification and degradation due to logging, agricultural encroachment shifting cultivation and hunting by local people
 Action required: Enhance awareness and cultural significance of the species, establish sustainable management practices and conduct additional surveys

“Saving all species is not just an option for wealthy societies or a hobby for nature freaks, it is a necessity for humanity”

Professor Luigi Boitani



“These 100 species make their own case for survival. They are beautiful, intriguing, unusual, unique, thought provoking, and emotionally stimulating. They are an expression of the world’s diversity and they appeal to our appreciation of beauty, symmetry and color. Each species expresses a solution to a set of very specific environmental conditions, and each appeals to our fascination with adaptive problem solving. They allow us to turn away from our parochial needs and desires, and play on the larger stage of biological richness and variety. We owe it to ourselves, and to them, to find room on this planet for all of them”

Dr John G. Robinson

Executive Vice-President, Conservation and Science

Wildlife Conservation Society

Chapter 3

Past

Extinctions

These 100 wonderful species could easily follow in the path of the species in this chapter and exist only in history books. Let us not forget what we have already lost.

Plants

Bryophytes

Flabellidium spinosum
Neomacounia nitida

Floriophyceae

Vanvoorstia bennettiana

Jungermanniopsida

Radula visiniaca

Liliopsida

Oeocloides seychellarum
Sporobolus durus

Magnoliopsida

Acalypha rubrinervis
Achyranthes atollensis
Argyroxiphium virescens
Begonia eiomischa
Blutaparon rigidum
Byttneria ivorensis
Campomanesia lundiana
Casearia quinduensis
Casearia tinifolia
Centaurea pseudoleucolepis
Chrysophyllum januariense
Clermontia multiflora
Cnidocolus fragrans
Coffea lemblinii
Crudia zeylanica
Cupaniopsis crassivalvis
Cyanea arborea
Cyanea comata
Cyanea cylindrocalyx
Cyanea dolichopoda
Cyanea giffardii
Cyanea marksii
Cyanea pohaku
Cyanea pycnocarpa
Cyanea quercifolia
Cynometra beddomei
Dipterocarpus cinereus
Euphrasia mendoncae
Fitchia mangarevensis
Galipea ossana
Gomidesia cambessedean
Guettarda retusa

Hernandia drakeana
Hibiscadelphus bombycinus
Hibiscadelphus crucibracteatus
Hibiscadelphus wilderianus
Hopea shingkeng
Ilex gardneriana
Ilex ternatiflora
Kokia lanceolata
Licania caldasiana
Madhuca insignis
Melicope cruciata
Melicope haleakalae
Melicope obovata
Melicope paniculata
Myrcia skeldingii
Neisosperma brownii
Nesiota elliptica
Ochrosia fatuhivensis
Ochrosia nukuhivensis
Ochrosia tahitensis
Oldenlandia adscensionis
Ormosia howii
Otophora unilocularis
Pausinystalia brachythyrsum
Pelea obovata
Pluchea glutinosa
Pouteria stenophylla
Pradosia argentea
Pradosia glaziovii
Pradosia mutisii
Psiadia schweinfurthii
Psidium dumetorum
Santalum fernandezianum
Shorea cuspidata
Stenocarpus dumbeensis
Sterculia khasiana
Streblorrhiza speciosa
Trilepidia adamsii
Trochetiopsis melanoxydon
Valerianella affinis
Vernonia sechellensis
Viola cryana
Weinmannia spiraeoides
Wendlandia angustifolia
Wikstroemia skottsbergiana
Wikstroemia villosa
Xanthostemon sebertii

Polypodiopsida

Adiantum lianxianense
Dryopteris ascensionis



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Trilepidia adamsii Adam's mistletoe

Last sighting: 1970

Cause of extinction: habitat destruction,
over-collection and browsing by introduced species



Partula arguta
Polynesian tree snail

Last sighting: 1994
Cause of extinction:
predation by introduced
snail *Euglandina rosaea*

Invertebrates

Annelida

Hypolimnus pedderensis

Bivalvia

Alasmidonta mccordi
Alasmidonta robusta
Alasmidonta wrightiana
Chambardia letourneuxi
Elliptio nigella
Epioblasma arcaeformis
Epioblasma biemarginata
Epioblasma flexuosa
Epioblasma haysiana
Epioblasma lenior
Epioblasma lewisii
Epioblasma personata
Epioblasma propinqua
Epioblasma sampsonii
Epioblasma stewardsonii
Epioblasma turgidula
Lampsilis binominata
Medionidus mcglameriae
Pleurobema altum
Pleurobema avellanum
Pleurobema bournianum
Pleurobema flavidulum
Pleurobema hagleri
Pleurobema hanleyianum
Pleurobema johannis
Pleurobema murrayense
Pleurobema nucleopsis
Pleurobema rubellum
Pleurobema taitianum
Pleurobema troschelianum
Pleurobema verum
Unio cariei

Crustacea

Afrocylops pauliani
Austrogammarus australis
Cambarellus alvarezii
Cambarellus chihuahuae
Liocypris grandis
Namibocypris costata
Pacifastacus nigrescens
Procambarus angustatus
Stygobromus lucifugus
Syncaris pasadenae
Tropodiptomus ctenopus

