

# **Extinction of the Puerto Rican boa could represent a public health risk** <sup>[1]</sup>

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Boas are important for the control of populations of rodents, helping prevent disease.

The Puerto Rican boa was declared an endangered species in 1970, and although there are specimens in certain regions of Puerto Rico, the species continues to be threatened risking not only its survival but public health. Boas eat rodents, like rats and mice, which can transmit

diseases to humans.

The fate of the boa and other endangered species in the Caribbean and Latin American are being discussed this weekend at a conference at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico in Arecibo.

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