

4.1 ENDANGERED AND ENDEMIC SPECIES

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has categorized wild flora and fauna into the following categories:



- The list containing these categories is known as the Red List.
- The data recorded in the Red Data Book is updated every 4 years.
- According to the Red Data Book, a threatened species is one whose natural habitat is disturbed.
- As per Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 of India, a species is considered endangered when its number reduces to a critical level.
- Species are classified by the IUCN Red List into nine groups, set through criteria such as rate of decline, population size, area of geographic distribution, and degree of population and distribution fragmentation.
- **Extinct (EX)** – No known individuals remaining.
- **Extinct in the Wild (EW)** – Known only to survive in captivity, or as a naturalized population outside its historic range.
- **Critically Endangered (CR)** – Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Endangered (EN)** – High risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Vulnerable (VU)** – High risk of endangerment in the wild.
- **Near Threatened (NT)** – Likely to become endangered in the near future.
- **Least Concern (LC)** – Lowest risk. Does not qualify for a more at risk category. Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.
- **Data Deficient (DD)** – Not enough data to make an assessment of its risk of extinction.
- **Not Evaluated (NE)** – Has not yet been evaluated against the criteria.

Endemic species:

- Species that have very restricted distribution and are found over relatively small ranges are called endemic species.
- Endemic species once lost, it is a loss of biodiversity of these species forever.