

## **Setting Conservation Priorities and Assessing Risk of Extinction**

**Larry Master**

Chief Zoologist, NatureServe, < [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org) >, 11 Avenue de Lafayette,  
5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111, ph: 617-542-1908 x230, fax: 617-542-1620  
< [larry\\_master@natureserve.org](mailto:larry_master@natureserve.org) >.

Risk of global or regional extinction is a necessary but insufficient step in setting conservation priorities for species and sites. This paper will present a synopsis of a recently completed comparative analysis of three of the world's leading systems for assessing extinction risk. In the context of extinction risk assessments for 6,500 Canadian species, I will also discuss the adequacy and use of extinction risk assessments and other information in developing lists of priority species and conservation areas.