Gastropoda

Achatinella abbreviata
Achatinella buddii
Achatinella caesia
Achatinella casta
Achatinella decora
Achatinella dimorpha
Achatinella elegans
Achatinella juddii
Achatinella juncea
Achatinella lehuiensis
Achatinella livida
Achatinella papyracea
Achatinella spaldingi
Achatinella thaanumi
Achatinella valida
Advena campbelli
Amastra albolabris
Amastra cornea
Amastra crassilabrum
Amastra elongata
Amastra forbesi
Amastra pellucida
Amastra porcus
Amastra reticulata
Amastra subrostrata
Amastra subsoror
Amastra tenuispira
Amastra umbilicata
Amphicyclotulus guadeloupensis
Amphigyra alabamensis
Athearnia crassa
Auriculella expansa
Auriculella uniplicata
Belgrandiella intermedia
Bythinella gibbosa
Bythinella limnopsis
Bythinella mauritanica
Bythinella microcochlia
Bythinella punica
Caldwellia phillyrina
Campolaemus perexilis
Carelia anceophila
Carelia bicolor
Carelia cochlea
Careliacumingiana
Carelia doleii
Carelia evelynae
Carelia glossema
Carelia hyattiana
Carelia kalalauensis
Carelia knudseni
Carelia lirata
Carelia lymani
Carelia mirabilis
Carelia necra
Carelia olivacea
Carelia paradoxa
Carelia periscelisi
Carelia pilsbryi
Carelia sinclairi
Carelia tenebrosa
Carelia turricula
Chilonopsis blofeldi
Chilonopsis exulatus
Chilonopsis helena
Chilonopsis melanoides
Chilonopsis nonpareil
Chilonopsis subplicatus
Chilonopsis subtruncatus
Chilonopsis turtoni
Clappia cahabensis
Clappia umbilicata
Collisella edmitchelli
Colparion madgei
Ctenoglypta newtoni
Cyclophorus horridulum
Cyclosurus mariei
Diastole matafaoi
Dupontia proletaria
Elimia brevis
Elimia clausa
Elimia fusiformis
Elimia gibbera
Elimia hartmaniana

Elimia impressa
Elimia jonesi
Elimia lachryma
Elimia laeta
Elimia macglameriana
Elimia pilsbryi
Elimia pupaeformis
Elimia pygmaea
Elimia vanuxemiana
Elimia varians
Erepta nevillei
Fluvidona dulvertensis
Gastrocopta chichijimana
Gastrocopta ogasawarana
Gibbus lyonetianus
Gonidomus newtoni
Gonospora nevillei
Graecoanatolica macedonica
Gulella mayottensis
Gyrotoma excisa
Gyrotoma lewisii
Gyrotoma pagoda
Gyrotoma pumila
Gyrotoma pyramidata
Gyrotoma walkeri
Harmogenanina linophora
Harmogenanina subdetecta
Helenoconcha leptalea
Helenoconcha minutissima
Helenoconcha polyodon
Helenoconcha pseustes
Helenoconcha sexdentata
Helenodiscus bilamellata
Helenodiscus vernoni
Heleobia spinellii
Helicopsis paulhessei
Hirasea planulata
Hydrobia gracilis
Incerticyclus cinereus
Incerticyclus martinicensis
Islamia ateni
Lamellidea monodonta
Lamellidea nakadai
Leiorhagium solemi
Leiostyla lamellosa
Leptoxis clipeata
Leptoxis compacta
Leptoxis foremanii
Leptoxis formosa
Leptoxis ligata

Leptoxis lirata
Leptoxis occultata
Leptoxis showalterii
Leptoxis torrefacta
Leptoxis vittata
Leucocharis loyaltiensis
Leucocharis porphyrocheila
Libera subcavernula
Libera tumuloides
Littoraria flammea
Littoridina gaudichaudii
Lottia alveus
Lyropupa perlonga
Marstonia olivacea
Mautodontha acuticosta
Mautodontha consimilis
Mautodontha consobrina
Mautodontha maupiensis
Mautodontha parvidens
Mautodontha punctiperforata
Mautodontha saintjohni
Mautodontha subtilis
Mautodontha unilamellata
Mautodontha zebrina
Megalobulimus cardosoi
Mercuria letourneuxiana
Nancibella quintalia
Neoplanorbis carinatus
Neoplanorbis smithi
Neoplanorbis umbilicatus
Nesopupa turtoni
Newcombia philippiana
Ohridohauffenia drimica
Oleacina guadeloupensis
Omphalotropis plicosa
Pachnodus curiosus
Pachnodus ladiguensis
Pachnodus velutinus
Pachystyla rufozonata
Panulena perrugosa
Partula approximata
Partula arguta
Partula atilis
Partula aurantia
Partula auriculata
Partula bilineata
Partula callifera
Partula candida
Partula castanea
Partula cedista



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Incilius periglenes
Golden toad, Sapo dorado

Last sighting: 1989

Cause of extinction: chytridiomycosis, climate change, restricted range and airborne pollution



Rheobatrachus vitellinus
Eungella gastric brooding frog, northern gastric brooding frog

Last sighting: 1985

Cause of extinction: unknown, likely chytridiomycosis

Partula citrina
Partula compacta
Partula crassilabris
Partula cuneata
Partula cytherea
Partula dolichostoma
Partula dolorosa
Partula eremita
Partula exigua
Partula filosa
Partula formosa
Partula fusca
Partula garretti
Partula imperforata
Partula labrusca
Partula leptochila
Partula levilineata
Partula levistriata
Partula lugubris
Partula lutea
Partula microstoma
Partula navigatoria
Partula ovalis
Partula planilabrum
Partula producta
Partula protea
Partula protracta
Partula radiata
Partula raiatensis
Partula remota
Partula robusta
Partula rustica
Partula sagitta
Partula salifera
Partula salifera
Partula thalia
Partula turgida
Partula umbilicata
Partula variabilis
Partula vittata
Partulina crassa
Partulina montagui
Perdicella fulgurans
Perdicella maniensis
Perdicella zebra
Perdicella zebrina
Physella microstriata
Placostylus cuniculinsulae
Planorbella multivolvis
Pleurodonte desidens
Posticobia norfolkensis
Pseudamnicola barratei
Pseudamnicola desertorum
Pseudamnicola doumeti
Pseudamnicola globulina
Pseudamnicola latasteana
Pseudamnicola oudrefica
Pseudamnicola ragia
Pseudamnicola singularis
Pseudocampylaea loweii
Pseudoheleococoncha spurca
Pupilla obliquicosta
Pyrgulopsis nevadensis
Quintalia flosculus
Quintalia stoddartii
Rhachis comorensis
Rhachis sanguineus
Rhachistia aldabrae
Rhodacmea filosa
Samoana inflata
Samoana jackieburchi
Sinployea canalis
Sinployea decorticata
Sinployea harveyensis
Sinployea otareae
Sinployea planospira
Sinployea proxima
Sinployea rudis
Sinployea tenuicostata
Sinployea youngi
Somatogyrus alcoviensis
Somatogyrus amnicoloides
Somatogyrus crassilabris
Somatogyrus wheeleri
Taipidon anceyana
Taipidon marquesana
Taipidon octolamellata
Thaumatodon multilamellata
Tomigerus gibberulus
Tomigerus turbinatus
Tornelasmias capricorni
Trochoidea picardi
Tropidophora desmazuresi
Tropidophora semilineata
Vitrinula chaunax
Vitrinula chichijimana
Vitrinula hahajimana

