

Genetic distance plays a key role in selecting endangered species within limited budget

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Leah R. Gerber et al. wrote an article entitled “Endangered species recovery: A resource allocation problem” (1). The described problem is to select endangered species within a limited budget as constraints. However, the original goal of their projects is to maximize biodiversity by achieving endangered species recovery within the limited budget. A big question remains in the endangered-species selection. In order to solve the selection problem, they need to study how biodiversity can influence our species. Genetic distance is used for understanding the origin of biodiversity and for determining which species should be protected to maintain genetic diversity (2). They have to remove ambiguity in the problem and to maximize biodiversity by considering genetic distance within the limited budget. A logical strategy with rational math is needed for solving the problem of endangered species recovery.

References:

1. Leah R. Gerber et al., Endangered species recovery: A resource allocation problem, *Science* 19 Oct 2018: Vol. 362, Issue 6412, pp. 284–286
2. Lou Jost et al., Differentiation measures for conservation genetics, *Evol Appl* . 2018;11:1139–1148