

John Smailie Tennant Lecture
Botany Department

How many species will survive the 21st century?

Peter H. Raven
President Emeritus
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Scientists project that during the 21st century a major proportion of the world's estimated 12 million species of plants, animals, and micro-organisms will become extinct.

What can we do to counteract or mitigate the effects of habitat destruction, global climate change, invasive species, and selective hunting and gathering?

- attain a level human population,
- adopt reasonable levels of consumption everywhere
- develop new, sustainable technologies.

Direct actions to conserve species -

- establishment and protection of nature reserves
- bringing organisms into cultivation, captive colonies, culture collection, or seed banks.

Our individual actions will determine the magnitude of the extinction episode that we have already begun – and its impact for thousands or millions of years to come.

Thursday 21 July, 2011 – 6:00 pm
St. David Lecture Theatre
Corner of St David and Castle Sts
University of Otago