

# **Updated IUCN Red List**

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## **Updated IUCN Red List**

The **IUCN Red List** was updated recently at **COP28** revealing climate change impacts on species, including **25% of freshwater fish** facing extinction.



[Ref-IUCN]

# **About IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:**

- It was established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1964.
- It is the world's most comprehensive **information source** on the global extinction **risk status** of animal, fungus, and plant species.
- Red List is a **critical indicator of global biodiversity health** and a powerful tool to inform and catalyze action for biodiversity conservation and policy change.
- **Information** about range, population size, habitat and ecology, use and/or trade, threats, and actions important for conservation decisions are provided.
- **Structure**: IUCN Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Team, partner organizations and experts in the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and networks for compilation.

### **Three Categories in the Red List:**





Extinct



Extinct in

the Wild



Out of all species that have ever lived, 99.9% of them are now extinct. The IUCN has documented 830 species known to have gone extinct since 500 AD.

Currently the IUCN has 69 species listed as extinct in the wild. These species have been extirpated from their natural range and now exist only in captivity.





[Ref-Think Wildlife]

# Threatened (encompasses CR, EN, and VU) Mountain Gorilla Blue Whale Brown Kiwi California Condor Green Sea Turtle Elephant Lion

Endangered

**Endangered** 

Vulnerable

To be listed as threatened, a species must fit one of the following qualifications

A projected population decline of greater than \_\_\_ over the next 10 years or three generations

80% 50%
A global range of less than

100 5,000 20.00

A stable global population size of less than \_\_\_ individual

0 250

Critically

\*Two other categories exist, although they have more complicated thresholds: small population size AND decreasing population, or quantitative scientific analysis that shows a high likelihood of extinction.



Albacore Tuna

Jaguar

Monarch

Butterfly



Bottlenose

Grav Wolf

Dolphin

Near Threatened Least Concern

Near threatened species are in danger of becoming threatened. Species with least concern listings may still have declining populations or face threats, but not to the level required for a threatened listing.

Out of the RedList's 77,000 listed species, 35,000 are listed as least concern and 5,000 are listed as near threatened.



For species that have yet to be sufficiently evaluated, two additional classifications exist: data deficient (DD) and not evaluated (NE).

## Key Changes in the IUCN Red List:

- This update highlights the strong links between the **climate and biodiversity crises**, which must be tackled by joint action.
- The IUCN Red List now includes **157,190 species**, of which 44,016 are threatened with extinction.
- It includes the **first global freshwater fish assessment** and highlights the impact of illegal logging and trade on mahogany.
- **Species decline** reflects the destructive impact of climate change, a crisis to be mitigated with immediate, bold efforts to limit warming to **1.5 degrees Celsius.**
- The critical role of **well-managed freshwater ecosystems** for food security, livelihoods, and economies in a climate-resilient world is essential against biodiversity loss.
- Conservation efforts have successfully brought two antelope species back from the brink of extinction, but changing climatic conditions could undermine their future.
- Positive outcomes: There is progress in assessing Ethiopia's endemic plant species, including endangered ones, emphasizing the role of museums and taxonomists.
  - Reintroduction of scimitar-horned oryx in Chad showcases the impact of international conservation efforts and community support.



## State of the world's freshwater fish species:

- Freshwater fishes make up **more than half** of the world's known **fish species**, but freshwater ecosystems comprise only **1% of aquatic habitat.**
- About 25% of freshwater fish (3,086 out of 14,898 assessed species) are at risk of extinction, and at least 17% of threatened freshwater fish species are affected by climate change.
- This is due to **decreasing water levels**, rising **sea levels** causing seawater to move up rivers, and shifting seasons.
- Threats putting freshwater fish species at risk of extinction include **Pollution** (57%), dams and water extraction (45%), overfishing (25%), and invasive species and disease harm 33%.
- To prevent species decline and ensure resilience to climate change, freshwater ecosystems need effective management, sufficient water flow, and quality.

## Change in status of key species:

Species	Change in status	Reasons for change in Status	Geographical distribution
Atlantic Salmon	Least Concerned to Near Threatened	Life cycle disruption due to Climate change,	Northern Europe to Nor America, especially
(fresh and saltwater fish)		reduced prey availability, barriers, pollution, weak	Hudson River,
		adaptation due to escaped salmon breeding, Salmon lice, and invasive species like Pacific Pink salmon.	and Gulf of Maine
Green sea turtles	Central South:	High temperature affects	Tropical coastline of
	Endangered,	hatching and breeding, rising sea levels, changes	Australia and the South Pacific Islands, Africa,
	East Pacific: Vulnerable	in currents impact green grass for food, bycatch, and commercial harvesting.	India, and South East Asia.
Scimitar-horned oryx (4th	Extinct in wild to	Decreased Poaching,	Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achi
large mammal re- introduced in last 100 years)	Endangered	community awareness & participation	Faunal Reserve in Cha
Saiga Antelope	Critically Endangered to Near Threatened	anti-poaching measures, training of customs and border officials, and action	Kazakhstan (98%), Mongolia, Russia and Uzbekistan
		against illegal sales in consumer countries.	(but faces threat of disease outbreaks and mass mortality events)
Big-leaf mahogany (most commercial timber tree)	Vulnerable to Endangered	Ornamental furniture and musical instruments, illegal logging, habitat	Central and South America



large-toothed Lake Turkana robber (fish) Least Concern to Vulnerable

degradation overfishing, habitat degradation, and reduced inflow of water due to dams.

Endemic to Kenya