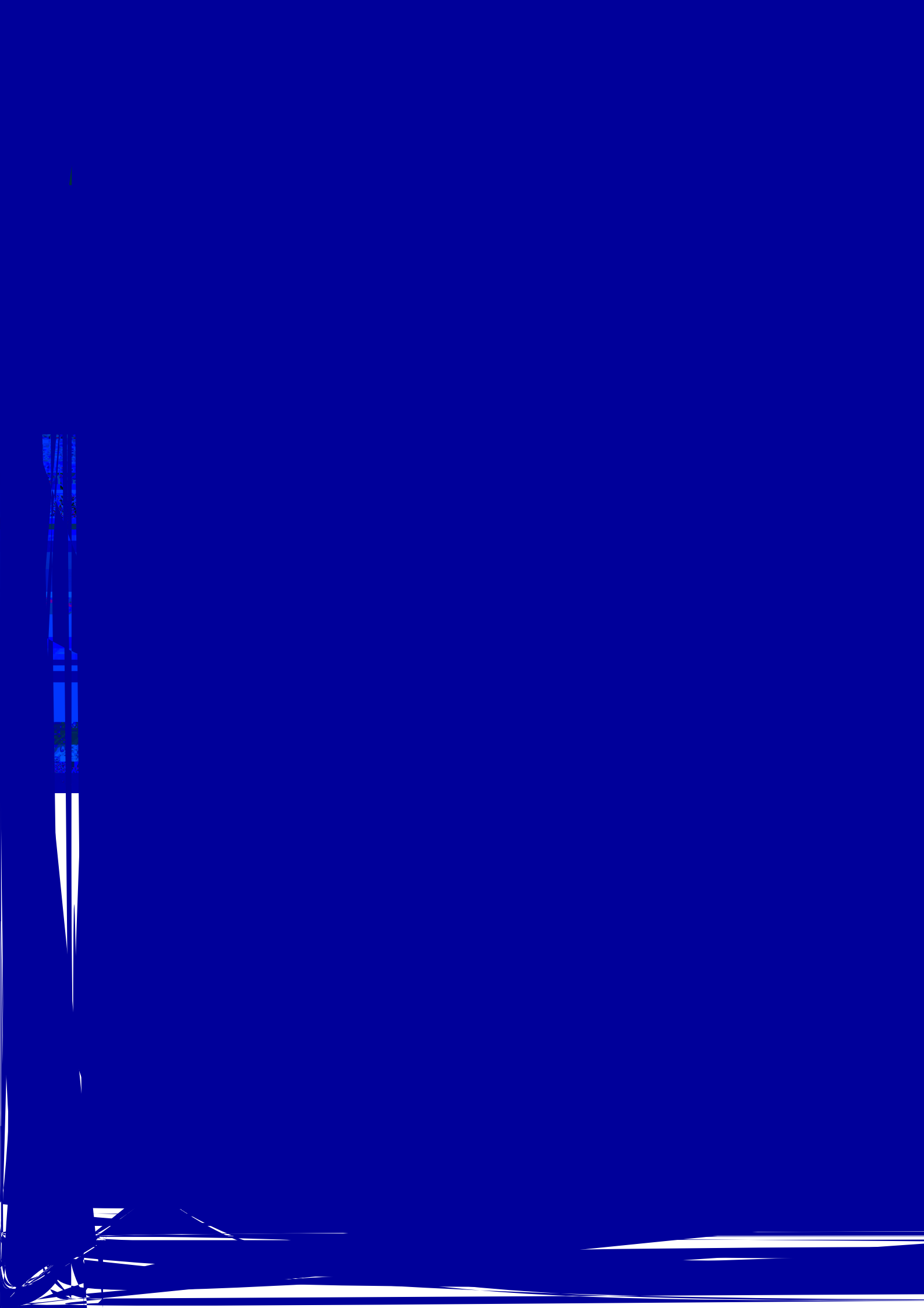


of freshwater fish species by threat category in various regions.

d they are. To achieve this, information on species
ons, population status and trends, habitats and
threats and utilization are collated and used to conduct
ents of extinction risk. The information is all made
on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

uch do we know?

an estimated 27,400 freshwater species of fish,
crabs, dragonflies and plants; these are the groups that
Conservation International decided to assess in their
s part of their Global Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment.
only 6,000 species have been assessed so far at a
ale and included in the 2008 IUCN Red List, leaving over
pecies still to be assessed.

