

Undeserving Hybrids: The Enduring Legacy of Eugenics in Conservation

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Abstract : Conservation laws do not protect hybrids. From the United States' Endangered Species Act to the European Union's conservation policies to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List, hybrids don't get the benefit of human preservation efforts. This paper tests the hypothesis that this practice is a byproduct of the co-birth of eugenics and conservation as twin fields and that while the first has been discredited and abandoned, the latter still bears the marks of its unfortunate primordial association. The research explores historical perspectives from so-called conservation luminaries such as Madison Grant, Ernst Mayr, and Charles Davenport and sheds light on how these influences continue to shape contemporary conservation approaches. The paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the implications of these factors on biodiversity conservation and the ethical considerations surrounding hybrid species protection.

Keywords : conservation, hybridization, eugenics, speciation, evolution

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