Insecta

Acanthometropus pecatonica
Agrotis crinigera
Agrotis fasciata
Agrotis kerri
Agrotis laysanensis
Agrotis photophila
Agrotis procellaris
Alloperla roberti
Argyresthia castaneela
Campsicnemus mirabilis
Clavicoccus erinaceus
Coleophora leucochrysell
Conozoa hyalina
Deloneura immaculata
Drosophila lanaiensis
Dryophthorus distinguendus
Dryotribus mimeticus
Ectodemia castaneae
Ectodemia phleophaga
Genophantis leahi
Glaucopsyche xerces
Helicoverpa confusa
Helicoverpa minuta
Hydropsyche tobiasi
Hygrotus artus
Hypena laysanensis
Hypena newelli
Hypena plagiota
Hypena senicula
Karocolens tuberculatus
Lepidochrysops hypopolia
Levuana irridescent
Libythea cinyras
Macrancylus linearis
Mecodema punctellum
Megadytes ducalis
Megalagrion jugorum
Neduba extincta
Oedemasyllus laysanensis
Oeobia sp. nov.
Pentagenia robusta
Pentarthrum blackburni
Phyllococcus oahuensis
Pseudobactricia ridleyi
Rhantus novacaledoniae
Rhantus orbignyi
Rhantus papuanus
Rhyacophila amabilis
Rhyncogonus bryani

Scotorythra megalophylla
Scotorythra nesiotis
Siettitia balsetensis
Stonemyia volutina
Tischeria perplexa
Triaenodes phalacris
Triaenodes tridonata
Trigonoscuta rossi
Trigonoscuta yorbalindae
Tritocleis microphylla

Oligochaeta

Hypolimnus pedderensis

Turbellaria

Romankenkius pedderensis

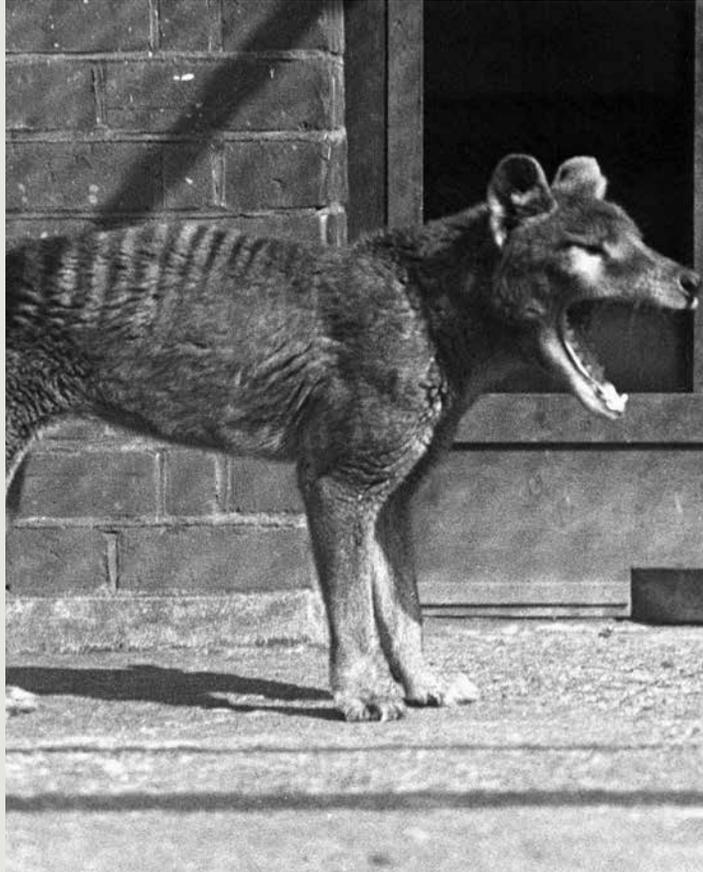


Heteralocha acutirostris

Huia

Last sighting: 1907

Cause of extinction: Capture for use in ceremonial dress and predation by introduced species



Thylacinus cynocephalus
Thylacine, Tasmanian tiger, Tasmanian wolf

Last sighting: 1936

Cause of extinction: hunting, habitat modification,
 competition from domestic dogs and disease

Vertebrates

Actinopterygii

Acanthobrama hulensis
Alburnus akili
Anabarilius macrolepis
Aplocheilichthys sp. nov. 'Naivasha'
Barbus microbarbis
Characodon garmani
Chasmistes muriei
Chondrostoma scodrense
Coregonus alpenae
Coregonus bezola
Coregonus fera
Coregonus gutturosus
Coregonus hiemalis
Coregonus johannae
Coregonus nigripinnis
Coregonus oxyrinchus
Coregonus restrictus
Cottus echinatus
Ctenochromis pectoralis
Cyprinodon ceciliae
Cyprinodon inmemoriam
Cyprinodon latifasciatus
Cyprinodon spp.
Cyprinus yilongensis
Empetrichthys merriami
Etheostoma sellare
Evarra bustamantei
Evarra eigenmanni
Evarra tlahuacensis
Fundulus albolineatus
Gambusia amistadensis
Gambusia georgei
Gasterosteus crenobiontus
Gila crassicauda
Lepidomeda altivelis
Moxostoma lacerum
Notropis amecae
Notropis aulidion
Notropis orca
Notropis saladonis
Pantanodon madagascariensis
Platytrypius siamensis
Pogonichthys ciscooides
Priapella bonita
Prototroctes oxyrhynchus
Ptychochromis sp. nov. 'Kotro'

