

A STUDY ON ANIMAL SPECIES LISTED BY IUCN

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Abstract: *Among the bird species that can be met in the area we have studied are the eastern imperial eagle – whose number is decreasing – and the saker falcon, together with other bird species (the great argus and the ferruginous duck) and two mammal species considered almost threatened. Other populations as well – the common ground dove, the rock partridge and the pintail – are decreasing though the area is favourable for the populations' development. Other mammal species are increasing in numbers due to the decrease of poaching and hunting (the European roe deer, the European hare, and the wild boar). Invasive species such as the jackal are present in the area.*

Key words: *animals, birds, threatened species, IUCN*

INTRODUCTION

It is widely known that, all over the world, protected areas are among the most effective ways of conserving biodiversity. Thus, during the 20th century, they have invested important resources to establish protected area all over the world. These efforts have resulted, in most countries, in the establishment, or at least in the designing, of a national system of protected areas [3,5,9].

At present, there are, in the world, over 1,388 protected areas, each of which is declared as such by national laws.

There are, thus, protected areas with different names, but with the same goal – the nature reserve of Ontario (Canada), the marine nature reserve of Indonesia, the national nature reserve of the Czech Republic, the strict nature reserve of Bhutan, the strict nature reserve of Sri Lanka, the nature management reserve of the Bahamas, the area for nature conservation of Japan – all of which represent the same thing: a Strictly Protected Reserve 1st category according to the IUCN [1,2,10].

The same label of protected area can involve very different management goals and features in different countries. The classical example is that of the much-used name National Park, came in use with the establishment of the Yellowstone National Park (USA) in 1872. Thus, while in many parts of the world (America, Africa, South and South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand) national parks era large natural areas, in Europe national parks are but protected areas where human interference is more than obvious, such as all the 11 national parks of England and Wales, most national parks of Germany, and the Cevennes National Park of France [4,6].

Eliminating these terminological differences can be done only by using the IUCN classification system, which is based on the main principle of management of protected areas. Thus, they use six categories for protected areas that involve human intervention, which vary from almost no human intervention (categories Strict Nature Reserve and Wilderness Area) to higher human intervention (Protected Landscape/Seascape). The last category (Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources) was added later on: from the point of view of human intervention, is would range between Natural Monument/Feature and Habitat/Species Management Area. However, all these categories are equally important and relevant for the conservation of biodiversity [8,11].

Collecting data concerning the protected areas worldwide was initiated by IUCN through the Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) as a response to two resolutions of the United Nations that acknowledge the importance of protected areas and that lead to the first list of protected areas (*World List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves*, 1961-1962). In 1981, the CNPPA established the *Protected Areas Data Unit*, part of the *World Conservation Monitoring Centre* that has a database containing the protected areas all over the world.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To collect data on hunting funds, we have inventoried the bird and mammal species covered by the IUCN lists; the goal was to protect these species that are “Least Concern” or “Near Threatened” because of poaching or of uncontrolled hunting and, finally, to conserve the biodiversity of the hunting funds.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, version 3.1, Categories and criteria 2001, contains the list of threatened animal species for which there are no data or for which the existing data are not accurate (Figure 1).

