

Special Issue

The Extinction Crisis: How Bad, What Can Be Done?

Message from the Guest Editors

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services estimates that 1 million species face imminent extinction. For example, over 40% of amphibians are now considered to be under the threat of extinction. This is largely due to human activities, such as habitat destruction, climate change, over harvesting, and the spread of invasives. In this issue, we will explore the prominent triggers of forest ecosystem and species collapse, including how risk is measured.

We will also focus on how these assessments can inform strategies to avoid extinction through improving conservation, policies, and awareness. The topics may include, but are not limited to, the following: Red-listed ecosystems and species;

Drivers of population loss—climate, habitat loss, competition, and resource scarcity;

Extinction hot spots—tropics, islands, and old forests;

Measuring extinction—latest methods for estimating loss;

Conservation planning to avoid extinction—broad scale and local exemplary approaches;

Last of the wild—what it means to be gone;

Specific species—spotted owls, apex predators, and old growth associates.

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