Ptychochromoides itasy
Rhinichthys deaconi
Rhizosomichthys totae
Romanogobio antipai
Salmo pallaryi
Salvelinus agassizi
Salvelinus neocomensis
Salvelinus profundus
Stypodon signifer
Telestes ukliva
Tristramella intermedia
Tristramella magdalenae
Xystichromis bayoni

Amphibia

Adenomus kandianus
Atelopus ignescens
Atelopus longirostris
Atelopus vogli
Craugastor chrysozetetes
Craugastor escocens
Cynops wolterstorffi
Discoglossus nigriventer
Incilius holdridgei
Incilius periglenes
Lithobates fisheri
Nannophrys guentheri
Phrynomedusa fimbriata
Plethodon ainsworthi
Pseudophilautus adpersus
Pseudophilautus dimbullae
Pseudophilautus eximius
Pseudophilautus extirpo
Pseudophilautus halyi
Pseudophilautus hypomelas
Pseudophilautus leucorhinus
Pseudophilautus maia
Pseudophilautus malcolmsmithi
Pseudophilautus nanus
Pseudophilautus nasutus
Pseudophilautus oxyrhynchus
Pseudophilautus pardus
Pseudophilautus rugatus
Pseudophilautus stellatus
Pseudophilautus temporalis
Pseudophilautus variabilis
Pseudophilautus zal
Pseudophilautus zimmeri
Raorchestes travancoricus
Rheobatrachus silus

Rheobatrachus vitellinus
Taudactylus diurnus

Aves

Alectroenas nitidissima
Alectroenas rodericana
Alopochen kervazoi
Alopochen mauritianus
Amazona martinicana
Amazona violacea
Anas marecula
Anas theodori
Anthornis melanocephala
Aphanapteryx bonasia
Aphanapteryx leguati
Aplonis corvina
Aplonis fusca
Aplonis mavornata
Ara atwoodi
Ara erythrocephala
Ara gossei
Ara guadeloupensis
Ara tricolor
Aratinga labati
Argusianus bipunctatus
Atlantisia podarces
Bowdleria rufescens
Bulweria bifax
Cabalus modestus
Caloenas maculata
Camptorhynchus labradorius
Caracara lutosa
Chaetoptila angustipluma
Chaunoproctus ferreorostris
Chloridops kona
Chlorostilbon bracei
Chlorostilbon elegans
Ciridops anna
Columba duboisi
Columba jouyi
Columba versicolor
Conuropsis carolinensis
Coturnix novaezelandiae
Coua delalandei
Cyanoramphus ulietanus
Cyanoramphus zealandicus
Diaphorapteryx hawkinsi
Drepanis funerea
Drepanis pacifica
Dromaius ater

Dromaius baudinianus
Dysmorodrepanis munroi
Dysmoropelia dekarchiskos
Ectopistes migratorius
Falco duboisi
Fregilupus varius
Fulica newtoni
Gallicolumba ferruginea
Gallicolumba norfolciensis
Gallicolumba salomonis
Gallirallus dieffenbachii
Gallirallus pacificus
Gallirallus wakensis
Gerygone insularis
Haematopus meadewaldoi
Hemignathus ellisianus
Hemignathus obscurus
Hemignathus sagittirostris
Heteralocha acutirostris
Ixobrychus novaezelandiae
Lophopsittacus bensoni
Lophopsittacus mauritianus
Mascarenotus grucheti
Mascarenotus murivorus
Mascarenotus sauzieri
Mascarinus mascarinus
Mergus australis
Microgoura meeki
Moho apicalis
Moho bishopi
Moho braccatus
Moho nobilis
Mundia elpenor
Myadestes myadestinus
Myadestes woahensis
Myiagra freycineti
Nannococcyx psix
Necropsar rodericanus
Necropsittacus rodericanus
Nesillas aldabrana
Nesoclopeus poecilopterus
Nestor productus
Nycticorax duboisi
Nycticorax mauritianus
Nycticorax megacephalus
Paroreomyza flammea
Pezophaps solitaria
Phalacrocorax perspicillatus
Pinguinus impennis
Podiceps andinus



Chelonoidis nigra abingdonii
Pinta Island tortoise

'Lonesome George'

Last sighting: 2012

Cause of extinction: capture for consumption

Podilymbus gigas
Pomarea fluxa
Pomarea mira
Pomarea nukuhiuae
Pomarea pomarea
Porphyrio albus
Porphyrio coerulescens
Porphyrio kukwiedei
Porphyrio mantelli
Porzana strictocarpus
Porzana monasa
Porzana nigra
Porzana palmeri
Porzana sandwichensis
Prosobonia ellisi
Prosobonia leucoptera
Psephotus pulcherrimus
Psittacula exsul
Psittacula wardi
Pterodroma rupinarum
Ptilinopus mercierii
Quiscalus palustris
Raphus cucullatus
Rhodacanthis flaviceps
Rhodacanthis palmeri
Sceloglaux albifacies
Tachybaptus rufolavatus
Threskiornis solitarius
Traversia lyalli
Turdus ravidus
Turnagra capensis
Turnagra tanagra
Upupa antaios
Xenicus longipes
Zoothera terrestris
Zosterops strenuus

Cephalaspidomorphi

Eudontomyzon sp. nov. 'migratory'

