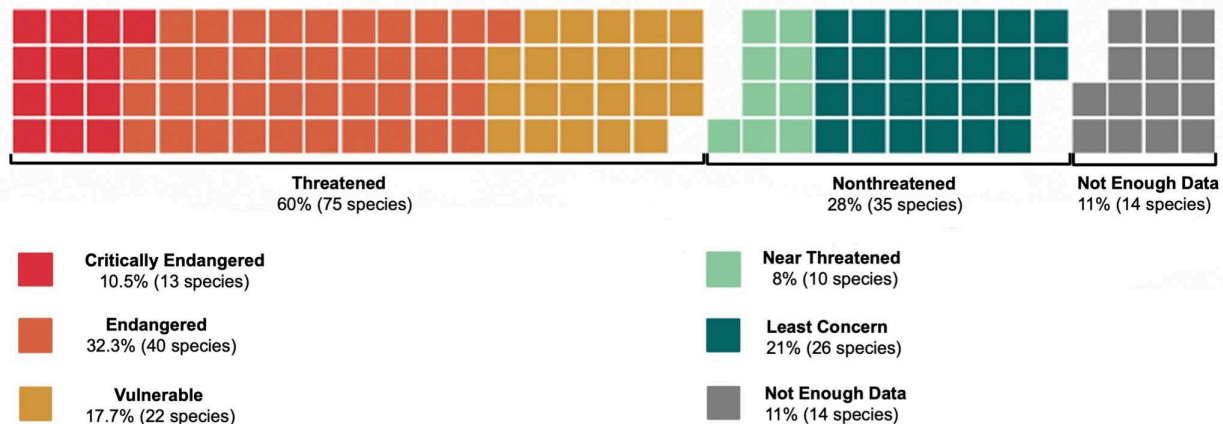


Coffee Species by IUCN Category

1 square equals 1 species



60% of coffee species are threatened with extinction. That number is high compared with a global figure of 22% for all plants. Coffee's threat of extinction is one of the highest for a plant group.

The most widely studied species of coffee is called "*C. arabica*". Wild *C. arabica* has had the most thorough extinction risk assessment of any coffee species. This test is calculated using population count data and climate change projections. Within-species diversity is a big concern as well. Scientists show that when climate change predictions are added into the extinction risk evaluation, Wild *C. arabica* moves three categories. It moves from LC (least concern) to EN (endangered). It may be a while before enough data is collected to look at all coffee species this way. These findings should signal more concern for the fate of coffee species when climate change projections are added in extinction risk assessments.

The main causes for coffee species extinction risk are small distribution sizes and a low number of growing locations. That means that in one place, a single event could affect all the plants of a species. For almost all coffee, there is a decline in the quality, area, and availability of habitat. Habitat loss is due to land use change. Looking at the example of *C. arabica*, only 4% of the potential forest area for this species is in the protected areas of Ethiopia and South Sudan. A large portion of that area is under increasing threat from human actions and global environmental change.

Reference

Aaron P. Davis et al., [High extinction risk for wild coffee species and implications for coffee sector sustainability](#). *Sci. Adv.* **5**, eaav3473(2019). [CC BY-NC 4.0](#)