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# Internet Reviews: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

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**IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.** Access: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>.

Now celebrating its 50th year, and with a current count of over 71,000 species, this wide-ranging information service from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed and updated the status of threatened species for decades on a global scale “in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction, and therefore promote their conservation.”

Users may search or browse by a wide range of categories, from species of “Least Concern” to “Extinct in the Wild” and “Extinct,” and also may limit by a broad range of criteria that include taxonomy, location, habitats, threats, life history, and more. Individual records contain extensive taxonomy, assessment, and threats information, as well as descriptions of geographic range, range maps, and habitat and ecology data.

The easy-to-use search features allow one to winnow data by numerous criteria, with each simple step consisting of expanding and drilling down through a list of sub-categories. One can quickly and easily search by common name, e.g., polar bear. Users may also narrow by location to a specific land region or FAO marine area such as native U.S. terrestrial species.

Narrowing next by taxonomy, one can easily browse through further selections—from animalia to chordata to mammalia and on down to the species level to retrieve the record for *Ursus maritimus*, the polar bear.

The individual item record for the species contains a wealth of credible data in an easy-to-read format. The initial summary screen for the species will include lengthy discus-

sions of assessment data, geographic range, habitat and ecology, threats, and conservation actions. “Images & External Links” directs the user to external databases such as The Encyclopedia of Life, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, and the Catalogue of Life for further study. Finally, bibliographies accompanying each entry contain credible citations sometimes totaling in the dozens for further review.

The News section contains hundreds of articles dating back to 2008, any of which might provide students an excellent introduction to topics for further research. The related links at the conclusion of individual news articles lead to an array of materials of interest, from descriptions of conferences in the topical areas to excellent photo galleries, case studies, specialized databases of relevance, conservation plans and organizations, and global nongovernmental organizations. Numerous summary statistical tables are available, including those of category changes, endemic species by country, summaries by country, and more.

With the goal of increasing the species covered from 71,000 to 160,000 by 2020, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species will provide students and faculty alike with a wealth of critical data on endangered and threatened species worldwide.—*John Creech, Central Washington University, John.Creech@cwu.edu*

**The Museum of Jewish Heritage.** Access: <http://www.mjhnyc.org/>.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, located in New York was opened in 1997. The museum views its role as educating all ages, races, and creeds about Jewish life “before, during and after the Holocaust.”

“Exhibitions & Collections” contains information on current and upcoming exhibits. These exhibits portray a variety of issues, including Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage,

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