

In this whole biosphere, scientists today have discovered and described between 1.7 and 1.8 million species of plants, animals, and microorganisms, says Russell A. Mittermeier, president of Conservation International, but some estimates suggest that the total number of species ranges between 5 and 30 million, and some scientists believe

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there may be as many as another 100 million species that we just have not identified, because they are hidden beneath the earth or seas or in remote locales. Some eighty to ninety new species of primates have been identified in just the last decade and a half, noted Mittermeier, “which means that 15 to 20 percent of all primates have been described by science in just the last fifteen years.”

That’s why Code Green has to involve both a strategy for the *generation* of clean energy—in order to mitigate climate change and its effects on weather, temperatures, rainfall, sea levels, and droughts—and a strategy for the *preservation* of the earth’s biodiversity, so we don’t also destroy the very plant and animal species that sustain life. Remember: Climate change is a critical issue, but biodiversity loss could also destabilize the systemic and vital carrying capacity of our planet—as much as climate change. In all the very welcome attention to climate change in recent years, the issue of biodiversity loss has gotten lost. That’s why Code Green focuses on both *generation* of a new kind of energy and *preservation* of the natural world.

“Global warming and pollution are just a couple of things that happen when we overtax our natural resources,” said Glenn Prickett, senior vice president of Conservation International and an expert on econom-