

Notes for editors and media

These statements are supported by the following evidence from SSC, IUCN, and the conservation science literature overall:

Saving species saves life: Frank & Sudarshan (2024 American Economic Review “The social costs of keystone species collapse: evidence from the decline of vultures in India” <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20230016>); Frank (2024 Science “The economic impacts of ecosystem disruptions: Costs from substituting biological pest control” <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adg0344>)

Saving species upholds the intrinsic value of nature: Naess (1989 Ecology, Community and Lifestyle. Cambridge University Press); IPBES (2022 Summary for Policymakers of the Methodological Assessment Report on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6522392>)

Saving species supports human survival, health and wellbeing: Naeem et al. (2016 Proceedings of the Royal Society B “Biodiversity and human well-being: an essential link for sustainable development” <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2016.2091>); Schindler et al. (2022 Wildcheck – Assessing the Risks and Opportunities of Trade in Wild Plant Ingredients. Food & Agriculture Organisation)

Saving species enables environmental and social justice: Chaplin-Kramer et al. (2023 Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability “Transformation for inclusive conservation: evidence on values, decisions, and impacts in protected areas” <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2023.101347>)

Saving species safeguards water, land and air: Turner et al. (2007 BioScience “Global conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services” <https://doi.org/10.1641/B571009>)

Saving species underpins the global economy: Hanley & Perrings (2019 Annual Review of Resource Economics “The economic value of biodiversity” <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-resource-100518-093946>); TRAFFIC and Taskforce on Nature Markets (2023 “Legal and Sustainable Wild Species Trade: Learnings and Implications for Nature Market Governance)

Saving species promotes food security: van der Sluijs & Vaage (2016 Food Ethics “Pollinators and global food security: the need for holistic global stewardship” <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41055-016-0003-z>); Dangles & Casas (2019 Ecosystem Services “Ecosystem services provided by insects for achieving sustainable development goals” <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2018.12.002>); Maxted & Magos Brehm (2023 Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems “Maximizing the crop wild relative resources available to plant breeders for crop improvement” <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2023.1010204>); Maxted et al. (2020 Plant Genetic Conservation. Cambridge University Press)

Saving species sustains indigenous and cultural connections: Pretty et al. (2009 Conservation & Society “The intersections of biological diversity and cultural diversity” <https://doi.org/10.4103/0972-4923.58642>)

Saving species stabilises climate: Bennett & Robinson (2023 PLoS Biology "To avoid carbon degradation in tropical forests, conserve wildlife" <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002262>)

Saving species creates jobs: Driver et al. (2019 An Initial Assessment of Biodiversity related Employment in South Africa. South African National Biodiversity Institute DPRU Working Paper 201902)

Saving species drives innovation: Beynus (1997 Biomimicry. Harper Perennial)

Saving species preserves diversity for future generations: Gascon et al. (2015 Current Biology "The importance and benefits of species" <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2015.03.041>)

Saving species brings inspiration and joy: Woinarski (2023 Austral Ecology "To the future: An ecology of love, hope, and action" <https://doi.org/10.1111/aec.13443>); Hayward et al. (2022 Frontiers in Ecology & Evolution "Intergenerational inequity: stealing the joy and benefits of nature from our children" <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2022.83083>); Franco et al. (2017 International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health "A review of the benefits of nature experiences: more than meets the eye" <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14080864>)

More than 46,000 species are known to be threatened with extinction: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2024 <https://www.iucnredlist.org>)

With many species still unknown, this number could be as high as 2 million: Hochkirch et al. (2023 PLoS ONE "A multi-taxon analysis of European Red Lists reveals major threats to biodiversity" <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0293083>)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (<https://iucn.org/our-union/commissions/iucn-species-survival-commission-2021-2025>)

We know how to save species and we have proved that conservation works: Langhammer et al. (2024 Science "The positive impact of conservation action" <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adj6598>); Bolam et al. (2021 Conservation Letters "How many bird and mammal extinctions has recent conservation action prevented?" <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12762>); Shaw et al. (2024 Nature "Global meta-analysis shows action is needed to halt genetic diversity loss" in press)

Even as threats continue to emerge and accelerate: Hoffmann et al. (2010 Science "The impact of conservation on the status of the world's vertebrates" <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1194442>); Luedtke et al. (2023 Nature "Ongoing declines for the world's amphibians in the face of emerging threats" <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06578-4>)

National and Sub-National Governments – in your planning, implementation, legislation, and spending across sectors: McCay & Lacher (2021 Conservation Letters "National level use of International Union for Conservation of Nature knowledge products in American National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity" <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.350>); Bolam et al. (2023 Frontiers in Ecology and Environment "Over half of threatened species require targeted recovery actions to avert human-induced extinction" <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2537>)

Intergovernmental Organisations – in your strategies and funding: Williams et al. (2021 Conservation Letters “A robust goal is needed for species in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12778>); Díaz et al. (2021 Science “Set ambitious goals for biodiversity and sustainability” <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abe1530>)

Businesses – in your operations, supply chains, and corporate responsibility plans: Bennun et al. (2018 Conservation Letters “The value of the IUCN Red List for business decision-making” <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12353>)

Donors – in your philanthropy: Veríssimo et al. (2017 Biological Conservation “Increased conservation marketing effort has major fundraising benefits for even the least popular species” <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2017.04.018>)

Civil Society Organisations – in your strategies, actions, and advocacy: Mair et al. (2012 Conservation & Society “Achieving international species conservation targets: closing the gap between top-down and bottom-up approaches” https://doi.org/10.4103/cs.cs_19_137)

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities – in applying your knowledge and custodianship: Garnett et al. (2018 Nature Sustainability “A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous lands for conservation” <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0100-6>)

Education Institutions – in your curricula, research, and engagement: Gerl et al. (2021 International Journal of Science Education “Vertebrate species knowledge: an important skill is threatened by extinction” <https://doi.org/10.1080/09500693.2021.1892232>); Liu (2024 Nature “We must train specialists in botany and zoology — or risk more devastating extinctions” <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-03072-3>)

Religious and Spiritual Groups – in your prayers, worship, practices, and giving: Bhagwat et al. (2011 Conservation Letters “Religious following in biodiversity hotspots: challenges and opportunities for conservation and development” <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00169.x>)

Natural Resource Managers – in your stewardship and management: Holling & Meffe (1996 Conservation Biology “Command and control and the pathology of natural resource management” <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1523-1739.1996.10020328.x>)

Individuals – in your actions and decisions: Veríssimo et al. (2024 Annual Review of Environment and Resources “Changing human behavior to conserve biodiversity” <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-enviro-111522-103028>); Kawahara et al. (2021 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA “Eight simple actions that individuals can take to save insects from global declines” <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2002547117>)