

IUCN Red Data List Categories - Davis et.al.(1986)

As used by Hilton-Taylor (1996)

THE CATEGORIES

Ex Extinct

Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their type localities and other known or likely places. This category is used for a taxon which no longer occurs in the wild but survives in at least some form in cultivation or in a seed bank, but is probably so genetically impoverished or altered as to make it impossible to return it to a natural habitat. A plant may be listed as Extinct in one country while surviving in another (e.g. *Protea gaguedi*). It is important to note that extinction can never be regarded as more than a probability, and rediscoveries are occasionally made, hence this category is sometimes referred to in the literature as "Presumed Extinct".

E Endangered

Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Included here are taxa whose numbers of individuals have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so drastically reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction.

V Vulnerable

Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the factors causing decline continue operating. Included here are taxa of which most or all of the populations are decreasing because of over-exploitation, extensive destruction of habitat or other environmental disturbance; taxa with populations that have been seriously depleted and those whose ultimate security is not yet assured; and taxa with populations that are still abundant but are under threat from serious adverse factors throughout their range.

R Rare

Taxa with small world populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk as some unexpected threat could easily cause a critical decline. These taxa are usually localised within restricted geographical areas or habitats or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range. This category was termed Critically Rare by Hall and Veldhuis (1985) to distinguish it from the more generally used word "rare".

I Indeterminate

Taxa known to be Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare, but for which information is insufficient to decide which of the four categories is appropriate.

K Insufficiently known

Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of the lack of information. (Note, most of South African literature has used the term "Uncertain (U)" for this category).

nt Not Threatened

This is used for taxa which are no longer in one of the above categories due to an increase in population sizes or to subsequent discovery of more individuals or populations.

This category system did not make use of specific criteria for each category and was based on qualitative data provided by the experts.

References

Davis, S.D., Droop, S.J.M., Gregerson, P., Henson, L., Leon, C.J., Vila-Lobos, J.L., Syngé, H. & Zantovska, J. (1986). Plants in danger: what do we know? IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Hilton-Taylor C. 1996. Red Data List of southern African plants. National Botanical Institute, Pretoria: Strelitzia 4.

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