

PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

What is the threat to these species?

Many species have become collateral damage of unsustainable human behaviors over the past few centuries. Legislation such as the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Clean Air Act have reduced this trend by protecting threatened species from direct and indirect forces respectively. Technological innovations like artificial intelligence and widespread population monitoring can be promoted as well as community involvement to try and reduce the strain on the environment that will soon reach a breaking point.

WHO IS AT RISK?

01 The American Pika

The Pika’s habitat is shrinking as the Earth warms. These rodents live high in the mountains, and they are getting stranded as they move higher and higher with no way down. While this issue seems straightforward, the cause is not easily halted.

“American Pika (*Ochotona Princeps*).” by Marshal Hedin is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



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02 The Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterfly populations have seen a significant decline in the past few decades, from a high of 52 acres to just 2.94 in 2012. This is due to habitat loss, climate change, and pesticide use in agriculture that has been killing their food - milkweeds, which eliminates their options for breeding grounds.

“Monarch butterfly at Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge” by Tom Koerner at the U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service licensed under CC PD 1.0



Sustainability



03 The Wolverine

Organizations like snowmobile associations and fossil fuel producers that profit off of the land and natural resources oppose movements to put the wolverine on the Endangered Species List because they know it will end up lowering their revenue.

“The wolverine, *Gulo gulo* is the largest land-dwelling species of the family *Mustelidae* (weasels).” by William F. Wood licensed under CC ASA 4.0

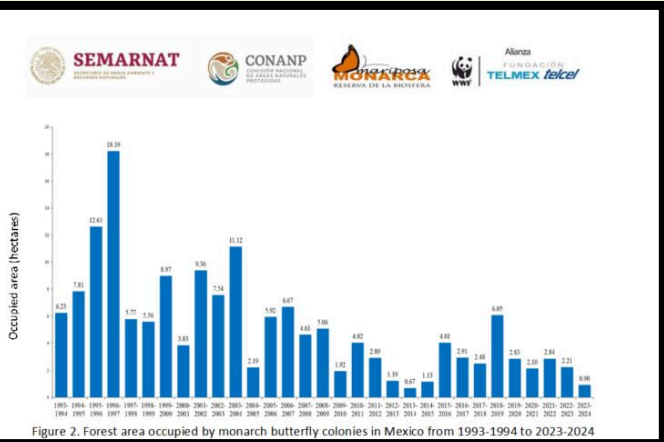


Figure 2. Forest area occupied by monarch butterfly colonies in Mexico from 1993-1994 to 2023-2024

“Total area of overwintering monarch butterflies in Mexico” by Monarch Butterfly Fund licensed under CC

PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Why should we help?

Citizens have a vital role to play in advocating for these measures, highlighting the importance of community engagement and informed voting. We must harness both our technological advancements and our collective resolve to ensure the survival of the planet's biodiversity, because our fate is linked to the health of the ecosystems around us. Only through concerted action and commitment can we hope to create a sustainable coexistence with the natural world.

01

LEGISLATION (ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT)

Adopting a more aggressive approach to protecting endangered species will be necessary for their survival. Putting these animals on the protected list gives the Environmental Protection Agency legal power to stop anthropogenic forces, as well as preventative measures like monitoring declining species. Though species that have been placed on the **Endangered species list** have not returned to full health, their decline has stopped or slowed significantly.

26 new species in
2023

16 new species in
2024

1300+
species protected

02

TECHNOLOGY (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

New technology is being tested that is capable of monitoring the health and safety of protected animals. A new **artificial intelligence** model has also been created that is capable of **mass data collection** on physiological factors such as those being recorded on these animals. These two things put together have the potential to give scientists a clearer understanding of how populations are faring in conservation lands. Ultimately, this could be a comprehensive way to track the progress of endangered species.



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