
BUZZNEWS

Extinct Species Back from the Dead

19 November 2039

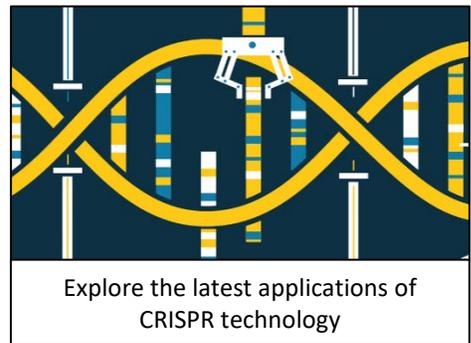
Thousands of species are becoming extinct every decade. Global temperatures are now 2.7°C above pre-industrial levels and continue to rise. Thus, experts around the world are looking toward De-Extinction programs as an innovative solution to save delicate ecosystems and prevent food web collapse.

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Resurrecting species that have been dead for millions of years sounds like something out of a zombie VR. Today it became a reality with the test release of *Phenacodus primaevus*, a small ancestor of hoofed mammals, into the Siberian Plateau. The United Nations' De-Extinction program, led by the Environment Conversion Organization (UN-ECO), plans to reintroduce more than one hundred birds, mammals, insects, and grasses from the early Eocene epoch (56 to 52 million years ago). During this epoch, the first mammals, trees, and grasses closely related to modern species emerged. After careful study and analysis of several species in confined habitats, researchers know the organisms chosen for reintroduction are well suited for today's hot, wet, unstable climates.

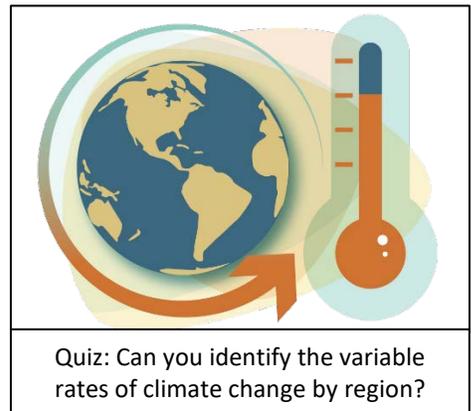


De-Extinction technology involves inserting fossil DNA into specially selected stem cells and growing them in labs. Animals can then be raised for release in the wild. Released animals are equipped with cellular surface markers for remote monitoring. Over time, these species will reproduce, creating new generations that may travel far from original release locations. Scientists and governments are eager to learn the precise impact released species will have on local ecosystems. Habitat cameras and AI analyzers have been crucial to identify environmental changes thus far. Auto-follow drones will trace the movement of released animals. As habitats evolve, anyone with a tablet will be able to follow and discuss new photos, videos, and data. A reality holovision experience is planned for next year.



Research teams at twelve universities are monitoring the project in coordination with the UN-ECO. "This is a 21st-century solution to a 21st-century problem," explains Dr. Jasper Orlov, the Chair of UN-ECO. "We now have the technologies to reintroduce species that are well-suited for our warming planet. Soon people around

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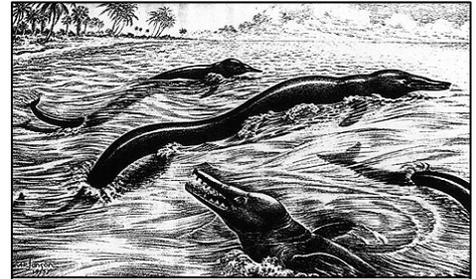
the world will follow the daily journeys of the wolf-like *Mesonyx uintensis* roaming the land, and the giant lizard whale hybrid *Basilosaurus cetoides* swimming through the oceans. These species are needed to replace apex predators, like tigers and sharks that will soon be extinct because of the changing climate.”

Nevertheless, the program has attracted criticism from conservation groups. They worry that the focus on De-Extinction may reduce the protection of current species or ecosystems. Molecular ecologists have also raised concerns that the long-term effects of De-Extinction programs are not yet known. It is suggested that small genetic mutations in the first few generations could have continuing, catastrophic consequences for both native and resurrected creatures. They also point to examples of how introducing a new species into an ecosystem can go horribly wrong, like the 1935 cane toad release in Australia.

The Center for International Ethics released a statement last week urging the United Nations to “exercise caution in this new and unprecedented era of human-driven ecological evolution.” They warn, “Since humans caused the climate crisis by refusing to stop burning fossil fuels, we can’t assume humans can successfully rebalance the delicate ecosystem through De-Extinction efforts.”

Despite these concerns, the UN-ECO program transformation has begun with today’s release and future plans to have De-Extinct species run, fly, and swim into their new habitats.

Subscribers, we want to hear from you! Use the six-step FPS process to identify challenges and an Underlying Problem addressing a significant environmental concern resulting from UN-ECO’s release of De-Extinct species, then generate solutions and an Action Plan to solve this problem. Submit your Action Plans for publication on BUZZNEWS by 14 December 2039.



Basilosaurus cetoides as Olsen predicted in 1959

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