31. Society should make efforts to save endangered species only if the potential extinction of those species is the result of human activities.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

(1) impossible to know all the species that are endangered by humans;

(2) hard to ascertain the linkage;

(3) not enough financial and technical support

choice dilemma

based on our own economic self-interest

合理性:culpability, self-preservation; values: Genetic Diversity

不合理性:Darwinian, natural selection other endangered species

Examples: Dodo bird，Bison， Leatherback Turtle  
Panda - Not only panda, but also the temperate forest ecosystems.

The speaker claims that society should make efforts to save endangered species only if the potential extinction of those species is the result of human activities. I agree that forcing on saving species caused by human activities could assuage the culpabilities of human being temporarily. Unfortunately, in the long run, the feasibility of this statement is open to doubt: firstly, it is nearly impossible to know all the species that are endangered by humans and secondly, it is difficult to ascertain the linkage between endangered species and human activities.

It is true that most people intend to save endangered species because of culpability, especially when the extinction is the result of human behaviors. Human beings generally have the hearts of revision of their own mistakes. When it comes to human-related endangered species, it is not difficult to image that people is more likely to save those whose potential extinction is the consequence of irresponsible human activities. For example, dodo, an extinct bird hat was endemic to an island in Indian Ocean, was mainly hunted by European sailors. Many people later called attention to the disappearance of the entire dodo species and make dodo the symbol of species extinction because of human involvement. People really pay attention to the mistakes that they have done.

However, although human being might be more prone to save human-caused species, that does not mean it is reasonable to do so. This policy remains debatable because of its feasibility.

Firstly, people do not have the capacities to know all the species that are endangered by human. In fact, human being could not even acknowledge that they have discovered all the species in the world. Even if people assume that they know all the species in the world, people could not make sure a certain species is actually endangered, for there might exist another area where certain species flourish and develop and people ignore. Even if we know for sure a certain species is endangered, human being do not have the ability to locate them, needless to say protecting them.

Secondly, even if people surely confirm that a species is endangered and locate where they live, it is hard to ascertain that those species’ potential extinction is caused by human. The extinction of a certain species could be the results of myriad factors, including climate change, invasion of another species, interspecies competition…, therefore, human activities might be merely one part of those reasons, or even indirectly influence the potential extinction. If the policy is fully implemented, it still remains doubtful whether save or not save those endangered species mentioned above.

Third, the policy does not notice the choice dilemma. Suppose there are two species that are endangered by human being. How could we indicate that saving one species has more benefits than the other? Some people might claim that people should save both species simultaneously. However, government’s budget and technical support are both limited. Government could not save all species all together, while ignore other fields that also ask for financial support, including public education, scientific research, sports and public health. Therefore, due to the fact people could not save all the endangered species, people should selectively save endangered species based on our own economic self-interest.

In sum, this policymaker does not consider the feasibility of the policy, at least to some extent. However, I strongly commit to the notion that we should not save endangered species that the potential extinction of them derives from human-associated activities.

Biodiversity

X cultural significance

X scientific research

north Atlantic shrimps

Atlantic shrimps, an endangered species living in deep waters between Greenland and Canada for their hammer-like biological feature which could accelerate to a speed of more than 400 miles per hour in less than 0.1 second, smashing through the hard shells of other shellfish that they consume as food. This biological feature of the shrimp could help scientist develop new armor penetrating ammunition for army tank force.

X some are beneficial to human (directly indirectly)

X some die could indirectly cause other die, not directly from human beings, but indirectly, species die fast X no such thing exist (because of biological chain)

(1) impossible to know all the species that are endangered by humans;

(2) hard to ascertain the linkage;

(3) not enough financial and technical support

choice dilemma

based on our own economic self-interest

更多思考

合理性:culpability, self-preservation; values: Genetic Diversity

不合理性:Darwinian, natural selection other endangered species

Examples: Dodo bird，Bison， Leatherback Turtle  
Panda - Not only panda, but also the temperate forest ecosystems.