

# The EarthTrends Information Guide for Biodiversity



## EarthTrends Environmental Information

<http://earthtrends.wri.org>

### EarthTrends

is a free, online information tool that focuses on the environmental, social, and economic trends that shape our world. The website offers a comprehensive collection of vital statistics for more than 200 countries drawn from over 40 internationally recognized statistical agencies, as well as WRI-generated maps, graphics, and analyses.

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The diversity of species on earth provides immeasurable benefits—economical, environmental, cultural, and spiritual. Although larger, charismatic species typically receive the most attention, it is often the lesser-known organisms that are most critical to the health of individual biomes; without them, entire ecosystems may be placed at risk of collapse. In addition, species provide a wide-range of valuable ecosystem services to humans at no cost, including natural systems of water purification, nutrient cycling, waste decomposition, pollination, and protection from severe natural events.

Yet direct actions such as poaching and unsustainable fishing practices, and the indirect impacts of global warming, habitat destruction, and pollution continue to increase biodiversity loss at unprecedented rates. Globally, the number of threatened species has risen by more than 50 percent in the last decade. Conservation practices have helped several species recover from endangered status, but concerted efforts to protect biodiversity are required to preserve species and maintain natural ecosystems.

Find the following **Biodiversity Information** and much more on **EarthTrends**.

### SEARCHABLE DATABASE

[\[http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable\\_db/index.php?theme=7\]](http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/index.php?theme=7)

Species: Number, number endemic, number extinct, & number threatened:

Birds; Ferns; Fish; Mammals; Reptiles; Trees; Vascular plants

Trade in Species/Wildlife: Global net trade in:

Live lizards; Live parrots; Live primates; Live snakes; Crocodylian Skins; Lizard skins; Snake skins; Wild cat skins; Live coral; Live tortoises; Wild collected orchids

### MAPS

[\[http://earthtrends.wri.org/maps\\_spatial/index.php?theme=7\]](http://earthtrends.wri.org/maps_spatial/index.php?theme=7)

Fragmentation and Wildlife Exploitation in Central and North America

Important Areas and Ecoregions for Freshwater Biodiversity

Key Forest Areas for Threatened Birds in Latin America

Species Richness and Endemism by River Basin

### FEATURE ARTICLES

[\[http://earthtrends.wri.org/features/index.php?theme=7\]](http://earthtrends.wri.org/features/index.php?theme=7)

Alien Flotillas: The Expansion of Invasive Species Through Ship Ballast Water

Bioinvasions: Stemming the Tide of Exotic Species

Domesticating the World: Conversion of Natural Ecosystems

Endangered Species: Traded to Death

### DATA TABLES

[\[http://earthtrends.wri.org/datatables/index.php?theme=7\]](http://earthtrends.wri.org/datatables/index.php?theme=7)

Biodiversity Overview

Legal Trade in Selected Wildlife Products and CITES Status

Species Diversity and Conservation Status

### LINKS

Convention on Biodiversity [\[http://www.biodiv.org\]](http://www.biodiv.org)

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment [\[http://www.maweb.org\]](http://www.maweb.org)

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species [\[http://www.cites.org\]](http://www.cites.org)

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species [\[http://www.iucnredlist.org\]](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) [\[http://www.iucn.org\]](http://www.iucn.org)