



## **Exercise: Red List Categories and Data Quality**

### **Instructions:**

1. Break into pairs/trios.
2. You have 10 minutes to read through the **five examples** below and, as a group, decide which data type or category the examples describe.

**Examples:**

1. A mollusc species is endemic to an archipelago of five oceanic islands. The Red Fire Ant was introduced to one island 20 years ago and has since spread along the island chain; it is now present on four of the islands. This ant is a predator on snails and scientists studying the mollusc populations report that within five years of the ant's arrival on an island, this mollusc species has almost completely disappeared. Based on surveys carried out by the study group each year, the total population of this mollusc across the archipelago has declined by 80-90% over the last 20 years.

**The past rate of decline (80-90% over the last 20 years) is:**

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>A Observed</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>B Estimated</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>C Projected</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>D Inferred</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>E Suspected</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- 

2. The scientists studying the mollusc mentioned in example 1 report that so far all attempts to prevent the spread of the ant have failed. Based on the past rate of the ant spreading along the archipelago, it is highly likely that it will spread to the last island within the next five years. Therefore it is predicted that the remaining wild mollusc population will undergo a decline of 90-100% within the next ten years. A captive breeding programme is now underway.

**The future rate of decline (90-100% within 10 years) is:**

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>A Observed</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>B Estimated</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>C Projected</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>D Inferred</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>E Suspected</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

3. A semi-aquatic fern grows in shallow depressions on level or slightly sloping ground. The results of studies published in peer-reviewed journals show that this plant requires periodic flooding to complete its life cycle. Over the last ten years, human housing and tourist developments have been spreading in the area where this plant grows. These developments are set to continue as the local economy increasingly relies on tourism. As flood-control measures are introduced to increase development potential in the area, the quality and area of suitable habitat for this fern is likely to continue declining.

**In this case, continuing decline in area and quality of habitat is:**

- A Observed
- B Estimated
- C Projected
- D Inferred
- E Suspected
- 

4. In reference to the same semi-aquatic fern mentioned in example 3 above, a recently published study suggests that over the last 10 years approximately 80% of flood plain habitat has been converted to housing and tourist developments in the area. Nothing is known about the current or past population sizes for this plant; however it is known to have very specific flood-plain habitat requirements. Assuming that 50-80% of suitable habitat has been lost over the last 10 years, researchers suggest that 50-80% of the fern population has also been lost over that period.

**The rate of population decline (50-80% over the last 10 years) is:**

- A Observed
- B Estimated
- C Projected
- D Inferred
- E Suspected
-

5. A very widespread species with a currently very large global population is also targeted by collectors this is causing a very slow but steady population decline. The rate of decline is not rapid enough for the species to qualify for any of the IUCN's threatened categories. The cause of this decline is likely to continue and because of this there have been requests for the species to be legally protected.

**An appropriate IUCN Red List category for this species is:**

- |           |                        |                          |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>VU</b> | <b>Vulnerable</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>NT</b> | <b>Near Threatened</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>LC</b> | <b>Least Concern</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>DD</b> | <b>Data Deficient</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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*END*