## Subject area II Species extinction - overview

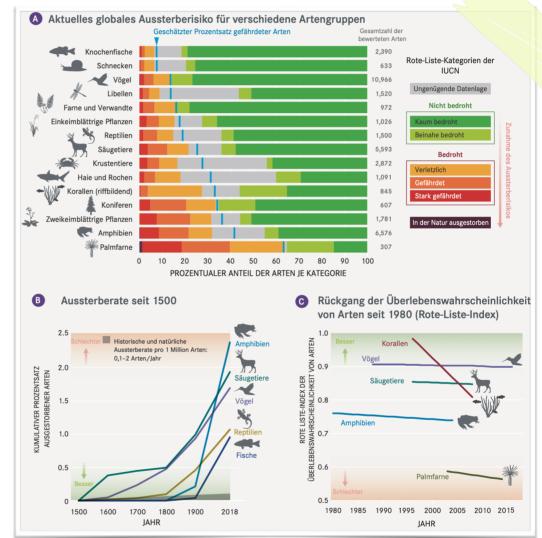


Check out the <u>video by Gregor</u> <u>Hagedorn</u> as an introduction.



Consider Figure 1 and **summarize** the current endangerment status of animal and plant species .

Also include the information from the video. Name particularly serious cases. You may choose a language for the summary (German, English, or even another language). Info about the red list can be found under T 1



# Name the species groups that are particularly endangered

Info text

plants.

and tulips.

**Dicotyledonous plants** 

include most flowering

are grasses, but also

orchids and bulbous plants such as leeks, lilies

Monocotyledonous plants

Fig. 1 (IPBES 2019: 8)



Author: Brigitte Suchanek, 2021

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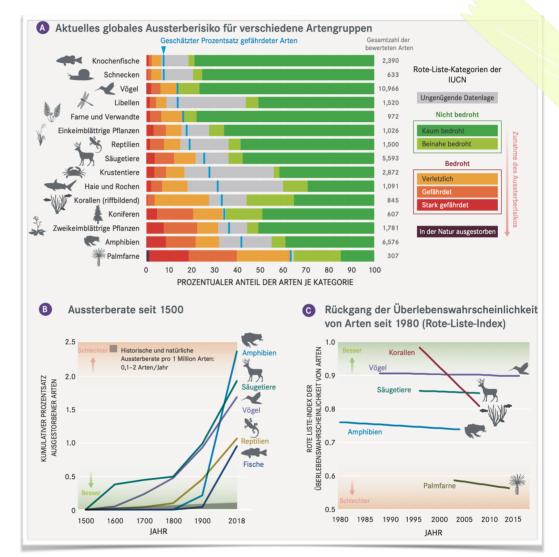


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Monocotyledonous plants

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Palm ferns, amphibians, dicotyledonous plants, coral, steep increase but also in all classes of animals (mammals, birds, reptiles and fish).



# Figure 2 shows the regional dimension of species loss in Europe and Central Asia.

List particularly problematic areas, either in German or in English, and address the situation in Western Europe in particular.

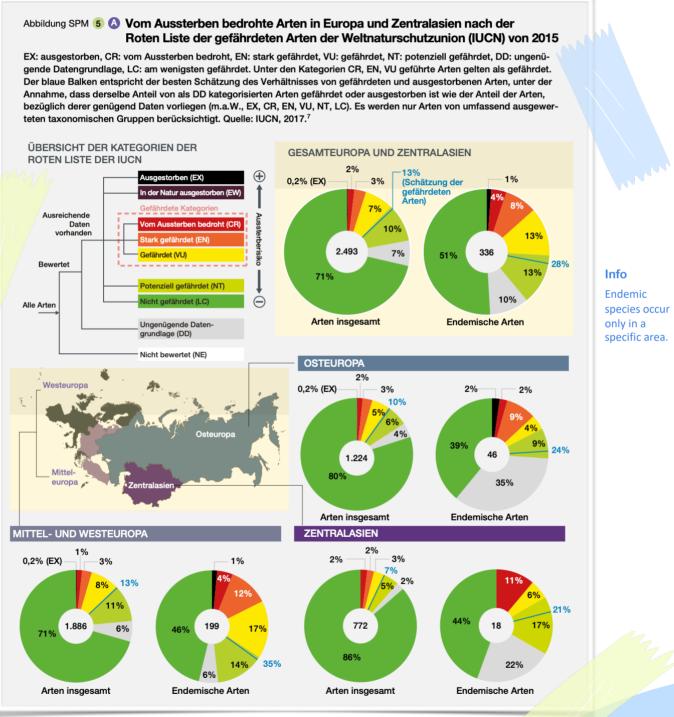


Fig 2. (IPBES 2018a: 22).



