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# オーストラリアの爬虫類、外来種と気候変動により危機的状況に—IUCN レッドリスト

スイス 7月5日 (IUCN 発表)

オーストラリア固有の爬虫類類(トカゲやヘビなど)が、外来種や気候変動により深刻な危機に直面しており、オーストラリアに生息する爬虫類の7%が絶滅の危機にあることが、本日発表された IUCN レッドリストによって明らかになった。重要な受粉の役割をもつモーリタニアオオコウモリも駆除活動によって、絶滅危惧 1B 類 (EN) にリストされた。かつて絶滅したと思われていた南アメリカの4種の両生類の再発見という良いニュースもある。

IUCN レッドリストは今回の発表によって、93577 種が評価され、そのうち、26,197 種が絶滅危惧種に分類されることになった

「今日の IUCN レッドリストの発表は、私たちの地球の生物多様性が直面している膨大な危機を明らかにしました」とインガー・アンダーセン IUCN 事務局長は語る。「外来種、森林火災の変化、サイクロン、人と野生動物の衝突は、私たちの地球の生態系に引き起こされている大災害の理由の一部にすぎません。モーリシャスからオーストラリアまで生物が絶滅に向かって滑り落ちているということは、私たちの文化やアイデンティティが、そして、穀物を実らせるための受粉や健全な土壌の保全に貢献するこれらの種が提供している自然を支える機能が失われるリスクがあるということなのです。」

「国連の生物多様性戦略計画は、絶滅の危機にある種の持続可能な状況に戻すことを各国に求めています。今日の IUCN レッドリストの発表は、絶滅危惧種保全のための緊急の行動が必要であることを示しています。」とジェーン・スマート生物多様性保全グループ局長は説明する。現在、開催されている生物多様性条約の会合でも、絶滅危惧種の保全活動について緊急に行動することを呼びかけている。

## オーストラリアの爬虫類が、外来種や気候変動の影響で絶滅の危機に

オーストラリアの爬虫類は、外来種と気候変動の影響によってその危機が高まっており、7%が絶滅の危機にある。IUCN レッドリストの調査で、オーストラリア大陸の爬虫類の包括的な調査の結果、この事実が明らかになった。IUCN レッドリストには、現在、オーストラリアのほぼ全爬虫類にあたる 975 種が掲載され、その多くは大陸の固有種となっている。

外来種は、絶滅の危機にある爬虫類の半数近くの危機要因となっている。最近の研究によると、外来の野良猫だけで、年間 6 億匹の爬虫類が殺されていることが分かった。野良猫に捕食されている爬虫類の一つが、グラスランドイヤレスドラゴン (*Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*) で、絶滅危惧 II 類 (VU) から絶滅危惧 I B 類 (EN) に危機度が上がった。農業管理や伝統的な火入れ、外来雑草などの要因が複合的に影響した森林火災の大きさや頻度の変化が、この種のさらなる危機を高めている。多くのオーストラリアの種と同

様、グラスランドイヤレスドラゴンは、ヨーロッパからの定住がはじまる前から、半自然的に起きていた火事にうまく順応していた種である。

その他のオーストラリアの爬虫類を危機に追いやる外来種として、1935年にオーストラリアに持ち込まれた有毒のオオヒキガエルがいる。絶滅危惧ⅠA類（CR）に分類されたミッチェルオオトカゲ(*Varanus mitchelli*)は、オオヒキガエル導入後、捕食したために、ある地域では、97%におよぶ個体数の減少が見られた。同様の毒をもつ固有のカエルや生物がオーストラリアには存在しないためオオヒキガエルの毒に対してとりわけ脆弱になっている。

気候変動もまた、*Techmarscincus jigurru*（トカゲの仲間 絶滅危惧Ⅱ類（VU））というクイーンズランド最高峰（パートルフレーレ山）の山頂付近の寒冷の環境に適応した仲間を含む、オーストラリアの爬虫類への危惧を及ぼしている。気温1度の上昇によって、30年以内に、寒冷の環境に適応したこのトカゲの仲間の個体数は50%近く減少するとされている。

