

Extinction, conservation, and next generation genome sequencing

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The emerging era of genomics is widely recognized to be a landmark in the history of the biological sciences. As next-generation DNA sequencing technologies make feasible the sequencing of many thousands of vertebrate genomes, an important societal discussion will take place regarding the priorities and applications of such efforts. Among potential applications of expanded DNA sequencing capabilities will be an enhanced description and understanding of biological diversity, and the generation of resources that can contribute to efforts to prevent extinctions of species that are critically endangered.