

News » Climate change deepens threat to Pacific island wildlife

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/climate-change-deepens-threat-to-pacific-island-wildlife/articleshow/59589727.cms

Climate change deepens threat to Pacific island wildlife

AFP | Jul 14, 2017, 10:32 AM IST

✉️ 🖨️ A- A+



A Madagascar day gecko sits on a perch in the Masoal rainforest hall at the zoo in Zurich. (Reuters file photo)

PARIS: Land mammals and reptiles in the Pacific islands facing extinction due to habitat loss, hunting and other threats could be decimated by [climate change](#) [↗](#), a study published Thursday said.

Ocean-bound wildlife is particularly vulnerable to environmental pressures, especially endemic species living on only one or a handful of islands. Among other things,

this remoteness makes migrating to another land mass nearly impossible.

Dozens of species -- especially birds -- have also been wiped out over the last century by invasive species and disease brought by human settlers.

For most Pacific island vertebrates -- animals with a backbone -- the current risk of extinction has been measured and catalogued in the Red List of threatened species, maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature ([IUCN](#) [↗](#)).

Scientists, however, had not systematically looked at the added threat posed of rising seas and megastorms brought on by global warming.

Impacts due to an increase in temperature of only one degree Celsius (1.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid-19th century have already begun to wreak havoc in dozens of small island nations.

Lalit Kumar and Mahyat Shafapour Tehrany of the [University of New England](#) [↗](#) in Armidale, Australia, matched the Red List conservation status of 150 mammals and reptiles against two scenarios for future climate change that assume either weak or moderate efforts in curtailing greenhouse gas emissions.

One would result in global warming of about 4 C (7.2 F) by century's end, and the other roughly 3 C (5.4 F).

The question they asked for each species was simple: to what extent will a hotter world increase the danger of extinction?

"Projected increases in sea level rise and ... wave heights, together with more intense tropical cyclones, are likely to exacerbate these vulnerabilities and result in significant habitat destruction," the researchers concluded.

Eighteen animals -- including [Bulmer](#) [↗](#)'s fruit bat, half-a-dozen species of gecko, and several lizards -- faced a triple threat.

Not only are they already listed as "[critically endangered](#) [↗](#)", the last step before the category "extinct in the wild", they are also unique to this part of the world and exist on a single island, though mostly larger ones.

"These species are only found in this region, and so deserve extra attention since a loss of any of these species will mean global extinction," the authors warned.

Latest Comment

Fake news!

John Cameron

SEE ALL COMMENTS

ADD COMMENT

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, could help conservationists and policy makers outline strategies for preventing the disappearance of these creatures from the face of the [Earth](#) [↗](#), they added.

The 196-nation [Paris Agreement](#) [↗](#) has set a goal of holding global warming to "well below" 2 C, a goal that many scientists say may be out of reach.

LATEST NEWS

READ MORE

12:12 PM (IST)

India continues to remain committed to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament, MEA says on treaty to ban nuclear weapons: ANI

12:05 PM (IST)

VIEW MORE LATEST NEWS

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

FOLLOW US @TIMESOFINDIA

f FACEBOOK

🐦 TWITTER

Most Popular

Trillion-tonne iceberg breaks off Antarctica



Ravi Shastri appointed new head coach and Zaheer Khan bowling coach: BCCI



Border row: Indian Army getting ready for long haul in Doklam



Video of models ducking plane irks DGCA

This is possibly the craziest stunt ever performed on a remote airstrip in India



Pennsylvania man kills 4, burns bodies at family's farm

A drug dealer has confessed to killing four young men separately after



Read More

[University of New England](#) | [threat to Pacific island wildlife](#) | [Paris agreement](#) | [IUCN](#) | [earth](#)

Lunch	Only Test, Colombo		cricbuzz
SL	346, 270/5 (79.0 Ovs)		
ZIM	356, 377		
Sri Lanka need 118 runs			
FULL SCORECARD COMMENTARY			

Navbharat Times



LIVE: संसद में घमासान, माया ने किया इस्तीफे का ऐलान

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Featured Today In Travel



Monsoon in India: perfect places to visit in rains

● ● ● ● ●

From our Global Partners