「今回のレッドリストの改訂の目玉は、オーストラリアのトカゲ類およびヘビ類の危機的状況である。有毒のオオヒキガエルや飼猫といった侵略的外来種により危機にさらされていることに加え、侵略的な外来雑草の繁茂や開発行為、火災等による生息地の喪失もしばしばその要因となっている」とIUCNレッドリストコーディネーター（IUCN-SSC Snake and Lizard）の Philip Bowles氏は語っている。「オーストラリアの在来爬虫類を脅威にさらしているそれぞれの要因を理解することが、政府、地元保全団体、アボリジニー（Aboriginal people）の皆さんの取り組みを効果的なものとするに役立つだろう。」

他に類を見ないオーストラリアの多様な爬虫類相は、他の場所と独立して進化したものであり、世界全体の爬虫類の種数のおよそ10%を占める。いくつかの種は生態系の構成やより広い食物連鎖において重要な役割を持っている。また先住民にとって、特に肉食性および果食性のトカゲ類およびニシキヘビは、紋章や伝承、伝統食といった彼らの文化の重要な一部となっている。

## アゾレス諸島の昆虫相を脅かす外来植物

ポルトガル領アゾレス諸島の100種を超える昆虫の評価が行われ、74%が絶滅危惧種に分類された。外来植物、土地利用の変化、気候の乾燥化による生息地の急速な劣化が主な要因である。*Tarphius*属の甲虫で評価された全12種が絶滅の危機にあると考えられる。これらの昆虫は枯れ木やコケ、シダに覆われた環境が必要であるが、ヒマラヤから持ち込まれた植物カヒリジンジャー(*Hedychium gardnerianum*)が、在来の植物から徐々に置き換わっている。テルセイラ島の甲虫(*Tarphius relictus*)が特にこの変化に影響を受けており、その生息地が1ha以下に縮小している。この甲虫の評価結果案に基づく、アゾレス政府による保護地域の設立が、この種の一縷の望みをつないでいる。

「昆虫は生態系の重要な要素であり、捕食や受粉といった重要な機能を果たしています」と、Axel Hochkirch氏（IUCN-SSC 無脊椎動物保全小委員会の委員長）は語る。「生息地の小さな変化が、無脊椎動物に大きな影響を与え、島に固有の生物種が特に危機に追いやられています」

## モーリシャスオオコウモリが、駆除活動によって絶滅の危機に

インド洋モーリシャス島とリュニオン島にしか見られない大型コウモリである、モーリシャスオオコウモリ(*Pteropus niger*)は、絶滅危惧Ⅱ類（VU）からⅠB類（EN）に分類が移った。ライチやマンゴーなどの果物を食べることからコウモリの駆除が政府によって実施されたため、推定個体数が2015年から2016年の間に50%に減少した。

この種は、森林伐採、サイクロン、違法捕獲、電線に引っかかる事故死などの危機要因がある。他の島ではサイクロンによって95%近くの減少が見られたこともあり、サイクロンの数やその強さが増加するとみられていることから、大きな危機要因となっている。

この生物は、固有の植物の受粉を助けたり、種子を拡散させるなどモーリシャス諸島の生態系で重要な役割を果たしている。IUCN 種の保存委員会 人と野生動物の衝突に関するタスクフォースでは、モーリシャス政府や、果樹園農家、科学者など他の利害関係者と活動し、ネットの活用や果樹園管理の近代化といった、果物を守る代替手法の模索などの課題解決に取り組んでいる。2015年、IUCN は駆除策によって種の絶滅の危機が近づくことを [声明](#) の中で警告した。一方で、衝突解決の対話を通じて、タスクフォースと IUCN-種の保存委員会コウモリ専門家グループとモーリシャス政府は、関係者が受け入れられる解決策の開発に向けた取り組みを前進させ、2016年以降、駆除活動は行われていない。

## 両生類の再発見

世界的に両生類は高い危機レベルにあるが、絶滅危惧 I A 類（近絶滅）または絶滅したと考えられていた 4 種の両生類がコロンビアとエクアドルで再発見されるという良いニュースもあった。リオペスカドスタップフトード (*Atelopus balios*)、クィートスタップフトード (*Atelopus ignescens*)、*Atelopus nanay* は、致死性の高いカエルツボカビ症のせいでいなくなったと考えられていた。カーチアンデストード (*Rhaebo colomai*) も、生息地影響を受け、永久にいなくなったと思われていた。