Mammalia

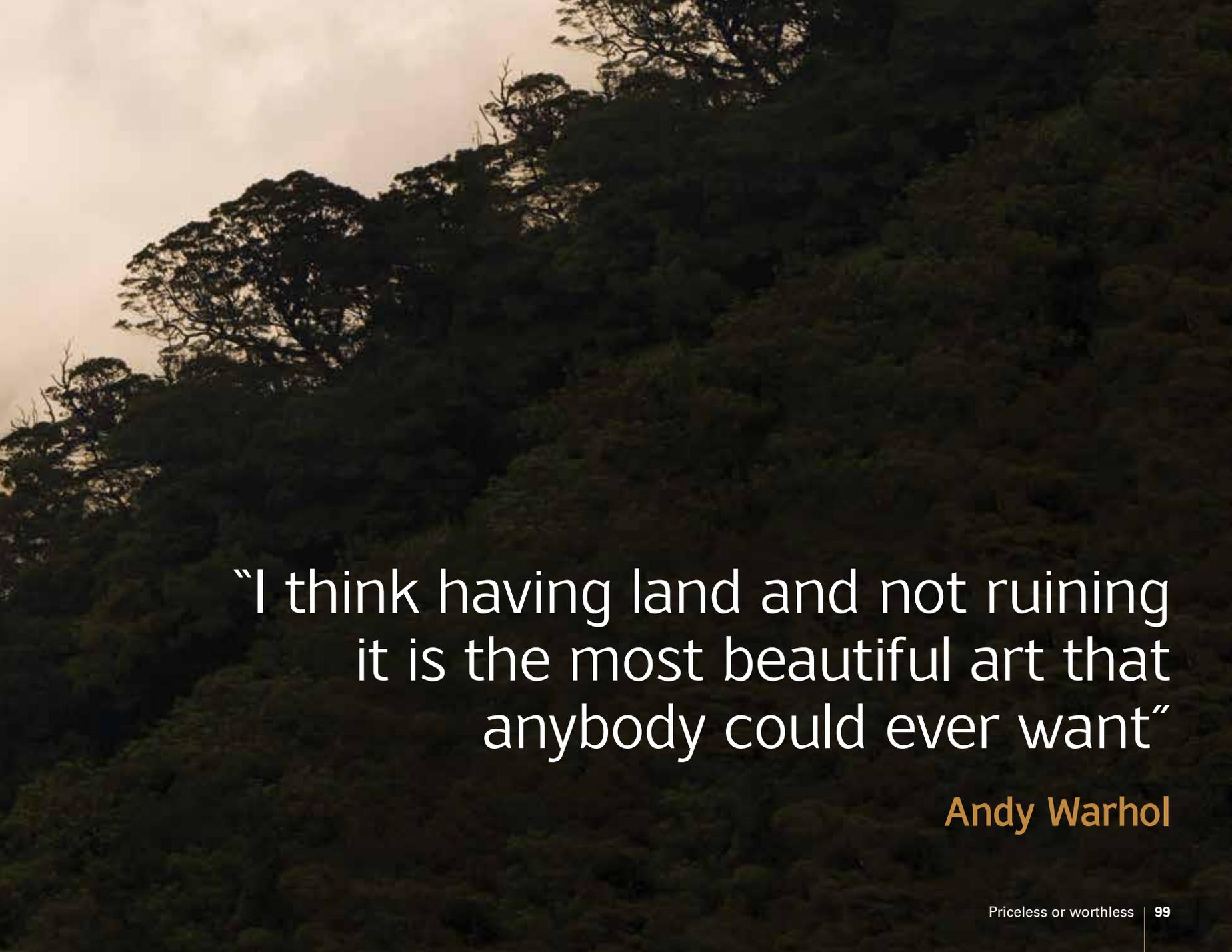
Bettongia pusilla
Boromys offella
Boromys torrei
Bos primigenius
Brotomys voratus
Caloprymnus campestris
Chaeropus ecaudatus
Conilurus albipes
Coryphomys buehleri
Cryptonanus ignitus
Cryptoprocta spelea
Cuscomys oblativa
Desmodus draculae
Dusicyon australis
Gazella bilkis
Gazella saudiya
Geocapromys columbianus
Geocapromys thoracatus
Heteropsomys insulans
Hexolobodon phenax
Hippopotamus lemerlei
Hippopotamus madagascariensis
Hippotragus leucophaeus
Hydrodamalis gigas
Isolobodon montanus
Isolobodon portoricensis
Juscelinomys candango
Lagorchestes asomatus
Lagorchestes leporides
Lagostomus crassus
Macropus greyi
Macrotis leucura
Megalomys desmarestii
Megalomys luciae
Megaoryzomys curioi
Monachus tropicalis
Neotoma anthonyi
Neotoma bunkerii
Neotoma martinensis
Neovison macrodon
Nesophontes edithae
Nesophontes hypomicrus
Nesophontes major
Nesophontes micrus
Nesophontes paramicrus
Nesophontes zamicus

Nesoryzomys darwini
Nesoryzomys indefessus
Noronhomys vespuccii
Notomys amplus
Notomys longicaudatus
Notomys macrotis
Notomys mordax
Oligoryzomys victus
Onychogalea lunata
Oryzomys antillarum
Oryzomys nelsoni
Palaeopropithecus ingens
Pennatomys nivalis
Perameles eremiana
Peromyscus pembedtoni
Plagiodontia ipnaeum
Potorous platyops
Prolagus sardus
Pseudomys glaucus
Pseudomys gouldii
Pteropus brunneus
Pteropus pilosus
Pteropus subniger
Pteropus tokudae
Rattus macleari
Rattus nativitatis
Rucervus schomburgki
Solenodon marcanoi
Thylacinus cynocephalus
Xenothrix mcgregori
Zalophus japonicus

Reptilia

Ameiva cineracea
Ameiva major
Bolyeria multocarinata
Borikenophis sanctaerucis
Celestus occiduus
Cyclura onchiopsis
Cylindraspis indica
Cylindraspis inepta
Cylindraspis peltastes
Cylindraspis triserrata
Cylindraspis vosmaeri
Hoplodactylus delcourti
Leiocephalus eremitus
Leiocephalus herminieri
Leiolopisma mauritiana
Macrosclincus coctei
Pelusios seychellensis
Phelsuma gigas
Tachygia microlepis
Tetradactylus eastwoodae
Typhlops cariei



A dark, silhouetted landscape of a forested hillside against a bright, hazy sky. The trees are dense and their forms are mostly in shadow, with some highlights on the upper parts of the trees and the sky. The overall mood is serene and somewhat somber.