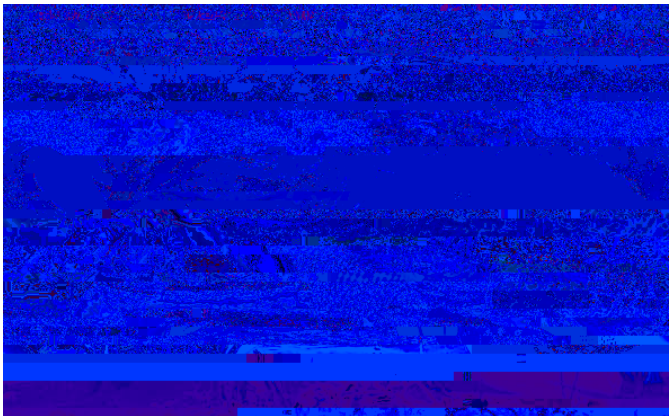
al status and distribution of freshwater species

s completed comprehensive regional freshwater
ty assessments for eastern Africa and southern
d ongoing assessments for the rest of Africa are
mpleted in 2009. Regional assessments provide a
ensive picture of the status of freshwater biodiversity.

allow for the basins that contain high numbers of
r threatened species to be identified. Lakes Malawi and
he lower Malagarasi drainage, Kilombero valley and
ern Cape in South Africa, contain some of the highest
of threatened species in southern and eastern Africa.

K ssages

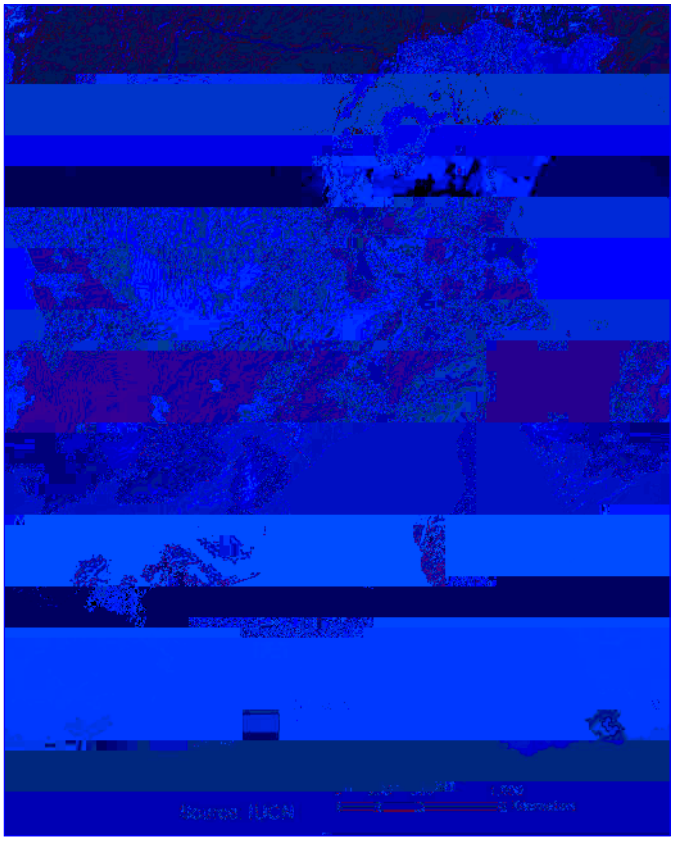
- *water species are extremely threatened*, possibly more
an species in the marine and terrestrial systems.
- *c awareness of the threat to freshwater species needs
raised*. Freshwater species are largely unseen by the
al public, are not often considered as charismatic, and
values to people not well recognized.
- *water species provide important ecosystem services*,
ding the provision of protein and supporting livelihoods
me of the world's poorest communities.
- *M gement of water resources must take account of
th equirements of freshwater species*. This approach
is capsulated within the Environmental Flows concept,
wh aims to ensure that there is enough water to maintain
en onmental, economic and social benefits.
- *Pro cted areas must be designed to protect freshwater
spe es*, and employ the principles of catchment protection.



Snail harvesting. *© Kong Kim Sreng*

- There is a *need to support in-situ conservation actions* through initiatives capable of addressing immediate known impacts to threatened species.
- *Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) need to take better account of impacts to freshwater species.*
- *The lack of easily accessible information for many freshwater species needs to be rectified*. A significant proportion of freshwater species are listed as Data Deficient, hence increased field surveys combined with taxonomic training of local experts, and the publication of field guides are recommended.

Distribution patterns of threatened species for eastern and southern Africa.



For more information: www.iucn.org/redlist/