

Species at risk of extinction

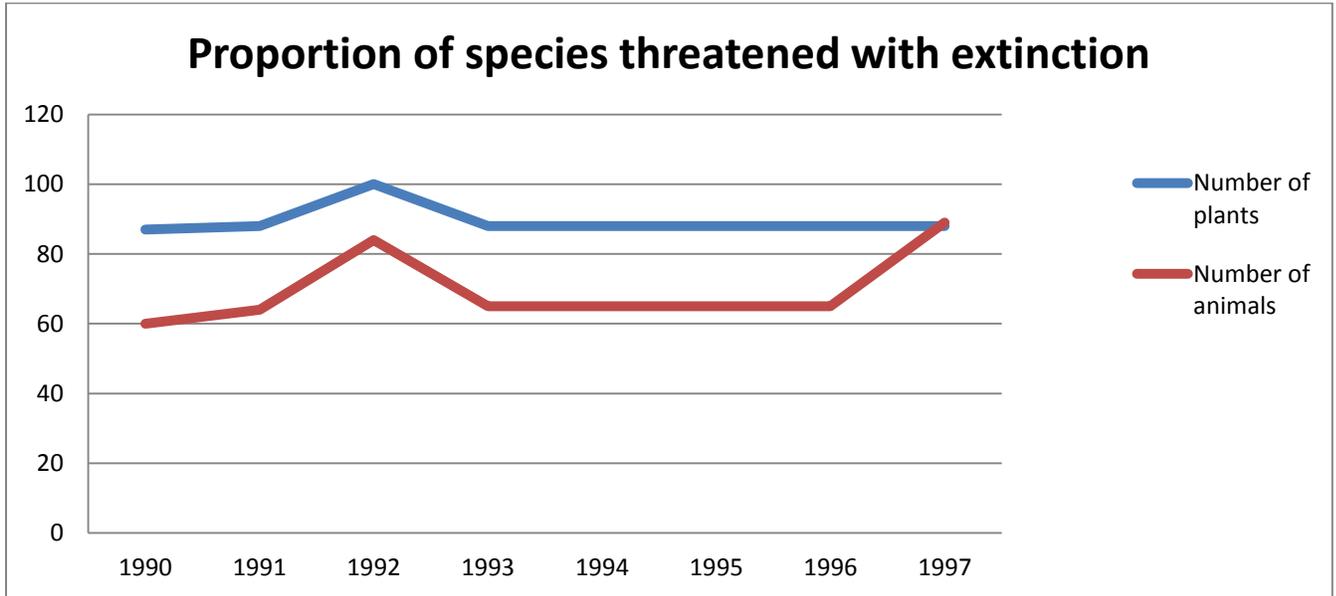


Figure 1. Proportion of species threatened with extinction

Figure 1 shows the number of plants and animals threatened with extinction (data available only from 1990 to 1997). Climate change can increase the risk of extinction for many species by altering their natural ecosystems. As can be noted, while the number of threatened plants remained stable throughout the second half of the 90s, the number of animals at risk has risen sharply from 1996 to 1997. The expansion of terrestrial and marine protected areas is likely to improve the conservation of biodiversity, ensuring better protection for species that are increasingly challenged by climate change impacts.