“I think having land and not ruining
it is the most beautiful art that
anybody could ever want”

Andy Warhol

Chapter 4

Pulled back from the brink

No species need be lost. Given enough determination and ingenuity we are capable of rescuing even the most desperate of cases, as the stories here show.



Equus ferus przewalskii

Przewalski's horse

Population size:
306 (in the wild)

Range:
Mongolia

Primary threats:
**Habitat loss, resource limitation
and small population size**

Actions taken:
**Captive breeding, reintroduction,
habitat protection and awareness-
raising initiatives**

N.Dovchin, a Mongolian scientist, sighted what could have been the last wild Przewalski's horse, (*Equus ferus przewalskii*) in 1969.

Following this date, extensive surveys by the Joint Mongolian-Soviet Expedition and Chinese biologists confirmed that no wild populations remained, with the species considered to be possibly extinct in the Wild by the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre in 1988. However, conservationists and scientists refused to give up on this species, the only living representative of wild horses, and embarked on an ambitious captive breeding and reintroduction project.

The production of an International Studbook in 1959 established the foundation for the development of a Species Survival Plan. Following this, the creation of a European Endangered Species programme in 1986 shaped the conservation breeding and reintroduction strategies for the species. In 1994 reintroductions began in Takhiin Tal Nature Reserve in Dzungarian Gobi Desert, and Hustai National Park in Mongol Daguur Steppe. By 1999, 59 individuals had been reintroduced to Takhiin Tal, while 84 individuals, taken from reserves in Europe, had been introduced to Hustai National Park. Between 2004 and 2005 a further 22 Przewalski's horses were reintroduced to a site in Homiin Tal in Great Lakes Depression. Continual supplementation from reserves in Europe, managed by the Foundation for

the Preservation and Protection of the Przewalski Horse and Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and the Environment (MACNE), provided a safety net for these populations. The success of the conservation breeding and reintroduction programme was evident in the downgrading of the species status on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ from 'Extinct in the Wild' to 'Critically Endangered' in 1996, and then a further lowering to 'Endangered' in 2011. All horses alive today are the descendents of just 13-14 individuals, which formed the core of the conservation breeding programme that saved this species. From this small number the population has swelled to an estimated 306 Przewalski's Horses now roaming freely in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia.

The inspiring recovery of this charismatic equid is a testament to the cooperation and dedication of organisations and individuals from across the world. However, the persistence of the Przewalski's horse in the wild is not yet secure - hybridization with domestic horses poses a serious risk. In addition, competition for resources with both domestic horses and cattle increases the pressure on this iconic species. Finally, although wild populations have increased substantially, they are still quite small and at risk from disease and predation by wolves. Management of all these aspects and the continuation of breeding programmes will be critical to ensure the survival of Przewalski's horse in the wild.

Falco punctatus

Mauritius kestrel

Population size:

250-300 mature individuals

Range:

Mauritius

Primary threats:

**Habitat loss and degradation,
and predation by invasive species**

Actions taken:

**Captive breeding and
reintroductions, supplementary
feeding, habitat enhancement and
protection and predator control**

Early colonists to Mauritius decimated its forest blanket and with it went many of the island's precious endemic species. This deforestation, which spared only three percent of the original forest cover, precipitated the initial declines of the beautiful Mauritius kestrel. By 1974, only four individuals were known to survive in the wild.

The crash in their population was believed to be driven by the widespread use of organochloride pesticides throughout the island in the 1950s and 1960s, both for agriculture and to control malaria carrying mosquitoes. The introduction of predators such as Black rats, Crab-eating macaques, small Indian mongooses and feral cats did little to help dwindling populations of the birds. Finally, the bird's habitat was being overrun by introduced plants, which resulted in the destruction of natural nest sites and reduced the species hunting efficiency.

Fortunately, the perilous state of the species was realised before it joined its cousin, the Reunion kestrel (*Falco dubois*), in the extinct species lists and a recovery programme to rescue the species was launched in 1973. From 1984 to 1994 intensive management and conservation breeding of the species bolstered the population. The conservation programme was comprehensive, including captive propagation and restocking, supplementary feeding, nest-site enhancement, provision of nest boxes, nest guarding, control of predators, clutch and brood manipulations, and the treatment of parasite infections. In the late 1980s, the first group of captive bred birds were re-introduced into the Bambous Mountains. These re-introductions ceased in 1994, and now around 400 individuals fly freely around their island home.

The value and affection which the Mauritians feel towards this splendid species is evident. Out of danger of extinction, the species now plays an important role in tourism operations and is depicted on the Mauritian 50 rupee note, reinforcing the importance of the species. This acknowledgement of the significance of this bird is a fitting recognition of the work by various organisations and individuals to ensure the species survival.





Foudia flavicans

Rodrigues fody

Population size:

668 - 1,000 mature individuals

Range:

Rodrigues, Mauritius

Primary threats:

Loss of habitat through deforestation and introduction of exotic species

Actions taken:

Reforestation (both active and passive regeneration) and reduced deforestation rates

Less than one fifth of the entire world's bird species are restricted to islands but over 90 per cent of all bird extinctions have occurred on islands.

These unique island species are being wiped out by the introduction of new predators and competitors into their ecosystems, the destruction of their native habitat and over-exploitation for hunting or other uses. Sadly, having lost at least 28 endemic birds since 1600, the Mascarene Islands provide a classic example of this.

Residing on one of the world's most degraded tropical islands; the Rodrigues fody (*Foudia flavicans*) seemed fated to follow in the tragic footsteps of its fellow endemics. Common in the 19th century, the species populations began to plummet following the clearance of its habitat for agriculture in the 1960s. Following the passage of Cyclone Monica in 1968 scientists estimated that only five to six pairs of the species remained. However this stubborn bird hung on, weathering multiple storms throughout the 1970s to increase to 60 pairs in 1979. As the lack of habitat for Rodrigues fody was a major factor contributing to its decline, regeneration of vegetation was identified as being a key activity required to ensure the species recovery. Island watersheds were fenced and protected, allowing the vegetation to regenerate. The introduction of bottled gas for cooking in the 1980s

also reduced the pressure off the forests, as island inhabitants no longer needed to rely on firewood for fuel. Little native vegetation remained on the island, but the Rodrigues fody populations flourished in forests of introduced exotics.