「このような再発見は嬉しいニュースであるがこの種は依然人間由来の悪影響を受けている。」と Jennifer Luedtke IUCN-種の保存委員会両生類コーディネーターは語る。「これらの種は依然、深刻な生息地の破壊や劣化、外来種による捕食、カエルツボカビ症や気候変動の影響を受け、絶滅から守るために保全状況の緊急的な改善が必要です」

## 日本のミミズが初めて評価された

日本在来のミミズ類 43 種が、IUCN がトヨタと結んだ協定による資金を利用してレッドリストで評価された。このうち 3 種は絶滅の危機があるとみなされている（ツリミミズ科和名無し *Eisenia anzac*、モリオカジュズイミミズ *Drawida moriokaensis*、オオフナトジュズイミミズ *Drawida ofunatoensis*）。集約的農業、都市の拡大、第二次世界大戦ならびに 2011 年の福島第一原発事故による放射線の影響がこれらの種に対する主な危機である。

ミミズは土壌の空隙や降雨の浸透性を増加させることで健全な土壌の維持を助けている。また多くの食物連鎖の基盤ともなっている。日本では、伝統的に薬や釣りの餌としても利用されてきた。そして文化的な重要性もあり、巨大なミミズが歌を歌い天に昇って竜になったというような神話も残っている。

## 香料の需要により世界で最も価値のある木の 1 種が絶滅の危機に

世界でもっとも価値のある木の一種である *Aquilaria malaccensis* が、伐採と森林破壊によりこの 150 年で 80% 以上の個体数が減ったことにより、絶滅危惧 II 類 (VU) から絶滅危惧 I A 類 (CR) に再評価された。

沈香は、*Aquilaria* の中心部に侵入してきたカビに対し、防衛機能として木がつくる黒く香ばしい樹脂からつくられる。

どの野生の樹木に沈香ができていのかを見分けるのは難しく、違法伐採者がこの大切な沈香を見つけるために大量に伐採することにつながった。

*Aquilaria malaccensis* は香水製造業において、世界で最も好まれる沈香をつくる種のひとつである。

## 詳細な情報やインタビューは以下までお願いいたします。

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THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES™



### Other Species:

**Precious Stream-toad (*Ansonia smeagol*)** – Named after *The Lord of the Rings* character 'Smeagol', this amphibian enters the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable. The species is endemic to the Genting Highlands in Peninsular Malaysia and is threatened by large and expanding tourist resorts and entertainment complexes. Unless something is done to stop these developments from encroaching on the range of this species and affecting the water quality of the streams the toad relies on for its survival, it might vanish forever.

**Bankoualé Palm (*Livistona carinensis*)** – The Bankoualé Palm has moved from Vulnerable to Endangered on the Red List after its population and range declined because of over-exploitation and habitat loss. This culturally significant palm has been used for thousands of years for house building, firewood and crafts in oasis areas of Djibouti, Yemen and Somalia. Agricultural encroachment from date palm plantations and diversion of surface water for use in gardening pose particular threats in Yemen, exacerbated by increased levels of drought.

**Jamaican Hutia (*Geocapromys brownii*)** – Endemic to Jamaica, this large rodent has moved from Vulnerable to Endangered on The IUCN Red List. Hunting pressure and ongoing habitat loss and degradation are likely to be responsible for its decline, including its apparent disappearance from Cockpit Country in recent decades. Predation by introduced cats, dogs and mongoose are further threats. There is some evidence of population expansion in areas where hunting has been reduced, indicating conservation actions may improve the status of this species.

**Queen Alexandra's Birdwing (*Ornithoptera alexandrae*)** – the world's largest butterfly; a reassessment of this species confirms that it is still Endangered. This striking turquoise and yellow butterfly has a wingspan of 250 mm and is endemic to New Guinea. Until trade became illegal in 1987, this butterfly was a trafficked species for the curio market; one imperfect male was sold for US\$2,850 in 1985. This species thrives in stable habitats, so habitat destruction from cocoa, rubber and oil palm plantations are now the prime threats to this species.

