

WHY IS THIS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT?



As far as all sentient beings are concerned, what is at stake in our endeavors is not simply the improvement of their conditions of exploitation, or even the end of their exploitation. What is at stake is a long-term redefinition of our relationship to animals in general, including wild animals.



The suffering of wild animals is immeasurable, has been going on for 500 million years, and will continue for the next 600 million years if humans do nothing to change the course of events. I think it's fair to talk about S-risk - except it's been there forever, right in front of our eyes.



Endless suffering (which is what I equate it with), if it has the slightest chance of being reduced or eliminated, must be made a priority goal (ideally to which all other goals are subordinate?). It must be given a large part of our energy.



There is a very good chance that it will be the cultural change projects that will have the greatest impact and possibly determine the long-term future (the philosophers of the Enlightenment enabled the overthrow of the Ancien Régime in France, for example). I think that in all things, we should favor approaches that promote the emergence of a non-speciesist, sentientist world. And our various strategies for improving the lot of animals should be judged in part by this criterion: do they support, and to what extent, the cultural shift toward a sentientist civilization?

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