

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Topic 3: Why are scientists so concerned about species under extinction?



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Species extinction

- Species extinction is the process by which all members of a species become extinct.
- The planet has recognized 8,300 breeds of animals. Of all 8% of them disappear and the remaining 22% are currently in danger of disappearing.
- Endangered animals are, among others: Polar bear, Arctic animal of Asia, Sumatran tiger, Mountain gorilla, Hammerhead shark, orcas, Snow leopard, Asian cheetah ,Sumatran Tiger e.t.c.
- Dozens of animal and plant species are disappearing every day due to the uncontrolled shrinking of their habitats, illegal hunting, air pollution and climate change.



CONSEQUENCES

- Scientists are very concerned about species under extinction.
- The biggest problem with the consequences of the extinction of a species is the fact that they are not sure how this will affect the system where it lives. It is possible that there will be an **ecological imbalance** in ecosystems that nature will have to adapt.
- In addition, every species that is lost, takes with it a piece of centuries-old genetic and evolutionary history, a valuable source of knowledge for humans.



Consequences

- Another consequence is the **complete extinction of species**. Over time, species extinction causes serious damage to the environment. Endangered species force other species to take over the areas in which this extinct species is involved. Among the effects caused by the complete extinction of species we find the reduction of trees and forest fires.
- The integrity of ecosystems is altered and, the vulnerability of these animals to any environmental change increases. These changes cause the loss of many species because it is not possible to adapt to new environments in such a short time.



Biodiversity

- Biodiversity is defined as the **diversity of living beings** on planet earth. It includes the number of species, genetic diversity, and the interaction of these life forms within complex ecosystems.
- Due to the species extinction, biodiversity is in serious danger and the repercussions of this imbalance will be tremendous because
- Healthy ecosystems provide us with many vital elements that we take for granted.
- In short, biodiversity provides us with clean air, fresh water, good quality soil and allows pollination of our crops. It helps us to combat and adapt to climate change, but also to reduce the adverse effects of natural hazards.



Sources

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