Tasks

## Subject area II Task 3 - Optional

# Figure 2 shows the regional dimension of species loss in Europe and Central Asia.

List particularly problematic areas, either in German or in English, and address the situation in Western Europe in particular.

Overall, endemic species are particularly endangered. This applies to the whole of Europe and Central Asia; in Central and Western Europe the situation is even more dramatic (approx. 48% at least potentially endangered).

**Solution** 

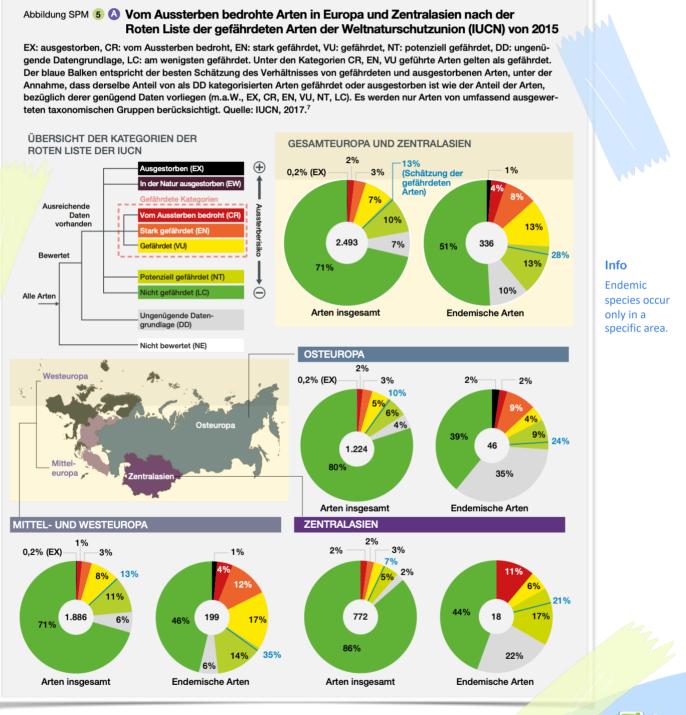


Fig 2. (IPBES 2018a: 22).

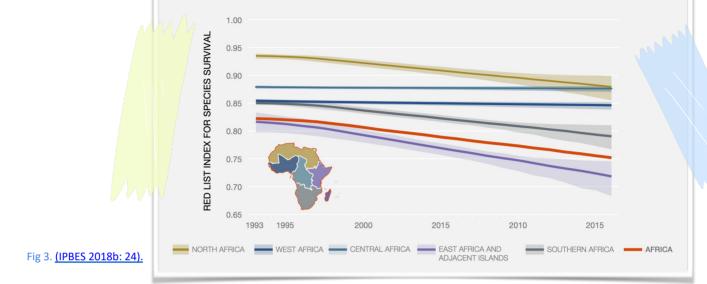


## Tasks

Fig. 3 shows the current development of species threats in the different parts of the world; the text M 1 deals with the special situation in tropical regions.

#### Figure SPM 6 Red List Indices of species survival for five taxonomic groups (mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads) in Africa, weighted by the fraction of each species' distribution occurring within each subregion.

