



Soil biodiversity and the IUCN Red List



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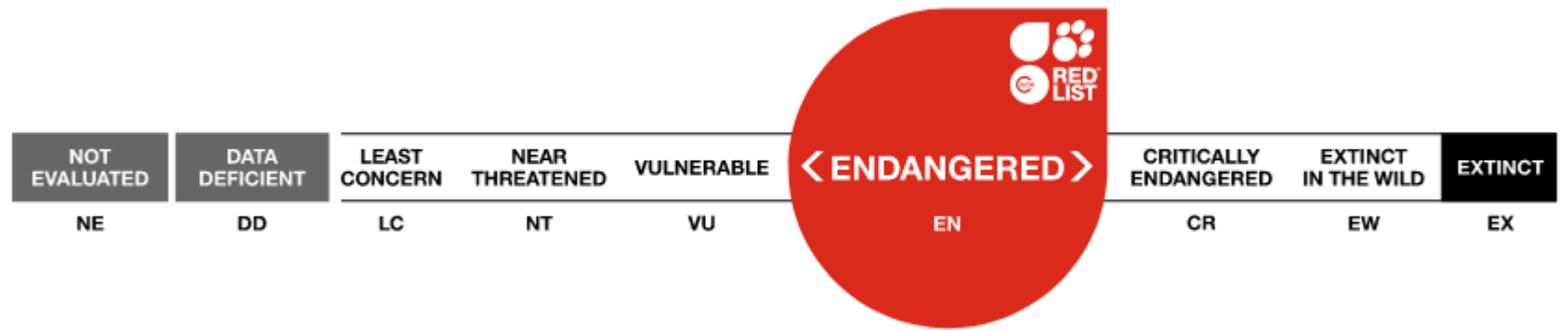


What is the IUCN Red List

www.iucnredlist.org

- **World's most comprehensive information source** on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species
- The IUCN Red List is a **critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity**
- **A powerful tool** to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation and policy change
- IUCN staff, partner organisations and a **large expert network** in the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and partner networks compile the species information and produce assessments

How is it used



- **Assess and re-asses**: conclusions on species declines but also of improvements due to conservation actions
- A thoroughly tested methodology that **assesses extinction risk and conservation status** of species
- **Can be applied to any macro-organism**, including soil macrofauna
- **Not meant to be an exhaustive** – focuses on **ecologically important species** to be able to draw conclusions on the risk extinction of taxonomic groups and biodiversity in general.

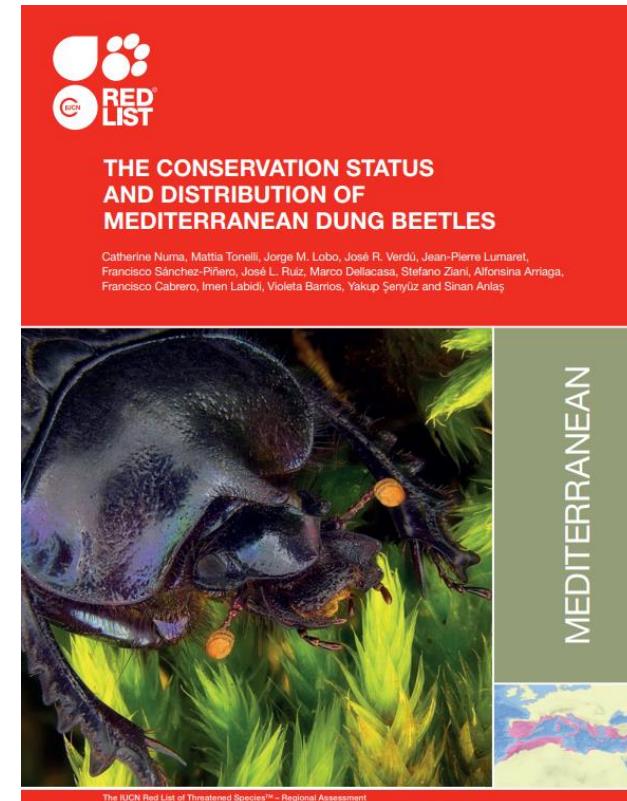
Soil biodiversity and the Red List

- Currently, there are **more than 138,300 species** on the IUCN Red List, with more than 38,500 species threatened with extinction, including 41% of amphibians, 37% of sharks and rays, 34% of conifers, 33% of reef building corals, 26% of mammals and 14% of birds.
- **Soil biodiversity** not often in the minds of people who refer to 'biodiversity.'

For example – There are 23,000 species of earthworms

- 224 have been assessed - 28 have been categorised as threatened

- **More species need to be assessed** (earthworms, dung beetles, mites, millipedes, ants...) - there is a lot more to be done.



Outlook (1)

- The IUCN SSC has **ambitions to complete Red Lists** on woodlice, dung beetles, ants, mites etc.
- **Support is needed** for this work:
 - Expressed demand from policy makers and practitioners
 - Resource mobilisation
 - Partnerships to deliver projects addressing data gaps and then conservation plans

Outlook (2)

- Vital knowledge - **state of play and progress** towards Europe's 2030 Biodiversity targets
- Will also contribute to forest health, agri-systems and many more sectors that are impacted by ecosystem services offered by healthy soils
- Apart from Red List - **IUCN's agrobiodiversity monitoring tool**
 - Review established indicators of agrobiodiversity to identify gaps and the added value of an agrobiodiversity monitoring tool
 - Clarify the nature of the challenge – trade off between global indicators and local context



Thank you for your attention

Get in touch

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