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Dear Dr. Skipper,

### Please find attached our manuscript entitled “*Biodiversity conservation in an uncertain world*”.

### Biodiversity is in crisis and protected areas are vulnerable to risks related to governance, land use and climate. We show how accounting for these three risks will result in more resilient and effective conservation efforts to help safeguard our planet’s biodiversity in the face of the current extinction and climate crises.

Surprisingly, scenarios that incorporated all the three risk categories required less than 1% more global area compared to ignoring risk. This shows that accounting for risks cost relatively little compared to the potential gains from selecting a more resilient conservation network. We further identify “no regrets” areas that represent places that should be immediate priorities for international agencies aiming to maximize the resilience of protected area networks, as they are robust to assumptions of the relative importance of risk factors.

### This manuscript reports original research that is not published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. The submission for publication has been approved by all relevant authors and institutions, and all persons entitled to authorship have been so named, seen and agreed to the submitted version of the manuscript.

### A manuscript co-authored by one of us (La Sorte), is currently under review with another journal, which is why we have attached a pdf copy to this submission: *La Sorte, F. A., Johnston, A. & Ault, T. R. Global trends in the frequency and duration of temperature extremes (In review). Climate Change.*

Sincerely,

Richard Schuster

(on behalf of all co-authors)