

1 in 6 Assessed Breeds Is At Risk - Camels Face It Most



Of 236 registered breeds assessed for conservation status, 38 are Critical, Endangered or Vulnerable. But risk is not spread evenly - camels face it at nearly four times the average rate.



CONNECTS TO DATA STORY # 04

Data Story # 04 found 262 registered breeds and asked how many are actually secure. Here's the answer: 198 are not at risk - but 38 need active conservation attention, and the risk is not spread evenly across species.

Conservation Status by Species, Ranked by Breed Count

Rank	Species	Total Breeds	Status Breakdown (Number of Breeds)				At-Risk (C+E+V)
			Not At Risk	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critical	
1	Cattle	62	53	5	4	0	9
2	Sheep	51	42	5	3	1	9
3	Goat	45	41	1	2	1	4
4	Buffaloe	23	21	2	0	0	2
5	Chicken	21	20	1	0	0	1
6	Pig	16	14	0	2	0	2
7	Horse & Pony	9	4	0	5	0	5
8	Camel	9	3	0	3	3	6
TOTAL		236	198	14	19	5	38

ON THE WORLD STAGE

Globally, FAO's registry shows roughly 27% of the world's assessed breeds are at-risk. India's 16.1% at-risk rate is proportionally lower - but 38 specific breeds still need it named directly, not averaged away.

Source: ICAR-NBAGR, registered breeds as of August 2026; Breed Watchlist 2022; Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)



Risk Is Concentrated, Not Uniform

India's breed diversity is substantial, but conservation pressure is not spread evenly across species — some carry it at multiples of the national average.

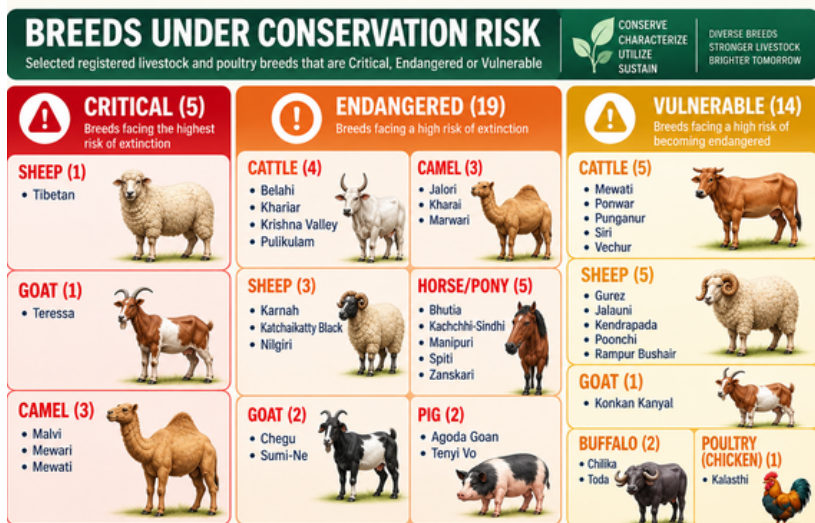
38 of 236 assessed breeds (16.1%) face conservation risk — 5 Critical, 19 Endangered, 14 Vulnerable. The remaining 198 (83.9%) are currently not at risk.

Camels face conservation risk at nearly four times the national rate — 6 of 9 breeds (66.7%) are at risk, including 3 Critical and 3 Endangered, against a national average of 16.1%. No other species comes close to this proportional burden.

Horse & Pony breeds face a narrower but still severe risk — 5 of 9 breeds (55.6%) are Endangered specifically, concentrated in one risk category rather than spread across all three.

Cattle and sheep carry the largest absolute burden, but the lowest proportional one — 9 at-risk breeds each, but against much larger total registries (62 and 51), that's 14.5% and 17.6% respectively — close to the national average, not far above it.

This story is India's data point on a UN global indicator, not an isolated domestic count — SDG Indicator 2.5.2 tracks exactly this question worldwide. Among breeds with a known status globally, FAO reports 27% are at risk (2024); India's assessed rate is 16.1% — a genuinely favourable position, though not a reason for complacency on the 38 breeds that do need it.



National Norms for Livestock Breed Status in India

Normal: >25,000 breeding animals; Insecure: 15,000–25,000;

Vulnerable: 5,000–15,000; Endangered: 2,000–5,000; Critical: <2,000

Data Table

Species	Critical	Endan gered	Vulne rable	Not At Risk	Total	At Risk	At-Risk %
Cattle	0	4	5	53	62	9	14.50%
Sheep	1	3	5	42	51	9	17.60%
Goat	1	2	1	41	45	4	8.90%
Buffalo	0	0	2	21	23	2	8.70%
Chicken	0	0	1	20	21	1	4.80%
Pig	0	2	0	14	16	2	12.50%
Horse/Pony	0	5	0	4	9	5	55.60%
Camel	3	3	0	3	9	6	66.70%
Total	5	19	14	198	236	38	16.10%

Source: ICAR-NBAGR, Breed Watchlist 2022; FAO SDG Indicator 2.5.2 report, 2024 (global comparison figure, breeds of known status).

