



Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth, in all its forms and all its interactions¹. This includes all the different species, their genes, and their ecosystems². People benefit from healthy ecosystems that are full of biodiversity. These benefits are called ecological services. Ecosystems are remarkable in their ability to clean air, provide food and water, support fertile soil, and regulate complex systems like the Earth's climate³.

Biodiversity is impacted by human activities. The activities that most affect biodiversity are changes to habitat, climate change, introduction of invasive species, over-harvesting of species, and pollution⁴. Climate change impacts biodiversity by causing changes in the timing of reproduction or migration events, distribution of species and population size, and an increase in the frequency of pest and disease outbreaks. For example, many coral reefs have undergone major bleaching episodes when local sea surface temperatures have increased during specific periods. Climate change is forcing biodiversity to adapt through shifting habitat, changing life cycles, or developing new physical traits in order to survive.

REFERENCES

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3. Greenfacts. Biodiversity and Human Well-being. <https://www.greenfacts.org/en/biodiversity/l-3/4-causes-desertification.htm#0p0>
4. Convention on Biological Diversity. Introduction. <https://www.cbd.int/climate/intro.shtml>