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### Notes to editors

#### The IUCN Red List

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ contributes to the achievement of Target 12 of the 2011 to 2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. *Target 12: 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.*

#### Global figures for the 2018-1 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

TOTAL SPECIES ASSESSED = 93,577

(Total threatened species = 26,197)

Extinct = 872

Extinct in the Wild = 69

Critically Endangered = 5,664

Endangered = 8,701

Vulnerable = 11,832

Near Threatened = 6,052

Lower Risk/conservation dependent = 210 (this is an old category that is gradually being phased out of The IUCN Red List)

Least Concern = 45,561

THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES™



Data Deficient = 14,616

The figures presented above are only for those species that have been assessed for The IUCN Red List to date. Although not all of the world's species have been assessed, The IUCN Red List provides a useful snapshot of what is happening to species today and highlights the urgent need for conservation action. Relative percentages for threatened species cannot be provided for many taxonomic groups on The IUCN Red List because they have not been comprehensively assessed. For many of these groups, assessment efforts have focused on threatened species; therefore, the percentage of threatened species for these groups would be heavily biased.

For those groups that have been comprehensively assessed, the percentage of threatened species can be calculated, but the actual number of threatened species is often uncertain because it is not known whether Data Deficient (DD) species are actually threatened or not. Therefore, the percentages presented above provide the best estimate of extinction risk for those groups that have been comprehensively assessed (excluding Extinct species), based on the assumption that Data Deficient species are equally threatened as data sufficient species. In other words, this is a mid-point figure within a range from x% threatened species (if all DD species are not threatened) to y% threatened species (if all DD species are threatened). Available evidence indicates that this is a best estimate.

The IUCN Red List threat categories are as follows, in descending order of threat:

***Extinct or Extinct in the Wild***

***Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable:*** species threatened with global extinction.

***Near Threatened:*** species close to the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened without ongoing conservation measures.

***Least Concern:*** species evaluated with a lower risk of extinction.

***Data Deficient:*** no assessment because of insufficient data.

***Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct):*** this is not a new IUCN Red List Category, but is a flag developed to identify those Critically Endangered species that are in all probability already extinct but for which confirmation is required; for example, through more extensive surveys being carried out and failing to find any individuals.

**Highlights from the 2018-1 update**

Below are a few other examples from this update to The IUCN Red List.

**Examples of other species that have been added in this update**

**Madagascan Banana (*Ensete perrieri*)** – This relative (and potential gene donor) to the crop banana is endemic to Madagascar, where it is known from only five localities in the wild. It is also grown as a garden ornamental plant. The wild population is under threat from burning of forest areas to make way for agriculture. The species enters The IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered.

***Physemacris papillosa*** – This species of Bladder Grasshopper is endemic to South Africa where it has a small geographic distribution along the southern Cape coastline. It enters The IUCN Red List as Endangered. This is an extremely rare species and it is likely to be declining. It has been documented only three times in the past 118 years in an area which has been extensively surveyed. Potential threats to *Physemacris papillosa* include habitat destruction due to agriculture (livestock farming) and urban development, and climate change leading to increased droughts. The distribution of this grasshopper is believed to be restricted by moisture availability, so an increasingly dry climate will negatively impact the species. Furthermore, it will result in loss or change of vegetation type and thus reduced availability of host plants on which the species depends.

**Yellow Fatu (*Abutilon pitcairnense*)** – This species of plant is assessed as Extinct in the Wild. Yellow Fatu was first discovered on Pitcairn Island in the southern Pacific Ocean in 1898. It was presumed extinct until a flowering specimen was found in the native forest in 2003. There are considerable challenges in preserving the remaining forest where this species was found. Despite conservation efforts, the last wild surviving plant died in a landslide in 2005, making the plant Extinct in the Wild. *Ex-situ* conservation efforts to grow and reintroduce the species back into its natural habitat were carried out on Pitcairn Island and one *ex-situ* conservation site remains on island. The native vegetation of Pitcairn still needs to be restored and invasive species need to be removed and controlled. The native forest species are being out competed by the non-native, introduced species *Syzygium jambos* (locally known as roseapple) and other invasive species. *Syzygium jambos* was originally brought to the island for fuel wood; however, because of its aggressive growth and a decrease in it being harvested for fuel, the plants have become very large trees. Their branches spread laterally, forming a dense canopy and stopping native species from regenerating. Adding to this pressure, heavy soil erosion is also degrading this species' habitat.

