



animals



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The World's Lagomorphs: Close to 100 to Explore

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Message from the Guest Editors

Rabbits, hares, and pikas, the latter being the least well known of the group, make up the order Lagomorpha. The health, condition, and role within their respective ecosystems vary between countries and even between different regions of the same country. The European rabbit, for example, is considered a plague in some areas, whilst simultaneously being at risk of extinction in others.

The social, economic, but above all, ecological importance of hares, rabbits, and pikas make these species very interesting to conservationists as well as animal health and scientific communities. However, they are threatened by a multitude of viral, parasitic, and bacterial diseases that are impacting their conservation statuses. The most notable example of this is the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), which has been affected by several infectious diseases, particularly those of viral aetiology such as rabbit haemorrhagic disease and myxomatosis, consequently being listed as Endangered by the IUCN in 2019.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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