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Endangered Species

* Project Subject Area: Comparing species found in the U.S. that are endangered to other parts of the world and between different years, seeing which species have changed endangered status.
* Data Sources:
  + Flat File: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
    - Description: This CSV file shows the scientific and common name of U.S. species by taxonomic group, where it was listed, the region that is, and its status.
    - https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-tax-group?statusCategory=Listed&groupName=All%20Animals
  + API: IUCN Red List
    - Description: This API allows for access to data looking at species by country, category, name, status, threats to species, and more.
    - https://apiv3.iucnredlist.org/api/v3/docs?ref=apilist.fun
  + Website: IUCN Red List
    - Description: Table seven, shows the species changing IUCN red list category between 2022 and 2023.
    - https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/summary-statistics#Summary%20Tables
* Relationships:
  + All the data sources above state different species which are endangered along with different traits/characteristics about them. They all share the topic of endangered species and their endangered status.
* Project Plan

In this project I plan to investigate and choose the most mentioned U.S. species on the endangered list and collect data from the data sources about them and if they have ever moved off the data species list, possibly their population, and other characteristics. I plan to integrate some of this data together with taxonomic classifications and locations where they are native. Moving forward, I would like to see other regions and what their amount of endangered species count is and the characteristics of those species to do an analysis and compare the U.S. endangered species to other regions. In order to do so, I plan to use comparative charts about the different species or areas.

My concerns with this plan are with the data quality and consistency. Taxonomy changes over time, and some of the names for certain species may be different, making the data sets more difficult to analyze. In addition, I am worried about possibly not having enough categories or characteristics to study between the species, seeing that data may have been collected differently or there may be discrepancies between identification of different species.

Ethically, I want to make sure that I am being completely transparent about the way the data is being analyzed. This is a comparison study, not evidence of conservation efforts working. There may be a chance that a species is shown to have an increasing population or delisted from the endangered species list, and I want that type of information to be something that supports further study and analysis into that specific species, not just as proof they are “better” in the environment. The analysis being done in this project is to reinforce or encourage more analysis and deeper studies and understanding of endangered species.