

# Hidden Treasures: Rediscovering Thought-to-be Extinct Species

Fabio Joost\*

Department of Agricultural, University of Torino, Grugliasco, Italy

## Introduction

The Earth is a vast and diverse planet, housing an incredible array of life forms. Over the course of millions of years, numerous species have emerged, flourished and unfortunately, some have vanished. Extinction is a natural process that has occurred throughout Earth's history, but human activities have accelerated this phenomenon in recent times. However, amidst the gloom of extinction, there have been remarkable moments of hope as some thought-to-be extinct species have been rediscovered. These hidden treasures remind us of the resiliency of life and the importance of conservation efforts. The rediscovery of a species once believed to be extinct is a cause for celebration and a testament to the relentless efforts of conservationists and researchers. Numerous cases have emerged, bringing joy and excitement to the scientific community and the world at large.

One of the most iconic rediscoveries was that of the Coelacanth, an ancient fish believed to have been extinct for about 66 million years. In 1938, a living Coelacanth was discovered off the coast of South Africa, astounding the scientific community. Subsequent expeditions have found other populations in the Indian Ocean, challenging our understanding of the deep-sea ecosystems. The Takahe, a large flightless bird native to New Zealand, was considered extinct in the late 19th century. However, in 1948, a small population was rediscovered in a remote Fiordland valley. Through dedicated conservation efforts, the Takahe population has been stabilized, offering hope for other critically endangered species [1].

## Description

The Chacoan Peccary, a pig-like mammal native to South America, was believed to have vanished from the wild. In 1971, a small population was rediscovered in the Chaco region of Paraguay, leading to conservation initiatives to protect its habitat and promote its recovery. The Lord Howe Island Stick Insect, also known as the tree lobster, was thought to have been eradicated by rats introduced to Lord Howe Island. However, in 2001, a tiny population was found on a nearby islet called Ball's Pyramid. Careful breeding and reintroduction efforts have since seen the population grow [2].

Despite extensive searches, no individuals have been spotted since. This case underscores the urgency of conservation efforts to prevent future extinctions. Rediscovering species once thought to be extinct has profound implications for conservation and biodiversity. These instances offer valuable lessons and underscore the need to address the threats that pushed these species to the brink in the first place. The rediscovery of these lost species can redirect conservation efforts to prioritize areas and habitats that might still harbor hidden populations of endangered species. Rediscoveries provide tangible evidence that conservation initiatives can be successful. They

motivate and inspire conservationists and the public to continue supporting conservation efforts and protect vulnerable ecosystems.

Each rediscovery enhances our understanding of the ecological intricacies and the relationships between species and their habitats. This knowledge is vital for developing effective conservation strategies. Rediscoveries raise important ethical questions about how to approach species that have been thought to be extinct. Decisions about their protection and conservation must be made carefully, considering ecological impacts and the long-term viability of the populations. Moving forward, it is imperative that we build upon the lessons learned from rediscoveries to create a more sustainable future for all living beings on Earth. Governments, organizations and individuals must prioritize and invest in conservation initiatives. This includes creating and expanding protected areas, implementing stricter wildlife protection laws and supporting conservation projects on both local and global scales. The illegal wildlife trade remains a significant threat to many species, driving them to the brink of extinction. Stronger law enforcement, public awareness campaigns and international cooperation are essential in curbing this destructive trade [3].

Habitat destruction is a leading cause of species decline and extinction. Identifying and preserving critical habitats, such as rainforests, coral reefs and wetlands, is crucial for safeguarding the diverse array of life they support. Encouraging sustainable practices in agriculture, fishing and forestry can reduce the human impact on ecosystems and help protect species from further decline. Engaging and involving local communities in conservation efforts is vital. Empowering them to become stewards of their environment can lead to more effective and long-lasting conservation outcomes. Advances in technology, such as satellite imagery and DNA analysis, can aid in the monitoring and protection of endangered species and their habitats. Continued research into biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics is essential for informed conservation strategies [4].

Educating the public about the importance of biodiversity and the impact of human activities is also crucial for fostering a culture of conservation. Biodiversity knows no borders. International cooperation and collaboration between countries are vital in addressing global conservation challenges and protecting migratory species that traverse multiple regions. Climate change exacerbates existing threats to biodiversity. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing strategies to adapt to the changing climate are critical components of conservation efforts. Cultivating a sense of responsibility and empathy towards the natural world is fundamental. Encouraging people to value and cherish biodiversity can lead to a more sustainable and harmonious coexistence with nature [5].

## Conclusion

The rediscovery of thought-to-be extinct species serves as a beacon of hope in the fight to preserve biodiversity. It highlights the resilience of life and the potential for recovery even in the face of grave challenges. However, the journey towards conservation is far from over. The ongoing loss of species demands urgent and collective action from individuals, communities, governments and organizations worldwide. Each one of us has a role to play in safeguarding the hidden treasures of our planet. By embracing sustainable practices, supporting conservation efforts and championing policies that protect the environment, we can ensure that future generations inherit a world rich in biodiversity and teeming with life. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for all living beings, cherishing the hidden treasures of Earth for generations to come.

\*Address for Correspondence: Fabio Joost, Department of Agricultural, University of Torino, Grugliasco, Italy E-mail: [fabio@joost.it](mailto:fabio@joost.it)

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## Conflict of Interest

The author declares there is no conflict of interest associated with this manuscript.

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