



Human  
Impact

Biodiversity is not constant, it is always changing and naturally rebalancing. The process of **natural selection** and **survival of the fittest** create resilient ecosystems of organisms.

Global events such as the **extinction** of the dinosaurs and the Ice Age have caused dramatic changes in Earth's biodiversity in the past.

Scientists have observed evidence that shows that **human activity** is currently causing unnatural changes to biodiversity that can negatively impact the future of life on Earth.



**Land Use** for agriculture typically reduces large areas of diverse life to a single crop or animal.

This often takes the form of **deforestation** of areas like the Amazon Rainforest for cattle ranching.



**Urban Development** changes natural habitats into unnatural environments.

These changes often create conditions unsuitable to native species.



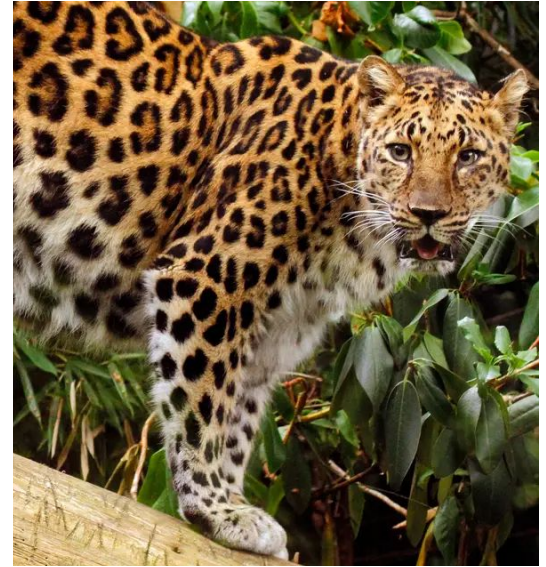
**Overexploitation** (unregulated hunting and fishing)  
have caused species to become endangered and go extinct.



**Caribbean Monk Seal (Extinct 2004)**



**Spix's Macaw (Extinct 2019)**



**Amur Leopard (Endangered, 60 left)**

**Pollution, climate change** and **invasive species** all threaten biodiversity.



**Biodiversity loss** results from both large, government policies and small, personal actions.

Consider what steps you could take to reduce your negative impact on the world's ecosystems.



# Ways to Protect Biodiversity

- Reduce your consumption of fossil fuels like gasoline and electricity generated by coal or natural gas which increase global warming.
- Eat less meat which requires large amounts of agricultural land for ranching. Eat locally sourced fruits and vegetables.
- Plant native flower species to support pollinators.



Many individuals and groups are doing the work of **Nature Conservation**

These actions ensure the sustainability of species, resources, and ecosystems for the future.



# Ways to Practice Conservation

- Volunteer for cleanup efforts in your community.
- Plant native species and participate in the removal of invasive species that threaten your ecosystem.
- Visit and support nature reserves and national parks which protect natural habitats.