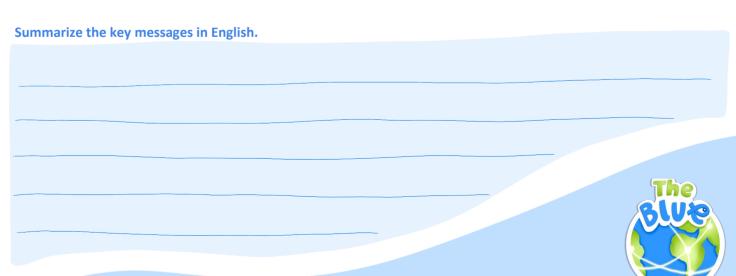
The figure below shows trends in threatened species for five taxonomic groups (mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads) in each African subregion. The Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) stresses that the figures for these groups should be interpreted as the number of species known to be threatened within those taxa that have been assessed to date, and not as the overall total number of threatened species for each group. Overall, the pattern revealed by the assessment indicates that the status of the five taxonomic groups analysed deteriorated steadily between 1993 and 2016 except in Central Africa. Source: Brooks *et al.* (2016)<sup>7</sup>; IUCN (2017)<sup>8</sup>.



#### M 1 Hotspots of species extinction: Africa and Latin America

Particularly endangered animals, according to the report, are the eastern lowland gorilla in the Congo, leatherback turtles in Costa Rica and sturgeons in the Yangtze River - the latter have declined by 97 percent since 1970. Latin America as a whole is in an "outstandingly bad" position, said study author Christoph Heinrich of WWF. In Europe, the decline of the animal species studied is 25 percent, according to the report. The strongest interventions in the landscape occurred here before 1970 and thus before the beginning of the study period, Heinrich explained the comparatively good value with. As the report states, most places without a human footprint are in just a few countries: Russia, Canada, Brazil and Australia. (....) Nature destruction and overexploitation are happening at unprecedented rates, according to the report. "We are losing the diversity of life on Earth," said Christoph Heinrich. In light of the numbers, WWF is calling for systemic change in agricultural policies, the food system and global supply chains. In addition, one-third of the Earth must be placed under protection by 2030, he said.

#### (Dorhöfer 2019)

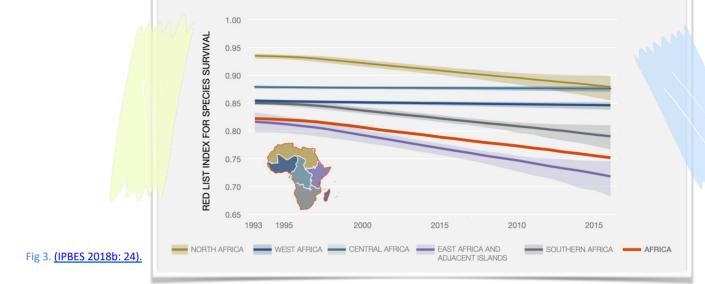


# Solution

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#### (Dorhöfer 2019)

#### Summarize the key messages in English.

Only in South and Central Africa is the situation stable at a (low level); in all other regions of Africa, the threat is rising sharply. In East Africa, for example, the survival probability for many species is only 75%. Eastern lowland gorillas in Congo, leatherback turtles in Costa Rica, and sturgeons in the Yangtze River are outstanding negative examples. In Europe, the species decline had started earlier, so the negative trend since 1970 is not as strong. Only a few regions are free from human intervention (M 1).



### Species extinction in general:

Dörhöfer, P. (2019). The extinction of species is happening faster than expected. Frankfurter Rundschau. https://www.fr.de/wissen/artensterben-geht-faster-thought-12908450.html (25.11.2021).

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (2018a). *Regional Assessment. Biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia*. IPEBS Secretariat: Bonn. <u>https://www.de-ipbes.de/files/IPBES\_Broschuere\_ECA\_2019.pdf</u> (24.08.2021).

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (2018b). *The regional assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa*. IPBES secretariat: Bonn. https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/spm\_africa\_2018\_digital.pdf (24.08.2021).

### Video:

Scientists for Future (2021). Dr. Gregor Hagedorn - Biodiversity II - Species Extinction (S4F Spotlight). Scientists for Future. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICz7KHbupGA&t=7s (24.08.2021).

### **Other materials:**

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (oJ) *Biological diversity in the classroom - materials for primary school and secondary school*. BfN. <u>https://biologischediversity.bfn.de/infothek/anleitungsmaterial.html</u> (07.09.2021).

Jessel, Prof. Dr. B. (2011). Value and valorization of biological diversity. Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. https://www.hss.de/fileadmin/media/downloads/Berichte/110407 PP Jessel.pdf (07.09.2021).