

# The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

## **Cultivated apricot fruit**

Did you know that the wild relative of the apricot was classified as Endangered on the 2007 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species? The major threat is habitat loss.

Everyday, more plants become threatened with extinction. Key information in the effort to save plants includes knowing what is threatened, where it occurs, and factors that influence risk.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ reports on the conservation status of plants and animals in every corner of the world based on scientific research. A voluntary network of Specialist Groups assesses a species' risk of extinction by comparing population and natural history information with data on threats from wild collection, trade, and human uses. IUCN is working with local governments to ensure sustainable use and conservation of plants worldwide. [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)



Apricot flowers Photo credit: © Loyd Schutte



*Pachypodium windsorii* Poiss (Photo credit: © Solo Rapanarivo) is Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List, due to threats from wild fire, restricted distribution, and illicit collection of mature fruits by the horticulture trade. Thanks to the work of the IUCN Madagascar Plant Specialist Group, the species is now safeguarded through ex situ conservation.

# IUCN: Fact Sheet

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## *About IUCN*

- Our vision is a just world that values and conserves nature.
- Our mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.
- Founded in 1948 as the world's first global environmental organization, today is a leading authority on the environment and sustainable development
- More than 1,000 member organizations in 140 countries including 200+ government and 800+ non-government organizations
- More than 10,000 voluntary scientists and experts, grouped in six Commissions and more than 1,100 professional staff in 62 offices worldwide
- Thousands of field projects and activities around the world
- Official observer status at the United Nations General Assembly

## *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*

The IUCN Red List is the world's most **comprehensive, most authoritative inventory** of the global conservation status of **plant and animal** species, that is updated annually by our network of scientists.

There are now **41,415 species** on the IUCN Red List and 16,306 of them are threatened with extinction, up from 16,118 last year. The total number of extinct species has reached 785 and a further 65 are only found in captivity or in cultivation.

One in four mammals, one in eight birds, one third of all amphibians and 70% of the world's assessed plants on the 2007 IUCN Red List are in jeopardy.

The **Red List partnership** is comprised of IUCN and its Species Survival Commission, BirdLife International, Conservation International's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, NatureServe and the Zoological Society of London.

In 1988 all bird species were evaluated, and in the 1996 every mammal species in the world was assessed for the first time.

There are nine categories in the IUCN Red List system: Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern, Data Deficient, and Not Evaluated. These criteria are based on: rate of decline, population size, area of geographic distribution, and degree of population and distribution fragmentation.

The Red List is produced by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) - a network of some 7,000 species experts working in almost every country in the world, and data from a number of partner organizations.

*Please direct questions to:*

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Megan Hansen  
IUCN  
1630 Connecticut Ave NW  
Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20009