

TRANSLATE THE HIGHLIGHTED WORDS INTO RUSSIAN

Endangered species are those that face a high risk of extinction in the near future. This status can apply to various forms of life, including animals, plants, and even fungi (грибы). The classification of a species as endangered is crucial for conservation efforts, as it helps prioritise which species require immediate protection.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorises species based on their risk of extinction. **Critically endangered** species have a very high risk of extinction. Criteria include having fewer than 250 mature individuals or a population decline of over 70% in the last ten years. Examples include the black rhino and the orangutan. **Endangered** species include species that are at serious risk of extinction. They may have a 20% chance of becoming extinct in the next 20 years or fewer than 2,500 mature individuals. Notable examples are tigers and red pandas. **Vulnerable** species face a high risk but are not yet endangered. They may have declining populations or fewer than 10,000 mature individuals. Cheetahs and polar bears fall into this category. **Near threatened** species do not currently qualify as endangered but are close to meeting the criteria for that status. Examples include jaguars and European bison. Species classified as **least concern** have stable populations and are not currently at risk. Examples include brown bears and common dolphins.

There are many factors that contribute to the endangerment of species (угроза исчезновения вида). Urban development, agriculture, and deforestation can destroy natural habitats. Waste in water, air, and soil can harm wildlife and their ecosystems. Changes in climate can alter habitats and food sources, making survival difficult. Non-native species can outcompete local wildlife for resources. The extinction of a single species can have cascading effects on its ecosystem. This phenomenon, known as a **trophic cascade**, occurs when the removal of one

species disrupts the balance within a food web. For example, the near extinction of wolves in Yellowstone National Park led to an overpopulation of elk, which in turn caused significant vegetation loss and affected other animal species dependent on that vegetation.

The decline in biodiversity can also have economic consequences. Healthy ecosystems support industries such as agriculture, fishing, and tourism. The loss of biodiversity may lead to reduced yields in these sectors and increase costs associated with environmental restoration and conservation efforts. Biodiversity is essential for maintaining ecosystem services such as pollination, water purification, and climate regulation. The decline of certain species can threaten these services. For instance, many crops depend on specific pollinators; without them, food production could suffer dramatically.

Protecting endangered species is vital for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. Each species plays a role in its ecosystem, contributing to processes like breeding and maintaining food webs. Conservation efforts often involve habitat protection and breeding programs to increase population numbers. Understanding the status of endangered species helps us recognize the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect these vulnerable populations from extinction.