

Earth in crisis

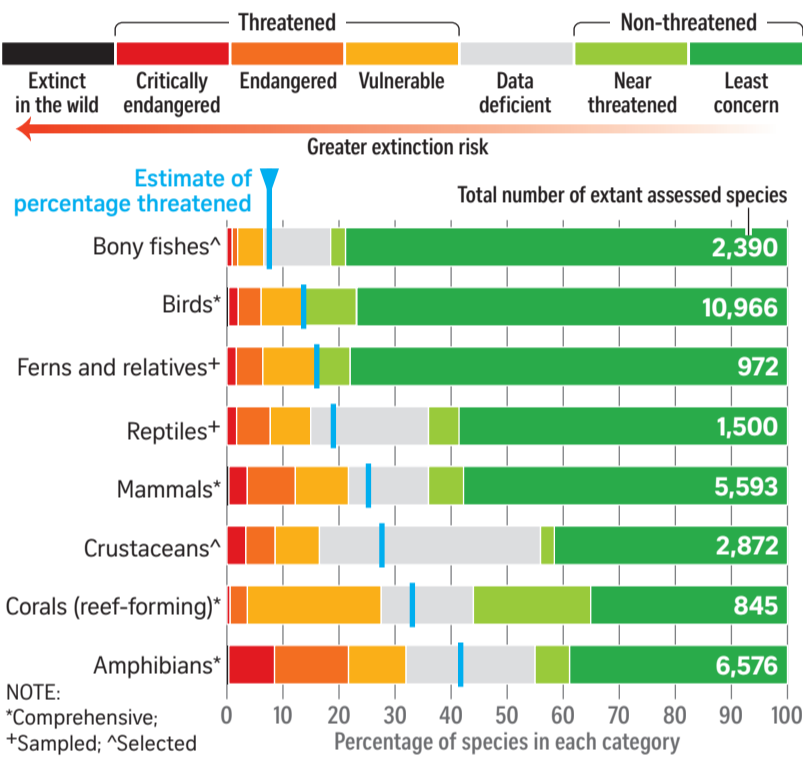
A UN panel of scientists has warned in a new study that human expansion is threatening up to one million species of plants and animals with extinction, with serious implications for human survival



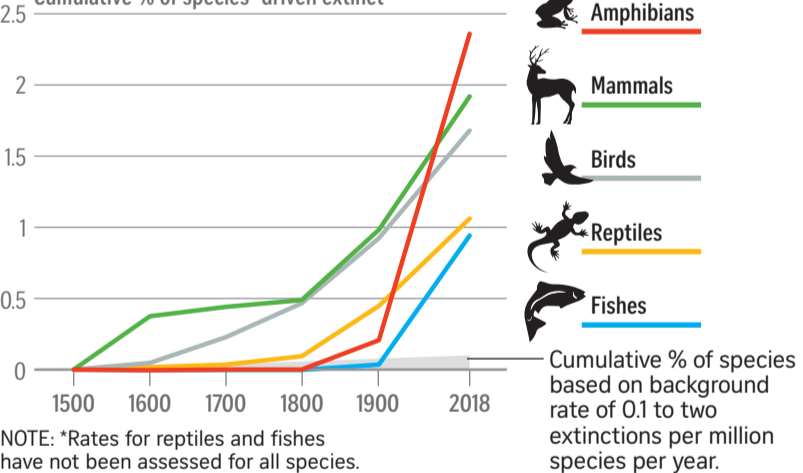
Above: The Bali mynah, native to the island of Bali in Indonesia, is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. It has been driven to near-extinction due to unsustainable trapping for the illegal pet trade.

Left: This 25mm-long white spotted bush frog of India is one of the amphibian species threatened with extinction, with 40 per cent of all amphibians at risk.

CURRENT GLOBAL EXTINCTION RISK IN DIFFERENT SPECIES GROUPS



EXTINCTIONS SINCE 1500 (VERTEBRATE GROUPS)



BY THE NUMBERS

Climate change

100% Increase in greenhouse gas emissions since 1980, raising average global temperature by at least 0.7 deg C

Plants and animals

Up to one million Species threatened with extinction, many within decades

Oceans and fishing

Up to 300 million People in coastal areas face increased risk due to loss of coastal habitat protection

33% Marine fish stocks in 2015 being harvested at unsustainable levels

Mining and energy

<1% Total land use for mining, but the industry has notable negative impacts on biodiversity, water quality, human health and emissions

Wetlands

>85% Wetlands present in 1700 that had been lost by 2000. Loss of wetlands is currently three times faster, in percentage terms, than forest loss

Food and agriculture

300% Increase in food crop production since 1970

Up to US\$577b (\$786.6b) Annual value of global crop output at risk due to pollinator loss

Forests

50% Agricultural growth that occurred at the expense of forests

Source: INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PHOTOS: WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE, COURTESY OF K. S. SESHADRI STRAITS TIMES GRAPHIC