

## Option C: Conservation and Biodiversity

C.2: Evaluating Biodiversity and Vulnerability

### What makes a species prone to extinction:

- ◆ Small population
- ◆ Specialised habitat
- ◆ Restricted food source
- ◆ Low reproductive potential
- ◆ Accumulation of toxins
- ◆ A prominent predator so killed by farmers
- ◆ Migrates long distances



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### What makes a species prone to extinction:

- ◆ Polar bears are large and conspicuous
- ◆ population size is shrinking
- ◆ tasty meat and warm fur
- ◆ huge home range
- ◆ low reproductive potential
- ◆ top of the food chain



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### What makes a species prone to extinction: LIVING ON AN ISLAND

- ◆ High degree of endemism
- ◆ Small populations on islands
- ◆ Lower genetic diversity
- ◆ Vulnerable to introduced predators

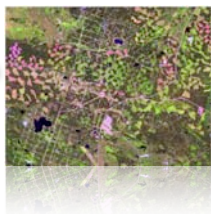


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### What makes a species prone to extinction: LIVING ON AN ISLAND

Does something have to be surrounded by water to be an island?



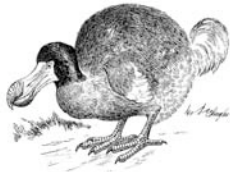
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### The Dodo

- ◆ Mauritius, Indian Ocean
- ◆ lived undisturbed
- ◆ for so long that it
- ◆ lost its need and ability to fly
- ◆ lived and nested on the ground
- ◆ ate fruits that had fallen from trees
- ◆ no mammals on the island
- ◆ high diversity of bird species lived in the dense forests.



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### The Dodo

- ◆ 1505 Portuguese arrived
- ◆ island became stopover for ships engaged in the spice trade.
- ◆ large dodo was a welcome source of fresh meat for the sailors.



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### The Dodo

- ◆ Later Dutch used island as a penal colony
- ◆ pigs & monkeys brought to the island
- ◆ along with the convicts
- ◆ rats on ships
- ◆ within 100 years the once abundant dodo was rare
- ◆ last one killed in 1681



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### The Dodo

- ◆ Many other bird species were lost in the 19th century
- ◆ Mauritian forests were converted into tea and sugar plantations.
- ◆ Of the 45 bird species originally found on Mauritius, only 21 have managed to survive.