Many recovery programmes for critically endangered species rely on sophisticated manipulation of breeding and foraging regimes. This makes the resurgence of the Rodrigues fody all the more notable as it revolved primarily around re-vegetation initiatives and the restoration of degraded habitat. Ironically, while the introduction of invasive, exotic plants often spell disaster for island endemics, the establishment of fast-growing exotics to Rodrigues saved the fody and two other endemic vertebrates, the Rodrigues flying fox (*Pteropus rodricensis*) and the Rodrigues warbler (*Acrocephalus rodericanus*), from extinction.

However, as the ultimate goal for this hugely modified island is ecosystem conservation, the island's forests are now being replanted with native vegetation. Large scale restoration of the landscape began in 1996 and has been progressing steadily since. Plots are progressively thinned of exotics and are then replanted with native seedlings. The invasive vegetation provides a makeshift nursery for the native plants, protecting them from the elements. This gradual approach ensures that there is always sufficient vegetation for the endemic fauna of the island to flourish.

Megaptera novaengliae

Humpback whale

Population size:
60,000 (global estimate)

Range:
All major ocean basins

Primary threat:
Commercial whaling

Actions taken:
Worldwide protection from commercial whaling in 1966, establishment of numerous sanctuaries and listing on the CMS and Appendix I of CITES

In 1979 National Geographic included a sound sheet, 'Songs of the Humpback Whale' with the January issue of their magazine.

This ground breaking recording provided many people with their first introduction to the magical song of one of the ocean's giants – the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). The complicated pattern of trills, whistles and booms emitted by males of this species are particular to populations – groups from different ocean basins will sing distinctively different songs. Sung by males during migrations and at breeding grounds, probably as a form of sexual display, these complex songs evolve over time. While today we marvel at their beauty and transcendental qualities, we almost robbed ourselves of the chance to ever hear them.

The humpback whale is a coastal species over much of its range and as such was an early target of the whaling industry. It was frequently hunted to commercial extinction, at which time whalers would switch to an alternate species. During the last century over two million large whales were slaughtered, and of this number over 200,000 humpbacks were killed in the southern hemisphere alone. Worldwide protection from commercial whaling in 1966 may have arrived just in time, as the humpback whale was drifting ever closer to extinction. Today the species is also protected by

sanctuaries in a number of countries, and is listed on Appendix I of both CITES and the CMS.

Although commercial whaling decimated humpback populations, this resilient species has bounced back. There are continuing threats to the whales including ongoing and planned offshore oil and gas development, entanglement in fishing gear and injury by ship strikes; however, the increases observed in most populations suggest that human induced mortality is not currently at a level where it will significantly impact the species.

Assessed as 'Endangered' on the 1988 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the species was downgraded to 'Least Concern' in 2008. This inspiring recovery creates optimism for the future survival of the humpback whale, as there seems little chance of a return to widespread commercial hunting of the species. There is also considerable commercial value of the species in ecotourism operations – whale watching now occurs in almost 100 countries and has an estimated value of over \$1 billion (US). The exhilaration that people draw from this awe-inspiring ocean acrobat – humpback whales are known for their spectacular breaching displays – seems likely to ensure its songs permeate our oceans for many years to come.





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Petroica traversi

Black robin

Population size:

224 mature individuals

Range:

Mangere and Rangatira, Chatham Islands, New Zealand

Primary threats:

Habitat loss and predation by invasive species

Actions taken:

Re-location, restoration of habitat and cross-fostering of clutches



© Don Merton

“If the rarest bird in the world can be saved then, given human determination and effort, no species need become extinct” - Dr Don Merton

Trapped on windswept Little Mangere Island, the diminutive Chatham Islands black robin (*Petroica traversi*) numbered just seven birds in 1976. Its island home had lost the majority of its forest cover and was teeming with introduced rats and cats as a result of human settlement. These predators had extirpated all but a handful of species, but the seven black robins hung on in the last remnants of bush. In a last attempt to save the species staff from the New Zealand Wildlife Service scaled the cliffs of Little Mangere, captured the last of the robins and transferred them to Mangere Island, where 120,000 native trees had been planted in an attempt to boost habitat and prey availability. Unfortunately, by 1980 a further two birds had died and none had bred.

Luckily, there was one tenacious bird that refused to give in. Robins usually mate for life, but when all seemed lost, Old Blue, hailed as the saviour of the species, changed mates and tried to breed again. Laying more eggs and mothering more chicks than any other robin, this miraculous bird lived for over 13 years and is the ancestor of every black robin alive today.

In a bid to boost Old Blue's breeding productivity, scientists implemented an ambitious program pinned on cross-fostering black robin eggs with Chatham Island tomtits (*Petroica macrocephala chathamensis*). This innovative approach proved successful and has since been adopted and adapted to save endangered bird species around the world. The main population of the Chatham Island black robin now resides on Rangatira (South East) Island, while a smaller population remains on Mangere Island. New Zealand's Department of Conservation continues to manage the species and has strict protocols in place to avoid the transport of pathogens or invasive species into the bird's island habitat.

Once the most endangered bird in the world, the black robin population now exceeds 200 individuals. The survival of this endearing bird is testament to the commitment and ingenuity of the people who fought to save it. Intensive management efforts have now been scaled back and this plucky species seems likely to persist in the forests of the Chatham Islands for years to come.





“The curious world we inhabit is
more wonderful than convenient;
more beautiful than it is useful;
it is more to be admired and
enjoyed than used”

Henry David Thoreau

Chapter 5

Final Word

“Earth provides enough to
satisfy every man’s needs,
but not every man’s greed”

Mahatma Gandhi

What needs to be done?

All the species listed in this book are unique, fascinating and irreplaceable – if we lose them no amount of money will be able to bring them back. However, we can still preserve these important components of our global cultural and biological heritage if we take action immediately. By implementing the actions listed alongside each species in this book we can give them a fighting chance for survival.

