

Thoughts on Endangered Species

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Scientists have estimated that 90 per cent of all species ever on Earth have become extinct. The number of existing species dwindles as one after the other species become endangered, then extinct. After all what is a reduction of a few per cent when so many still exist? When only one species is left, I have extreme doubt that it will be human.

What happens when all we have left is pictures and videos of these species? Will we miss the reality of the magnificence of the tiger? The grace of the snow leopard? The cuteness of the panda? The diversity of lives sharing this planet with us? Having real creatures rather than images is a whole different feeling. Imagine for a moment seeing not just a picture, but a real live Tyrannosaurus Rex. Up close. What feeling!

Who knows when a species is so very important to us? For example, if the terrible toll on honey bees continues, what crops upon which we depend will fail through lack of pollination?

One of the most interesting possibilities is that we can begin designing our own new species through genetic manipulation. I wonder what we will invent.