

EDGE of Existence Case Study

Introduction

The EDGE of Existence programme is a global conservation initiative that uses a scientific framework to select species for conservation prioritisation. A species must be **e**volutionary **d**istinct and **g**lobally **e**ndangered to be selected for prioritisation. The programme is used to inform relevant stakeholders (such as politicians) of conservation priorities – it does not make decisions regarding interventions.


Aim

To investigate the characteristics and conservation status of a selected EDGE species

Method

1. Go to the Zoological Society of London website: <https://www.edgeofexistence.org/species/>
2. Choose a species category (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, mammals, gymnosperms, birds, etc.)
3. Select a particular species and conduct associated research to answer the discussion questions

Results

Species name (common and scientific)	
Taxonomy (Order and Family)	
Current Population and Distribution	
IUCN Red List Status (circle relevant status)	

Discussion

1. Describe the habitat, diet and niche of the selected species

2. Outline the characteristics of the species that make it evolutionarily distinct

3. Identify the main threats to the survival of the species

4. Describe the conservation strategies that are being employed to restore population numbers

5. Suggest potential ecological or cultural impacts of the EDGE species going extinct