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CLIMATE CHANGE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MARCH 3, 2020

UA researchers warn of time frame for species extinctions

A new report says some plants and animals will succumb to climate change in 50 years.

by [Tony Perkins](#)






[VIEW LARGER](#) The Madagascar jumping frog has experienced climate-related local extinction. *Courtesy John Wiens*


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 Extinction study -0:48

Some researchers at the University of Arizona are warning a third of Earth's species are headed for extinction within 50 years.

A study co-authored by UA ecology and evolutionary biologists John Wiens and Cristian Roman-Palacios estimates the rates of future extinctions from climate change data. They looked at local extinctions that have already happened based on repeated studies of plants and animals over time.



[VIEW LARGER](#) The alligator juniper tree has faced climate-related local extinction. *Courtesy John Wiens*

"Out of the 538 species that we looked at, 44% of them have already showed local extinctions. And based on our results, a maximum increase of summer temperatures of over 0.5 degrees [Celsius] caused 50% of those species to have local extinctions," said Wiens.

Wiens says it's not too late to turn the forecast around. He says lowering the pace of climate change could make a dramatic difference. He adds that the research shows the vulnerability of plants as well as animal species over the next 50 years.

The [study](#) was published in the February edition of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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