Table 1: Numbers of threatened species by major groups of organisms (1996–2018)

Changes in number of threatened species from year to year should not be interpreted as trends in the status of biodiversity. The figures displayed below reflect increased assessment efforts by IUCN and its Partners over time, rather than genuine changes in numbers of threatened species. For a clearer view of genuine trends in the status of biodiversity please refer to the IUCN Red List Index (see the section Trends in the status of biodiversity on the IUCN Red List site at: http://www.iucnredlist.org/about/summary-relatedtothreatendiversity#tabula).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vertebrates</th>
<th>Numbers of described species</th>
<th>Number of species evaluated in 2018 (% of total evaluated)</th>
<th>Number of species evaluated in 2000 (% of total evaluated)</th>
<th>Number of threatened species in 2018 (% of species evaluated)</th>
<th>Number of threatened species in 2000 (% of species evaluated)</th>
<th>Lower estimate of % threatened species in 2018</th>
<th>Upper estimate of % threatened species in 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>5,677</td>
<td>1,096,123</td>
<td>1,096,123</td>
<td>1,131,463</td>
<td>1,131,463</td>
<td>1,198%</td>
<td>1,198%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>11,122</td>
<td>1,097,041</td>
<td>1,097,041</td>
<td>1,130,302</td>
<td>1,130,302</td>
<td>1,196%</td>
<td>1,196%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>57,711</td>
<td>6,962,333</td>
<td>6,962,333</td>
<td>8,105,817</td>
<td>8,105,817</td>
<td>1,197%</td>
<td>1,197%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibians</td>
<td>7,058</td>
<td>5,952,116</td>
<td>5,952,116</td>
<td>8,105,817</td>
<td>8,105,817</td>
<td>1,197%</td>
<td>1,197%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishes</td>
<td>33,088</td>
<td>4,734,734</td>
<td>4,734,734</td>
<td>5,837,038</td>
<td>5,837,038</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invertebrates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insects</td>
<td>10,711,030</td>
<td>7,668,337</td>
<td>7,668,337</td>
<td>9,036,177</td>
<td>9,036,177</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crustaceans</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>3,198,407</td>
<td>3,198,407</td>
<td>3,929,375</td>
<td>3,929,375</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corals</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphipods</td>
<td>102,249</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molluscs</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worms</td>
<td>56,093</td>
<td>5,290</td>
<td>5,290</td>
<td>5,290</td>
<td>5,290</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>12,053,250</td>
<td>21,608</td>
<td>21,608</td>
<td>24,995</td>
<td>24,995</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
<td>1,236%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES (for rows and columns as indicated by the superscripted numbers):
1. The sources used for the number of described species in each taxonomic group are listed below:
2. Threatened species are those listed as Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) or Vulnerable (VU).
3. Within <40% of species with available data have been evaluated for the reasons given below, it is generally not possible to provide reliable figures for % threatened species for those groups that are completely or almost completely evaluated (e.g., mammals, birds and amphibians and gymnureans).
4. The percentage of threatened species can be calculated for those groups that are completely or almost completely evaluated (i.e., >40% of species evaluated), but the actual number of threatened species is often uncertain because it is not known whether Data Deficient (DD) species are actually threatened or not. Therefore, a range of percentages is provided: lower estimate = % threatened extant species (if DD species are not threatened); upper estimate = % threatened extant species (if DD species are equally threatened as data sufficient species).
5. The number of described and evaluated mammals excludes domesticated species like sheep (Ovis aries), goats (Capra hircus), domestic chickens (Gallus gallus domesticus), etc.
6. Crustaceans include six classes: Malacostraca (crabs, lobsters, shrimp, crayfish), Branchiopoda (brine shrimp), Ostracoda (ostracods), Euphausiacea (krill), Cirripedia (barnacles), and Ctenophora (comb jellies).
7. The plant groups DO NOT include species from the 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants (Waller and Gibbons 1996) as these were all assessed using the pre-1994 IUCN system of threat categorization. Hence the numbers of threatened species are much lower when compared to the 1997 results. The results from this Red List and the 1997 Plants Red List should be considered together when reporting on threatened plants.
8. Icons include the iron-macaw (Ursua diogo), the hammerwood (Hammerwoodia), and the rainforest (Rainforestia).
9. The ferns and allies include club mosses and spike mosses (Lycopodiopsida), horsetails (Equisetopsida) ferns (Filicales), Polypodiopsida and Polypodiaceae (fern allies).

Sources for Numbers of Described Species:

**Vertebrates**

- Mammals: mainly from Wilson, O.D. and Reeder, D.M. (eds) (2005), Mammal Species of the World, 3rd Edition, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore (available at: http://www.jhu.edu/museum/science/zygomorpha/index.html). But there are some deviations, especially in cases where there are alternative taxonomic treatments; in such cases the Global Mammal Assessment coordinating team was working with the relevant IUCN SSC Specialist Group on advice or treatment. A number of differences and deviations are also based on new revisions and confirmations that have been published since the accounts in Wilson and Reeder (2005) were published. There are a number of weekly described species which are currently under review and these are not included in the numbers cited here.


**Plants**


- Seaweeds: are included in the green algae (Chlorophyta, Charophyta), red algae (Rhodophyta), and brown algae (Ochrophyta or Heterokontophyta).


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Arachnids (spiders, scorpions, etc) – Estimates of the number of described arachnids vary from 60,000 to 102,248, the latter is considered to be an overestimate. (For further details see discussion in Chapman, A.D. 2009. Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World, 2nd edition. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. Available at: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/publications/other/species-numbers/2009-04-02-group-invertebrates.html#arachnida. Accessed 17 June 2012.)


Corals – Corals fall under the Phylum Coelenterata and are primarily in the Class Anthozoa, although there are some in the Class Hydrozoa. The number of described species reported here are for species typically regarded as ‘corals’ and are largely based on Spalding et al. (2001) (Alcyonarian corals) and Cairns (1999) (Scleractinian corals). The remainder of the corals, anemones, jellyfish, etc., are treated under ‘Others’.

Invertebrates

Horseshoe Crabs – Horseshoe crabs are placed on the Red List under the traditional class “Merostomata” which excludes the fossil sea scorpions; only four species are extant today (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merostomata for further details).

Others – This is a miscellaneous group of invertebrate species that have been assessed for the IUCN Red List. The total number of described species is based on the estimated total for the following groups from which the assessed species come: Araneae - segmented worms (16,762), Crustacea - arthropods, jellyfish, etc., but excluding the corals which are treated separately (7,620), Echinodermata - sea stars (7,053 species), Mollusca - cephalopods and molluscs (16,072), Nemertea - ribbon worms (1,200), and Palaeonematoda - flatworms (30,000). (For further details on the numbers in these groups see Chapman, A.D. 2009. Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World, 2nd edition. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. Available at: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/publications/other/species-numbers/2009-04-02-group-invertebrates.html. Accessed 17 June 2012.)

Plants


Fungi & Protists