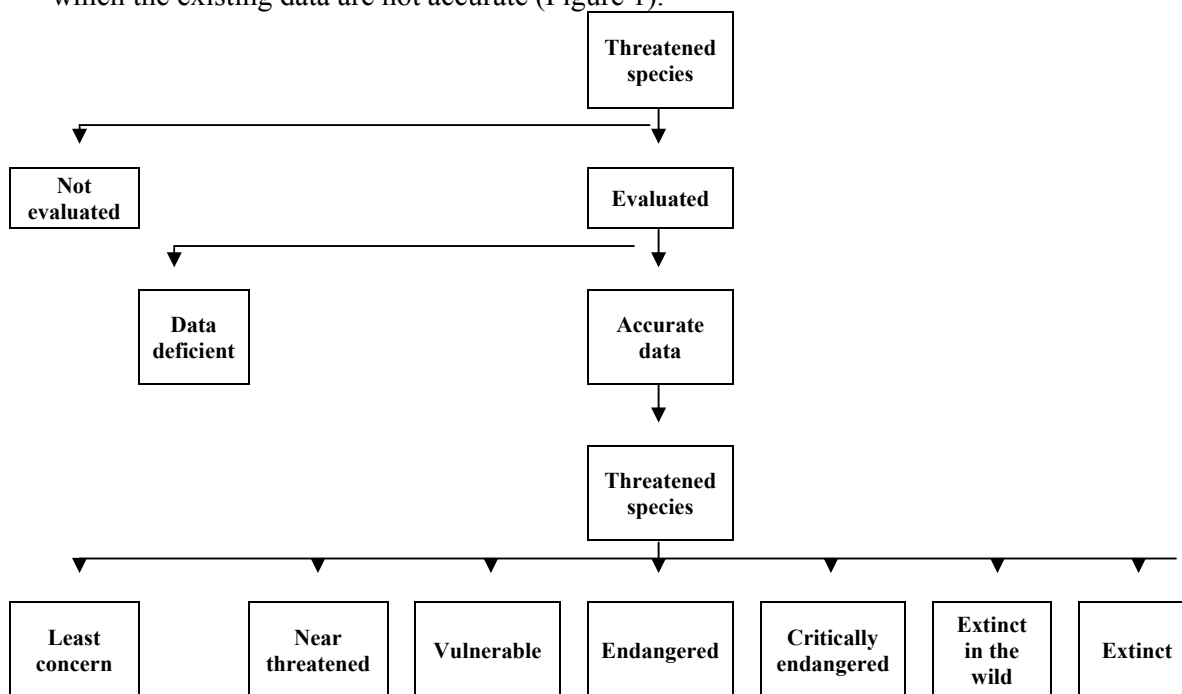


Figure 1. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, version 3.1

Happily, for the protected area of interest in this paper, there are no extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered or endangered species here.

We present, below, these species, together with their photos and areas of distribution.

There are two animal species considered vulnerable:

- the **eastern imperial eagle** (*Aquila heliaca*), whose *population is decreasing*;
- the **saker falcon** (*Falco cherrug*).

Other five animal species – of which **three are bird species** and **two are mammal species** – are considered **near threatened**:

- the **great argus** (*Argusianus argus*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **ferruginous duck** (*Aythya nyroca*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **Mediterranean horseshoe bat** (*Rhinolophus euryale*), with a **decreasing population**.

As far as other 42 animal species are concerned – of which four are reptiles, 22 are birds, and 16 are mammals – they range in the “Least Concern” category:

- the **Caspian whip snake** (*Coluber caspius*), with a **stable population**;
- the **eastern spade foot** (*Pelobates syriacus*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **European green lizard** (*Lacerta viridis*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **Erhard’s wall lizard** (*Podarcis erhardii* spp. *gaigea*, *Podarcis taurica*, *Podarcis tauricus*), with an **unstable population**;
- the **lesser spotted eagle** (*Aquila pomarina*), on whose population we know nothing for sure;
- the **Eurasian bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*);
- the **common raven** (*Corvus corax*);
- the **pygmy cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*);
- the **great cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*);
- the **little owl** (*Athene noctua*);
- the **great egret** (*Ardea alba*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Egretta alba*);
- the **little egret** (*Egretta garzetta*);
- the **black kite** (*Milvus migrans*);
- the **Eurasian jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*);
- the **red-rumped swallow** (*Cecropis daurica*, *Hirundo daurica*);
- the **sand martin** (*Hirundo riparia*, *Riparia diluta*, *Riparia riparia*);
- the **Eurasian spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*);
- the **stone curlew** (*Burhinus oedicephalus*);
- the **rock dove** (*Columba livia*);
- the **rock partridge** (*Alectoris graeca*);
- the **common quail** (*Coturnix coturnix*);
- the **pintail** (*Anas acuta*);
- the **Eurasian blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*);
- the **common ground dove** (*Columbina passerina*);
- the **osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*);
- the **European roe deer** (*Capreolus capreolus*), with an **increasing population**;
- the **European polecat** (*Mustela putorius*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **European hare** (*Lepus europaeus*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **gray wolf** (*Canis lupus*), with a **stable population**;
- the **wild boar** (*Sus scrofa*), on whose population we know nothing for sure;
- the **wildcat** (*Felis silvestris*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **European ground squirrel** (*Spermophilus citellus*);
- the **Eurasian lynx** (*Lynx lynx*), with a **stable population**;
- the **Southern birch mouse** (*Sicista subtilis*), with a **decreasing population**;
- the **European badger** (*Meles meles*) with a **stable population**;
- the **red fox** (*Vulpes vulpes*) with a **stable population**.

The status of the threatened species per categories and classes is presented in Figure 1: vulnerable, near threatened, little concern, reptiles, birds, mammals

CONCLUSIONS

We can see that among vulnerable animal species there are only birds; in the category of near threatened, there are also mammals beside birds; and in the last category of least concern animal species there are, besides birds and mammals, some reptile species.

In the least concern animal species category, the highest percentage is represented by the birds (over 20%), followed by some mammal species (16%), and by some reptile species (4%).

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