**Rediscovered species**

**Rio Pescado Stubfoot Toad (*Atelopus balios*)** – Previously listed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct), this toad is endemic to Ecuador. In the 1980s, habitat loss (and possibly chytridiomycosis) caused a drastic population decline resulting in the disappearance of most of its subpopulations. It had not been recorded since April 1995 despite repeated searches, until one individual was rediscovered in October 2010. More individuals have since been found (in 2011 and 2012). The entire known population is restricted to a single small area that is under severe pressure from expanding agricultural areas and mining, and it is currently assessed as Critically Endangered.

**Quito Stubfoot Toad (*Atelopus ignescens*)** – This Ecuadorean endemic toad was very abundant along streams until the 1980s, after which it became scarce and was last seen in 1988. Intensive surveys between 1999 and 2001 failed to find the species, and it was subsequently declared Extinct, due mainly to the impact of chytridiomycosis and climatic change (local warming and droughts). However, 27 individuals were found in 2016. Apparently, this is the only known subpopulation remaining, and it is still under severe threat from the synergistic effects of chytridiomycosis, climatic change and habitat loss. It is now listed as Critically Endangered.

***Atelopus nanay*** – Another Ecuadorean endemic amphibian, this species had not been recorded since July 1989 despite surveys within its range, suggesting a serious population decline. In 2004 it was assessed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) due to chytridiomycosis. However in 2007 one individual was sighted and seven females were found in 2008. Although it has been rediscovered, the population is suspected to still be declining due to habitat loss and degradation and predation by introduced trout.

**Carchi Andes Toad (*Rhaebo colomai*)** - Known only from northwestern Ecuador and southwestern Colombia, this toad was last seen in Ecuador in September 1984. It was also thought to have disappeared from Colombia, leading to it being listed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct). However a new subpopulation was discovered in Colombia. The greatest threat is habitat change, fragmentation and loss, especially due to expansion of the agricultural frontier, logging and mining. It has been reassessed as Endangered.

***Geomitra grabhami*** – Previously listed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct), this mollusc is now Critically Endangered. The species is endemic to Madeira (Portugal) and it was originally considered to possibly be extinct in 1983. In 2008, it was rediscovered on the eastern coast of Deserta Grande by Teixeira and was found again in 2013. The main current threat to the species is the high risk of land-slides, and also predation by introduced mice, which have not been eradicated from the island yet. There is also an increase in the frequency of droughts, which impacts the species as well as adding to ground instability.

***Bulbophyllum zaratananae*** – This plant is endemic to Madagascar and in 2008 it was assessed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct). Its habitat (humid forest) has decreased in area by 33% since the 1970s, and deforestation has continued in recent years with 384,000 hectares of forest lost across Madagascar in 2016. The main threats are slash and burn agriculture, but logging and mining are also threats. Previously, the species was only known from two herbarium specimens collected nearly 100 years ago. However, more recent specimens were collected (in 2001 and 2003), confirming that the species does still exist and increasing its distribution area. The plant has now been reassessed as Endangered.

***Firmiana major*** – This tree previously appeared on The IUCN Red List as Extinct in the Wild. It is now reassessed as Endangered. The species is endemic to China and, until recently, it was thought only to exist as planted trees around temples and villages. In 2004, a wild population of 200 individuals was found in a nature reserve in Sichuan province, China. In 2017 another two fruiting subpopulations were found in Yunnan province. Current threats to this tree are severe degradation of its habitat.

#### **Examples of other species whose conservation status has declined**

**Jamaican Hutia (*Geocapromys brownii*)** – This Jamaican species moved from Vulnerable to Endangered. The species has a severely fragmented distribution, and there is evidence that it no longer exists in Cockpit Country (western Jamaica). In the early 1980s it was known to still be extant in this area, but it was already considered to have a sparse distribution or occur at low densities; there has been no evidence of the species in Cockpit Country in the last 15+ years. Ongoing habitat loss and degradation, and hunting are the major threats to this species. Predation by introduced dogs, cats and mongooses may also threaten the species.

**Mesilau Stream Toad (*Ansonia guibei*)** – Previously assessed as Endangered in 2004, this toad moved into the Critically Endangered category in 2018. The species is endemic to northwestern Sabah, Malaysia. In the 2004 assessment it was considered to be locally very abundant, particularly in the form of tadpoles. However, in 2015 earthquakes and subsequent landslides completely destroyed its forest habitat at Mesilau, which is thought to have caused a significant population decline (at least 80% reduction in population size). A short survey was conducted at Mesilau in 2017 and no individuals were found, however additional surveys are required.

