

The IUCN Species Survival Commission

1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals

Compiled and Edited by
Jonathan Baillie and
Brian Groombridge



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Foreword by
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Contributions to the IUCN/Species Survival Commission and the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals

The Species Survival Commission gratefully recognizes its extensive network of volunteers who make production of the IUCN Red List possible. Those individuals who have contributed time and expertise are listed in the Acknowledgements. SSC also wishes to acknowledge those donors whose major financial contributions support a wide variety of SSC activities, as well as development and publication of the IUCN Red List.

The Sultanate of Oman established the Peter Scott IUCN/SSC Action Plan Fund in 1990. The Fund supports Action Plan development and implementation; to date, more than 80 grants have been made from the Fund to Specialist Groups. As a result, the Action Plan Program has progressed at an accelerated level and the network has grown and matured significantly. The SSC is grateful to the Sultanate of Oman for its confidence in and support for species conservation worldwide.

The Chicago Zoological Society (CZS) provides significant in-kind and cash support to the SSC, including grants for special projects, editorial and design services, staff secondments, and related support services. The President of CZS and Director of Brookfield Zoo, George B. Rabb, serves as the volunteer Chair of the SSC. The mission of CZS is to help people develop a sustainable and harmonious relationship with nature. The Zoo carries out its mission by informing and inspiring 2,000,000 annual visitors, serving as a refuge for species threatened with extinction, developing scientific approaches to manage species successfully in zoos and the wild, and working with other zoos, agencies, and protected areas around the world to conserve habitats and wildlife.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) makes a significant annual contribution to the SSC Conservation Communications Fund, in addition to grants for in situ conservation coordinated by the SSC. NWF is the largest non-governmental, non-profit conservation education and advocacy organization in the United States. NWF's emphasis is on helping individuals and organizations of all cultures, in the United States and abroad, to conserve wildlife and other natural resources and to protect the earth's environment to assure a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future.

The Council of Agriculture (COA), Taiwan, has awarded major grants to the SSC's Wildlife Trade Program and Conservation Communications Program. This support has enabled SSC to continue its valuable technical advisory service to the Parties to CITES as well as to the larger global conservation community. Among other responsibilities, the COA is in charge of matters concerning the designation and management of nature reserves, conservation of wildlife and their habitats, conservation of natural landscapes, coordination of law enforcement efforts, as well as promotion of conservation education, research, and international cooperation.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) provides significant annual operating support to the SSC. WWF's contribution supports the SSC's minimal infrastructure and helps ensure that the voluntary network and Publications Program are adequately supported. WWF aims to conserve nature and ecological processes by: (1) preserving genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity; (2) ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable both now and in the longer term; and (3) promoting actions to reduce pollution and the wasteful exploitation and consumption of resources and energy. WWF is one of the world's largest independent conservation organizations, with a network of National Organizations and Associates around the world and more than 5.2 million regular supporters. WWF continues to be known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and in the United States of America.

The following organizations also played an important role in relation to the IUCN Red List:

Publication of the *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* was made possible by IUCN/SSC's co-publishing partner **Conservation International (CI)**. CI secured funds for the Red List production, including a generous grant from the **Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation (US)** and supported publication and distribution of the publication. CI helps people improve their standard of living while conserving their valuable natural resources. CI develops and promotes models to conserve ecological "hotspots," threatened rain forests, and other ecosystems in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. To ensure lasting solutions to conservation challenges, these models integrate economic, cultural, and ecological factors, and are designed to strengthen local capacity for conservation.

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) is SSC's data management partner, and manages the database from which the IUCN Red List is generated, and has provided much of the information for this edition. WCMC, based in Cambridge, UK, is a joint-venture between the three partners in the *World Conservation Strategy*, and its successor, *Caring for the Earth*: IUCN, UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme), and WWF. WCMC provides information services on the conservation and sustainable use of species and ecosystems and supports others in the development of their own information systems.

BirdLife International compiles and maintains the bird component of the IUCN Red List. BirdLife is a worldwide partnership of conservation organizations that seeks to conserve all wild bird species and their habitats. Through this, BirdLife helps protect the world's biological diversity and supports the sustainable use by humans of the world's natural resources. BirdLife is a national force in 58 countries around the world and represented in a further 26 nations.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supplied data for many of the North American species included in the IUCN Red List. TNC is an international non-governmental organization whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and ecological communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth. With more than 800,000 members, the Conservancy owns and manages over 1,600 preserves, the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world. Internationally, the Conservancy works to support in-country organizations and agencies that share its focus on the protection of biological diversity. The Conservancy has also helped establish a network of Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers, based in state and national agencies and private organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin America.



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Foreword

The Red List of Threatened Animals is a warning flag, signalling for global attention to the perilous status of many species. In its approach, this Red List is different from all its predecessors and the existing Red Data books. It employs a more rigorous system for assessing degree of threat of extinction, a system reflecting current knowledge in population biology in relation to conservation concerns. This more objective approach should help focus attention on the causative factors behind the diminished geographic ranges, declining populations, and small numbers that characterize endangerment in many species.

The Red List is incomplete because of our ignorance of the vast majority of life forms on the planet, most of them invertebrates and other microfauna. Nevertheless, the status of the larger species covered by the Red List is indicative of the circumstances for many smaller species that occupy the same environments as the larger species. In this connection, a notable achievement in preparation of this edition of the Red List was review of all species of mammals. Thanks to this work and to the prior work of BirdLife International, two classes of vertebrates have now been assessed. It is of significance for conservation planning and action that the less vagile group, the mammals, has proportionately more species at risk of extinction than the birds.

The observations above reflect very considerable accomplishments. First, the development of the new system for categorizing threats was a formidable task. Led by Georgina Mace, the effort involved hundreds of consultations and much debate over several years before there was a product suitable for adoption by IUCN-The World Conservation Union. The conservation community is truly indebted to Dr. Mace and her many collaborators for their work.

Second, the application of the new system to species on prior lists and to other species was also a daunting undertaking. Many Specialist Groups of the Species Survival Commission and BirdLife International carried out this work. Jonathan Baillie gave crucial attention to coordination and instruction of this work, and his service deserves the gratitude of conservationists everywhere.

Most conservation actions are carried out in national contexts, and going forward, the new approach to categorizing conservation status needs to be adapted for use at the national level. The IUCN is encouraging the development of National Biodiversity Conservation Groups, and it is important that they be suitably equipped with cogent information in directing their efforts to effect conservation of endemic species.

As biological gauges of endangerment, the Red Lists of species should be considered as calls for attention to causal factors. The causes of endangerment range from habitat destruction and overharvesting to pollution and introduction of invasive species. Thoroughgoing review of the Red List in relation to these proximate causes may help focus relevant research, education, training, and policy development within the IUCN networks and the conservation community generally. In turn, such work can inform and inspire appropriate governmental and social actions to stem the loss of biological diversity illustrated so explicitly by this Red List. Looking ahead, such responsiveness will be obligatory if we are to deal at all adequately with global change phenomena that are impacting the long term survival prospects for ecosystems and their distinctive complements of species.

George B. Rabb
SSC Chair

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