



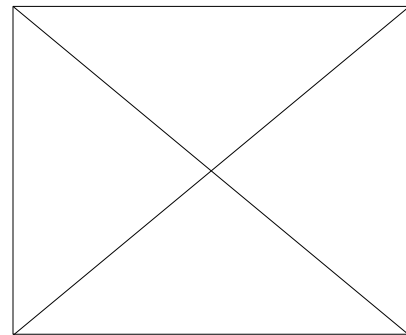
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Geoengineering for Animals

By Brandon Keim July 17, 2008 | 2:07:26 PM Categories: [Animals](#), [Climate](#)

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As the world drags its feet on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, respected scientists have proposed some [crazy stopgap solutions](#), from orbital mirrors to manmade volcanoes.

Conservationists are taking a similar approach, but with animals.

A commentary published today in *Science* marks the center-stage debut of assisted colonization -- saving vanishing species by picking them up and putting them somewhere new.

It's a highly controversial proposition, to say the least: opponents say it's a potentially ecosystem-wrecking false panacea. But it's being seriously considered by the conservation community. And while working on a feature about the debate, I spoke to Notre Dame ecologist Jessica Hellmann, co-author of this influential [Conservation Biology paper](#) [[pdf](#)]

Said Hellmann, "I make an analogy to climate science in general. In the last couple years, you've heard discussion among climate scientists about doing engineering fixes, like fertilizing the ocean and solar mirrors. In the climate community a decade ago, talking about those things was taboo. A better strategy was reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but nobody has. And here we are, a decade later, and the situation seems worse."

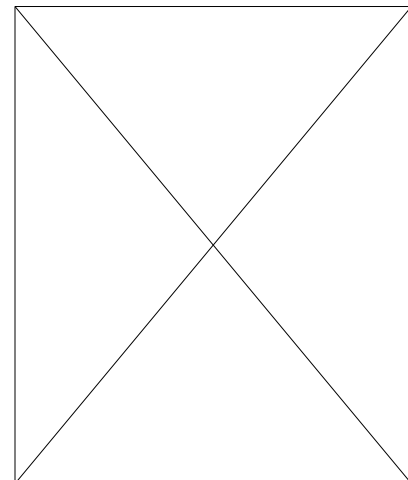
Hellmann, like everyone else I spoke to for the story, said that the very mention of assisted colonization was once greeted with disbelief, if not anger. And now -- with climate change accelerating the [sixth great extinction](#) -- those same skeptics are taking it seriously.

Assisted Colonization and Rapid Climate Change [Science] [Not yet available online; press release [here](#).]

Image: From WikiMedia commons, the Costa Rican golden toad, whose extinction has been directly attributed to climate change.

See Also:

- [Evolution Races Cancer to Save Tasmanian Devils](#)
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TEAM

EDITOR: Betsy Mason | [email](#)
STAFF WRITER: Alexis Madrigal | [email](#) | [Twitter](#)
CONTRIBUTOR: Brandon Keim | [email](#) | [Twitter](#)
CONTRIBUTOR: Clara Moskowitz | [email](#)
CONTRIBUTOR: Aaron Rowe
CONTRIBUTOR: Michael Wall
CONTRIBUTOR: Adam Rogers

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I for one would welcome colonial rest stops for large animals in North America. Especially for large animals we know we can hunt to extinction. Smaller animals, not as good an idea - Look at the Cane Toad in Australia, or the Possum in New Zealand. Horse, Camel, Elephant, Tiger, Cheetah, ect... bring them on over. North America used to have these animals along time ago in the first place. It's less of a stretch than first thought.

Posted by: **Devil's Advocate** | Jul 17, 2008 1:05:40 PM

Instead of pumping all of that CO2 gas into some underground cavern, why don't we just pump it all into Al Gores endless rectal cavities?

...
 He certainly seems to have cornered the market on plenty of his hot gas...
 ...
 Just a thought :-)

Posted by: **Popped** | Jul 21, 2008 11:44:56 PM

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