***Hystricella echinulate*** – This snail moved from Least Concern to Endangered. The species is restricted to Porto Santo in the Madeira Archipelago and surveys undertaken in the late 1990s suggested that the populations were reasonably abundant in spite of declining habitat quality over the last thirty years. However, fieldwork during the past five to six years has shown that subpopulations appear not to be as frequent as they were in the late 1990s. The population is believed to be declining. Habitat quality has been declining over the last 30-40 years following changing land-use practices including an increase of tourism, changes in grazing practices as well as an increase of fire incidents and longer periods of droughts which are possibly associated to effects of climate change. Hybridisation with the closely related *Hystricella bicarinata* could be considered as an additional threat to the survival of the species, although the extent of this is currently not known.

***Nepenthes mapuluensis*** – Previously assessed as Near Threatened, this carnivorous plant moved to Endangered in 2018. It is endemic to northeast Kalimantan, Indonesia, and is severely threatened by habitat degradation and destruction,

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particularly as a result of fire. Illegal collection of plants from the wild represents a secondary threat, which does not appear to be significant for this species at this stage.

#### **Examples of other species whose conservation status has improved**

**Kinabalu Slender Litter Frog (*Leptobrachella araya*)** – This amphibian moved from Vulnerable to Least Concern in 2018. It is known from Kinabalu National Park and Crocker Range National Park (Trus Madi) in Malaysia. In 2004, the major threat to this species was rapid logging of sub-montane forests for timber. However, industrial logging activities at Trus Madi have nearly ceased and are not occurring at elevations where this species occurs. Both of the national parks are well protected and well-managed, and Trus Madi is a High Conservation Value Forest.

**Distaff Thistle of Majorca (*Carthamus balearicus*)** – Previously assessed as Vulnerable, this species has now moved out of the threatened categories and is reassessed as Near Threatened. This small shrub is endemic to Menorca in the Balearic Islands (Spain), where it still has a very restricted range. It is a coastal species, growing in open scrublands close to the sea. In the last 12 years some of the most important threats to this species (i.e. uncontrolled road building, alien invasive plant species (mainly *Carpobrotus* species), soil tillage from small-holder farming, and excessive recreational activities) have been controlled in the two most important subpopulations. However, the subpopulation at Fornells-Tirant is still threatened with soil tillage, concentrated to small areas, and with the development of touristic resorts. In recent years, with the implementation of several conservation projects, populations have stabilized and there are now signs of recovery for this species.

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#### **About The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™**

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (or The IUCN Red List) is an invaluable resource to guide conservation action and policy decisions. It is a health check for our planet – a Barometer of Life. It is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of plant, animal and fungi species. It is based on an objective system for assessing the risk of extinction of a species should no conservation action be taken.

Species are assigned to one of eight categories of threat based on whether they meet criteria linked to population trend, population size and structure and geographic range. Species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable are collectively described as 'threatened'.

The IUCN Red List is not just a register of names and associated threat categories. It is a rich compendium of information on the threats to the species, their ecological requirements, where they live, and information on conservation actions that can be used to reduce or prevent extinctions. The IUCN Red List is a joint effort between IUCN and its Species Survival Commission, working with its IUCN Red List partners - Arizona State University, BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/iucn.red.list> <https://twitter.com/IUCNRedList> <http://support.iucnredlist.org/>

#### **About IUCN**

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of more than 10,000 experts. This year, IUCN celebrates its 70th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1948 in the French town of Fontainebleau, IUCN has become the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

#### **About the Species Survival Commission**

**The Species Survival Commission (SSC)** is the largest of IUCN's six volunteer commissions with a global membership of around 7,500 experts. SSC advises IUCN and its members on the wide range of technical and scientific aspects of species conservation, and is dedicated to securing a future for biodiversity. SSC has significant input into the international agreements dealing with biodiversity conservation.

