

IUCN Categories

Extinct (Ex)

Taxa no longer found in its natural habitat. It includes taxa that, although vanished in its natural habitat, still survive in culture.

Endangered (E)

Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Included are taxa whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so drastically reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction.

Vulnerable (V)

Taxa believed to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Included are taxa of which most or all the populations are decreasing because of over-exploitation, extensive destruction of habitat or other environmental disturbance; taxa with populations that have been seriously depleted and whose ultimate security is not yet assured; and taxa with populations that are still abundant but are under threat from serious adverse factors throughout their range.

Rare (R)

Taxa with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable, but are at risk. These taxa are usually localized within restricted geographical areas or habitats or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range.

Indeterminate (I)

Taxa known to be Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable, or Rare but where there is not enough information to say which of the four categories is appropriate.

Insufficiently known (K)

Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of the lack of information.

Geographical distribution of species

Geographical distribution of species is given primarily at country level. However, major Mediterranean and Macaronesic Islands or Archipelagos have been given an specific entity. Therefore, names of countries, such as France, Greece, Italy, Portugal or Spain, refer just to the mainland, excluding major islands.

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