

Genetic management of fragmented animal and plant populations

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Abstrak

The biological diversity of the planet is being rapidly depleted due to the direct and indirect consequences of human activity. As the size of animal and plant populations decrease and fragmentation increases, loss of genetic diversity reduces their ability to adapt to changes in the environment, with inbreeding and reduced fitness inevitable consequences for many species. Many small isolated populations are going extinct unnecessarily. In many cases, such populations can be genetically rescued by gene flow into them from another population within the species, but this is very rarely done. This novel and authoritative book addresses the issues involved in genetic management of fragmented animal and plant populations, including inbreeding depression, loss of genetic diversity and elevated extinction risk in small isolated populations, augmentation of gene flow, genetic rescue, causes of outbreeding depression and predicting its occurrence, desirability and implementation of genetic translocations to cope with climate change, and defining and diagnosing species for conservation purposes.