

Animal Protection II

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a neutral body dedicated to conservation and providing a platform for dialogue among communities, indigenous peoples, governments, companies and NGOs so that they can work together to overcome environmental challenges in the pursuit of sustainable development, was founded in 1948 under the auspices of UNESCO, due to the fact that approximately 31,000 species on our planet are threatened with extinction, and that the data collected shows that the highest percentage of those species live in the seas and oceans.

The numbers recently released indicate that 41% of amphibians, 14% of birds, 27% of crustaceans, 25% of mammals and 30% of rays as well as all types of sharks, are at risk of extinction.

There are several major causes for the disappearance or extinction of species and subspecies, but there is a common denominator among all of them: human interference or natural causes normally associated with it! Such causes include deforestation, fires, predatory and illegal hunting and fishing (namely over-consumption of some species), illegal trade (hides, ivory, meat, feathers, etc.), global warming, habitat and ecosystem destruction (loss of habitat due to natural disasters, and depletion of resources essential for life, such as water and food, etc.), pollution of the seas and oceans, among others.

However, not all species are on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.

This Red List complies with very precise criteria to allow the assessment of the risks of extinction for species and subspecies in all regions of the planet, and its implementation was intended to draw the attention of the whole world, especially those who have decision-making capacity, to the urgent need for conservation measures in order to alleviate and / or prevent the extinction of species.

That list only includes three of the seven categories created on an extinction risk scale: the **critically endangered species (CR)**, those facing an extremely high risk of extinction in a short period of time; **endangered species (EN)**, which include those proven to be extinguishing in a short period; and **vulnerable species (VU)**, those at high risk of being threatened, namely by the destruction of their natural habitats and ecosystems.

IUCN figures show that the number of **endangered animals in the world** is growing rapidly every day, due to environmental problems and the impact of mankind's irresponsible actions on nature.

Experts point out that by the middle of this century, around one million species will be extinct on our planet, ending up directly or indirectly affecting ecosystems, human beings and, in subsequently, other species. Animals that lose their natural habitat often end up approaching areas populated by human beings, posing a serious risk to both men and animals, and as a rule, the latter are mostly defenseless and subject to violence and cruelty.