#### **About Arizona State University (ASU)**

Ranked #1 in the U.S. for innovation, Arizona State University (ASU) is a new model for American higher education, combining academic excellence, entrepreneurial energy and broad access. It serves more than 70,000 students in metropolitan Phoenix, AZ. ASU champions intellectual and cultural diversity, and welcomes students from all fifty states and more than one hundred nations across the globe. ASU's Center for Biodiversity Outcomes (CBO) is a partnership between the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability (GIOS) and the School of Life Sciences (SoLS) via partnerships with NGO's, companies, and governmental organizations. Follow CBO's work on Twitter.

#### **About BirdLife**

BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation Partnership. Together we are 120 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country – and growing, with almost 11 million supporters, 7000 local conservation groups and 7400 staff. Find out more at [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org) / [www.facebook.com/BirdLifeInternational](http://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeInternational)

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#### **About Botanic Gardens Conservation International**

BGCI is an international organization that exists to ensure the world-wide conservation of threatened plants, the continued existence of which are intrinsically linked to global issues including poverty, human well-being and climate change. BGCI represents over 700 members - mostly botanic gardens - in 118 countries. We aim to support and empower our members and the wider conservation community so that their knowledge and expertise can be applied to reversing the threat of extinction crisis facing one third of all plants. <http://www.bgci.org>

#### **About Conservation International (CI)**

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the long term well-being of people. Founded in 1987 and marking its 25th anniversary in 2012, CI has headquarters in the Washington DC area, and 900 employees working in nearly 30 countries on four continents, plus 1,000+ partners around the world. For more information, please visit at [www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org), or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

#### **About NatureServe**

NatureServe is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to providing the scientific basis for effective conservation action. Through its network of 82 natural heritage programs and conservation data centres in the United States, Canada, and Latin America, NatureServe provides a unique body of detailed scientific information and conservation biodiversity expertise about the plants, animals, and ecosystems of the Americas. [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)

#### **About the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is a world famous scientific organisation, internationally respected for its outstanding living collection of plants and world-class Herbarium as well as its scientific expertise in plant diversity, conservation and sustainable development in the UK and around the world. Kew Gardens is a major international visitor attraction. Its landscaped 132 hectares and RBG Kew's country estate, Wakehurst Place, attract nearly 2 million visitors every year. Kew was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2003 and celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2009. Wakehurst Place is home to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, the largest wild plant seed bank in the world. RBG Kew and its partners have collected and conserved seed from 10 per cent of the world's wild flowering plant species (c.30, 000 species). The aim is to conserve 25 per cent by 2020, and its enormous potential for future conservation can only be fulfilled with the support of the public and other funders. [www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

#### **About Sapienza University of Rome**

With over 700 years of history and 110,000 students, Sapienza is the largest University in Europe, the second in the world after El Cairo: a city within the city. The University includes 11 faculties and 67 departments. In Sapienza there are over 4,500 professors, and 5,000 administrative and technical staff. Sapienza offers a wide choice of courses including 300 degree programs and 200 specialized qualifications. Students coming from other regions are over 30,000 and the foreign students are over 7,000. Sapienza plans and carries out important scientific investigations in almost all disciplines, achieving high-standard results both on a national and on an international level. Eugenio Gaudio has been the Rector of Sapienza University since November 2014. <http://www.uniroma1.it/>

#### **About Texas A&M University**

From humble beginnings in 1876 as Texas' first public institution of higher learning, to a bustling 5,200-acre campus with a nationally recognized faculty, Texas A&M University is one of a select few universities with land-grant, sea-grant and space-grant designations. With an enrolment of about half men and half women, 25 percent of the freshman class are the first in their family to attend college. Here, 39,000-plus undergraduates and more than 9,400 graduate students have access to world-class research programs and award-winning faculty. Texas A&M has two branch campuses, one in Galveston, Texas, and one in the Middle Eastern country of Qatar. This research-intensive flagship university with 10 colleges was recently ranked first in the nation by Smart Money magazine for "pay-back ratio" (what graduates earn compared to the cost of their education). The 2011 U.S. News and World Report ranked Texas A&M second nationally in their "Great Schools, Great Prices" category among public universities and 22nd overall. Many degree programs are ranked among the top 10 in the country. [www.tamu.edu](http://www.tamu.edu)

#### **About the Zoological Society of London (ZSL)**

Founded in 1826, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international scientific, conservation and educational charity: the key role is the conservation of animals and their habitats. The Society runs ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, carries out scientific research at the Institute of Zoology and is actively involved in field conservation in over 50 countries worldwide. [www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org)