

Because data archived in Dryad are publicly available, ensure any data involving threatened species are appropriate for sharing.

Suggested criteria for species risk assessment

- Will the data adversely impact conservation efforts or introduce unintended risk to the species?
- Is the species located in an environmentally sensitive area under special protection?
- Does the species hold significant cultural or religious value to local indigenous people?
- Is the species stationary? If so, it is more likely to be under threat if its precise coordinates are published
- Date of data collection (the more recently the location information has been collected, the higher the threat level for the associated species)
- Would disclosure allow the locations of sensitive features to be derived through combination with other public sources?

While every data submission is carefully evaluated by our curation team and although we provide guidance for researchers to follow, the researchers themselves are responsible for ensuring that data do not contain information which may cause harm to threatened species (see [Dryad's Terms of Service](#)).

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Use resources such as the [Encyclopedia of Life](#) or the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#) to find the current threat level for individual species and determine if your data meet any of the following criteria (please note country-specific databases/listings may also be used):

- The species is flagged by the IUCN Red List as "near threatened", "vulnerable", "endangered", or "critically endangered".
- The IUCN mentions threats to the species from poaching/illegal hunting or other malicious human activity.
- Your data includes exact geo-coordinates for this species.

If your data meet any of the criteria listed, evaluate whether you should mask location information. Masking involves modifying or converting geographic coordinates for a species. Depending on the level of risk for a species, data may be generalized by converting degrees and decimal minutes coordinates to decimal degrees or using centroids. This preserves the integrity of the overall geographic distribution and offers confidentiality.

Tools & resources

- The Global Biodiversity Information Facility's (GBIF) "[Guide to Best Practices for Generalising Sensitive Species Occurrence Data](#)" provides guidance in determining whether sensitive occurrence data should be restricted
- When IUCN risk assessment is not provided or the date of assessment was more than 5 years ago, explore other sites to determine status (i.e. [Species+](#), [SeaLifeBase](#), [CITES](#), etc.)

Risk assessment guidance

Category	Sensitivity	Risk Level	Georeference
1	Extreme	Critically endangered or endangered	Coordinates <u>cannot</u> be released or can be released by watershed/bioregion/county, rounded to 1 degree, etc.
2	High	Vulnerable	Coordinates rounded to 0.1 degree
3	Medium	Near threatened	Coordinates rounded to 0.01 degree
4	Low	Least concern	Coordinates unrestricted
5	Not sensitive	Data deficient; not evaluated	Coordinates unrestricted

References

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