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The other extinction crisis.

You already know about the extinction danger facing animals and plants all over the planet.

But did you know that many of the world's 6,000 languages are in danger of disappearing?

It's true. Most are small to begin with. Some face active repression by governments.

All have to cope with the rising tide of English and other large languages.

Every language is unique—a priceless, irreplaceable repository of the human intelligence built up over hundreds or thousands of years. Each time a language dies, the creative process and knowledge it embodies dies too. Often, the knowledge lost is about the natural world and human interactions with it. Such wisdom can never be reproduced.

Terralingua is new international nonprofit organization devoted to preserving the world's linguistic diversity—and to exploring connections between cultural and biological diversity. We believe that every language is inherently valuable and worthy of being preserved, and that freely deciding which language to use is a basic human right. To encourage the preservation of languages, we seek to create an atmosphere of tolerance and reciprocal respect for cultural distinctiveness. We also believe that many of the same factors driving the extinction of animal and plant species also play a role in threatening the world's languages. And we believe that biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity support and enhance one another.

Our approach is to address *both* extinction crises in a unified way.

Please join Terralingua as we start our search for solutions.

Write or see us on the Web for more information.

Terralingua

Partnerships for Linguistic and Biological Diversity

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Key to Human Ecosystems Models

Based on H. T. Odum, 1983 (*Systems Ecology*. New York: John Wiley and Sons) and conventions established by the Information Ecology Working Group of the Anthropology Department, University of Georgia.

