Genetics proving instrumental in conservation of endangered species

Traditionally, conservation biologists have relied on field observation and sample and statistical analysis to help them understand the dynamics behind species loss, but today genetics is taking on an increasingly important role in helping quantify the biodiversity around us and even save some threatened species.

According to researchers at King Saud University who reviewed various DNA analysis technologies used in wildlife conservation for the Saudi Journal of Biological Sciences, the newly emerging discipline of conservation genetics has proven instrumental in creating better management plans for so-called “genetically deteriorated” wildlife populations. “Accurate classification of these threatened species allows understanding of the species biology and identification of distinct populations that should be managed with utmost care.” They add that DNA analysis can be instrumental in preventing illegal hunting and poaching and “for more effective implementation of the laws for protection of the endangered species.”

Read full, original article: Better Living through Conservation Genetics