Urgent cases such as these require species specific actions – this includes the design and implementation of well researched action plans that involve the relevant stake holders, focus on realistic solutions to addressing the threats and have clear and measurable goals with set timeframes. To be successful these action plans must also have adequate resources for their implementation. Unfortunately, the provision of sufficient resources is often absent, resulting in many well written plans sitting on shelves as species move toward extinction.

Therefore, if we are to successfully reverse declines, funding for the world's most threatened species must increase several orders of magnitude. We need a fund to prevent extinction, resourced by governments, that is in the billions, not millions. In 2010 the world's governments made a commitment to prevent extinction by adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which form a part of this plan, state: 'By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status,

particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained'. It is now time to resource this commitment and to put the legislation and legal frameworks in place to ensure it is achieved. The private sector, which benefits from nature but also plays a significant role in contributing to the decline of many species, should also make major contributions to the fund.

However, saving these species requires more than just a large fund; it requires the conservation movement and society as a whole to support the moral and ethical position that all species have an inherent right to exist. If we accept that a few species can be lost, or that there is an economic argument that justifies extinction, then one by one the species in this book will disappear. Losing the 100 species in this book would represent the thin end of the wedge leading to animal, plant and fungi extinctions on a massive scale. The steadfast belief of the conservation community, public, government and industry that all species have a right to exist, along with a commitment to pooling the resources, time and energy needed to protect every them, would be the first critical step in avoiding a biologically depauperate world. Our treatment of the species in this book reflects the way in which we value all forms of life on the planet. If they are priceless then all forms of life are priceless and must be protected, if worthless then we can rationalise living in a species poor world where only animals, plants and fungi that are deemed useful survive.

And what for the species who are not yet at the doorstep of extinction? To avoid pushing everything to the brink we will need to make some fundamental changes to our current modus operandi. These will include slowing or stabilising population growth, reducing waste (including CO² emissions) and consumption and implementing economic and legal structures that promote environmentally sustainable growth and ensure good governance. This will require commitments from across society and a fundamental change in how we value the natural world, and how we see our place within it.

Conservation organisations have a significant role to play in leading this change. To aid the transition to a world where all species are valued and protected, conservation organisations will need to:

- Clearly define the argument for nature conservation and work with the world's leading PR and marketing agencies and cultural icons to ensure it is effectively communicated
- Involve the next generation in conservation through social media and new technology, particularly citizen science, and engage the public with the task of monitoring and managing the planet
- Focus on developing a generation of best conservation scientists and managers in countries throughout the world

- Encourage governments to invest more in our protected areas, greatly improve capacity in management, monitoring and enforcement
- Greatly expand protected area systems on land and in the oceans – ensure that at minimum the Aichi biodiversity target of protecting 10 per cent of the oceans and 17 per cent of land by 2020 is achieved, while aiming much higher
- Work with industry to advance clean technology and pressure governments to promote a rapid transition to clean energy
- Encourage government and industry to better monitor, manage and report on natural capital (e.g. forests, fish stocks, coral reefs, and freshwater systems) and make it accessible to the public and investors
- Promote and assist with effective land use planning at the national level ensuring commitments to sustainable management of natural capital
- Ensure industry follows environmental best practice (specifically the principals of no net loss of biodiversity) and reward those companies that lead the way.

So what can you do to ensure the future of the 100 most threatened species and many others like them? You can have a major positive impact on species conservation if you buy less, buy sustainably sourced food and materials, invest in companies that make nature conservation and sustainability a priority, support conservation organisations, vote for governments that keep biodiversity conservation high on the political agenda (and keep their promises) and ensure that ecology and nature conservation is being taught in the schools near you. However, one of the best things you can do is to choose a species or habitat and make a life-time commitment to ensuring its future. You can start now by working to ensure the future of one of the 100 priceless species on this list. You can stop extinction.

Glossary

CBD:

Convention on Biological Diversity, entered into force on 29 December 1993

Chytridiomycosis:

An infectious disease caused by the chytrid, zoosporic fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. There is currently no effective means of controlling the disease in wild populations and has been cited as a contributing factor to the global decline of amphibians.

CITES:

Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, entered into force on 1 July 1975.

CMS:

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as the Bonn Convention) entered into force in 1983.

Critically Endangered:

Critically endangered species are those considered to be at extremely high risk of going extinct in the wild. They must have met criteria A to E for 'Critically Endangered' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Endangered:

Endangered species face a very high risk of extinction in the wild and must have met any of criteria A to E for 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Endemic:

An endemic species is one that is found exclusively in a particular place or country.

Ex-situ:

Conservation and maintenance of living species outside their natural habitat. Among other reasons, this may be undertaken to remove the species from threats to assist re-introductions, restoration or reinforcement of natural populations.

Extinct:

A species is determined to be extinct following exhaustive surveys which leave no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.

Extinct in the Wild:

A species is determined to be extinct in the wild when the only known, surviving individuals, exist in cultivation, captivity or in naturalized populations well outside the confines of their historic range.

Head-starting:

When vulnerable life-stages, juveniles, larvae etc, are protected and then released once they have reached a certain size or life-stage where they will be less threatened.

In-situ:

Conservation work that takes place within the natural populations or habitat of a species. This may be carried out by restoring or protecting the habitat and species, removing the factors which are threatening them.

Invasive:

A species that is introduced to an area and survives, thrives and reproduces, and causes economic and/ or environmental harm to the area it has been introduced into.

Least Concern:

This category includes widespread and abundant species and is assigned to those species which do not qualify for any of the other threat categories on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

Native:

A species that is indigenous to a particular place or country, i.e. it occurs naturally in an area and has not been introduced either intentionally or unintentionally.

Near threatened:

Species in this category are those that don't currently meet the criteria, but are close to qualifying in the near future, for a threatened category of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

Re-introduction:

The intentional release of species back into the wild, either from captivity, or by relocation from another area where the species still survives.

Vulnerable:

A vulnerable species will have met one of criteria A to E for 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and will be at high risk of extinction in the wild.

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