

## 16. Where Will the Money Go?

STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGE



### OBJECTIVE

To understand how wildlife programs and conservation programs decide to spend their limited funding

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Biotechnology often means manipulating organisms to help people. But sometimes we manipulate organisms for their own good. There are numerous **conservation** programs that try to protect the natural environment for the species that live there. There are also programs that seek to reduce the damage already done by humans. Such work often requires resources and especially money. In this activity, you will get the chance to determine where the money is going to go.



### MATERIALS

- Internet access or other resources
- notebook



### PROCEDURE

1. Using the Internet or print resources, find ten endangered species in the United States. Learn about each one's habitat and how it is viewed by people who live in the same area.
2. Record the name of each organism in the data table in the Data Collection and Analysis section.
3. Rate each animal on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of the following categories, with 1 being least important for funding and 10 being most important for funding.
  - **Ethical concerns:** This category represents the ethics of allowing this particular species to go extinct. You may feel it would be more important to protect an endangered gorilla than an endangered slug. The choice might be unpleasant, but it is a choice that conservationists are sometimes faced with.
  - **Positive economic concerns:** Will this organism bring money into the local economy?
  - **Negative economic concerns:** Will money be lost from the local economy by protecting this organism? (Perhaps a business will have to close to protect the organism's habitat.)
  - **Legal concerns:** Will helping this organism lead to a long, expensive legal battle? (Perhaps a local business will sue if it will lose business because a protected species is where the business carries out many of its functions.)
  - **Scientific concerns:** What value does this animal have to science? To biotechnology? To scientists? To the environment?
  - **Overall concerns:** Your gut feeling about the importance of protecting this species based on what you know about it.
4. Add the numbers in each row and then list the species in the order of highest total points to lowest total points. The highest point total represents the species that will get the most funding.