

## How Animals are placed on the Endangered Species List

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There are species all over the world that are in danger of extinction. The animals that are the most endangered are listed on the endangered species list. The organizations behind the lists work very hard to conserve the animals and eliminate their chance of extinction. Because of the endangered species list, many species have been saved. There are a few different lists for endangered species, including the US Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species list. Another organization, NatureServe, addresses plant species and ecosystems that are endangered. To become a part of these lists, a species must first meet regulations and criteria. In addition, the organization gives them a code to signify the level of endangerment. There are several different ways animals can be placed on the lists and become officially endangered.

On the [US Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species List](#), there are two ways a species can become part of the list. One way is through a petition process. When an individual submits a petition, they must be very knowledgeable about the endangerment of the species and prove this in the petition. The petition writer must express why the animal should be listed using scientific proof. After the petition is received, FWS will review it and if the claims are valid, it goes through another review process where more information is gathered on the species. After this stage, the organization makes one of three decisions. They may decide that there is not enough proof for the species to be endangered, there is some proof and it will be reevaluated in a year, or there is currently enough proof to list the species. If this is the case, they propose that the animal be listed as endangered. More specialists become involved at this point to further evaluate the species. Finally a decision is made to either reject the petition or officially list the species. The petition process is one that can take years to complete.

In the Candidate Conservation Process, the organization researches species that may be endangered. They evaluate different criteria such as threats to their habitat, disease, human involvement, and lack of protection. They include information they have gathered from reputable sources and submit a document. The Service Director then makes a decision about the placement of the species.

On this list there are also codes to show how endangered a species is. There are 17 different code categories on this list. The most popular codes are Endangered (E) and Threatened (T). Other codes include Proposed Endangered (PE), for species that have been proposed for the list, SAE, when a species is in danger because it has a similar appearance of an endangered species, and Under Review (UR) for species that the organization is currently evaluating.

Animals are not the only species that are endangered. Many types of plants, flowers and other living species are also included on these lists. IUCN and FWS list plant species, but another organization that is dedicated to ecological systems and plant life is [NatureServe](#). To evaluate the species the organization looks at three categories including rarity of the species, trends of the population and threats to the population. This organization works to secure the survival of living species and gives them a ranking based on how critical the situation is. They rank species from 1, which is critically imperiled, to 5, which is secure. The code X means that the species is thought to be extinct, or extirpated in the case of plant life, and H means that it is possible that they are extinct or extirpated. There are also letters assigned. G, for global, N, for national and S, for sub-national.

Conserving endangered species is an important issue that must be recognized. These are a few organizations that are dedicated to protecting animals. Determining what species are added to the lists can sometimes be a long and difficult process, but it has to be done in order to protect the environment. With the help of these organizations animals, plants, and ecological systems have a far better chance of survival.

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