

IUCN Red List

Latest Update - African Elephant species in March 2021 have been listed as 'Endangered' and 'Critically Endangered' in the IUCN Red List. IUCN published an assessment of the African Elephant population.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (also known as the IUCN Red List or Red Data List), founded in 1964, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species (Animal, fungus and plant species).

The [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) is the world's main authority on the conservation status of species.

This red list is updated at least twice per year. The next publication date of the IUCN Red List is 4th or 7th September 2021.

Latest Updates about IUCN Red List

1. African Elephants species has African Forest Elephant and African Savannah Elephant. IUCN has recently updated the status of both the elephants in the IUCN Red List.
 - **African Forest Elephant - Critically Endangered**
 - **African Savannah Elephant - Endangered**
 - Note - Earlier, these two elephants were treated as a single species and were listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.
2. The IUCN Red List now includes 134,425 species of which 37,480 are threatened with extinction.

IUCN Red List Assessment 2019-2021

A series of Regional Red Lists are produced by countries or organizations, which assess the risk of extinction to species within a political management unit. The IUCN Red List is based upon precise criteria to evaluate the rate of extinction of thousands of species and subspecies. These criteria are relevant to all species and all regions of the world.

The IUCN red list provides taxonomic data, conservation status, and distribution information on species that are facing a high risk of global extinction.

Objectives of IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature works to achieve the following goals:

1. To provide scientific data on the status of species and subspecies at a global level.
2. To address the factors of concern and spread awareness regarding the species and biodiversity extinction.
3. To plan a layout for the conservation of biodiversity.

IUCN Red List Users

The IUCN Red List provides accurate data on the status of different species on the Earth. This information is used by various departments, institutes, and organizations.

The users of the IUCN Red List are given below:

- Government agencies (National & International)
- Wildlife organizations and departments
- Conservation-related NGOs
- Natural resource planners
- Educational organizations
- Zoos and aquariums
- Media
- Business communities

Purpose of the IUCN Red List Data

The information cited in the IUCN Red List is used by various organizations in the following ways:

- International Agreements such as CITES, Ramsar Convention use the Red List data to make important decisions in sync with the status of nature as and when required.
- World Bank Group performance standard uses the IUCN Red List data to evaluate the risk of damage to biodiversity due to large-scale infrastructures and global projects.
- Zoos and National parks use this information to upgrade important policies like parks regulations from time to time.

Following are the 9 categories in the IUCN red list:



- Extinct (EX) – No known individuals remaining.
- Extinct in the wild (EW) – Known only to survive in captivity, or as a naturalized population outside its historic range.
- Critically endangered (CR) – Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- Endangered (EN) – High risk of extinction in the wild.
- Vulnerable (VU) – High risk of endangerment in the wild.
- Near threatened (NT) – Likely to become endangered soon.
- Least concern (LC) – Lowest risk. Does not qualify for a more at-risk category. Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.
- Data deficient (DD) – Not enough data to assess its risk of extinction.
- Not evaluated (NE) – Has not yet been evaluated against the criteria

List of critically endangered species in India as per IUCN Red List 2019-2021

The list of critically endangered species in India from various categories are given below:

Critically Endangered Mammals

1. Pygmy Hog
2. Andaman White-toothed Shrew
3. Jenkin's Andaman Spiny Shrew
4. Nicobar White-tailed Shrew
5. Kondana Rat
6. Large Rock Rat or Elvira Rat
7. Namdapha Flying Squirrel
8. Malabar Civet
9. Sumatran Rhinoceros
10. Javan Rhinoceros

Critically Endangered Birds

1. Aythya Baeri
2. Forest Owlet
3. Great Indian Bustard
4. Bengal Florican
5. Siberian Crane
6. Spoon-billed Sandpiper
7. Sociable Lapwing
8. Jerdon's Courser
9. White-backed Vulture
10. Red-headed Vulture
11. White-bellied Heron
12. Slender-billed Vulture
13. Indian Vulture
14. Pink-headed Duck
15. Himalayan Quail

Critically Endangered Reptiles

1. Gharial
2. Hawksbill Turtle
3. River Terrapin
4. Bengal Roof Turtle
5. Sispara day gecko

Critically Endangered Fishes

1. Pondicherry Shark
2. Ganges Shark
3. Knife-tooth Sawfish
4. Large-tooth Sawfish

5. Narrow-snout Sawfish

IUCN Conservation Plan

The strategy for the conservation of nature by IUCN is as follows:

1. **Assess** - Focus on monitoring species and informing the world about the status and trends of biodiversity, thus providing measures for the protection of our biosphere.
2. **Plan** - Aims to enhance collaborative and science-based strategies to ensure the most effective species conservation actions.
3. **Act** - Improve the status of biodiversity, by mobilizing actions involving governments, educational institutions, civil society, and the private sector.
4. **Communicate** - The effectiveness of IUCN's species conservation work is enhanced through strategic and targeted communications.

Frequently Asked Questions related to Endangered Species

How many critically endangered species are there in India?

It contains 132 species of plants and animals in India listed as critically endangered. According to the IUCN Red List by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, there are also 48 critically endangered plant species in India (as of 5 September 2019).

How many endangered species are there in 2021?

In 2020, according to the IUCN, there were over 30,000 endangered species. The updated figure will be provided herein in September 2021.