

Planetary Wellbeing

- Cut Pollution & Toxicity
- Ensure Animal Wellness
- Guard Water Resources
- Ocean Awareness

Protect Biodiversity

- Biodiversity in Your Backyard
- **Endangered Species**
- Environmental Labels
- Forest Protection

- Reduce Resource Consumption
- Save Energy & Climate

Pretty in Pastels



[Shop all pretty in pastels](#)



Protect America's Most Endangered Species

Share: Like 0

The earth, in its early days, used to have a balanced ecosystem. Unfortunately, increasing environmental factors and human activity have not just led to the depletion of environmental resources but also to the loss of many species that rely on a healthy ecosystem for survival. The rate at which species are becoming endangered and dying out is very alarming.

Lovers of nature should take heart, however, because there are many ways by which you can help to protect biodiversity. One is to keep yourself aware about the issues but more than that, be an active voice in pushing for the protection of endangered species. That's one of the things Hearts is all about.

As Hart, owner of Hearts, likes to say, "Asking me to choose a favorite aspect of nature is like asking a mother of 10 to pick her favorite child. I love everything about our earth – the oceans and streams and babbling brooks, expansive fields, cloud filled skies, pebbled beaches, rolling hills, statuesque mountains, painted deserts. And let's not forget the forests – the magnificent forests filled with wonders untold. You name it, we're hooked on it."

To say that concern for biodiversity is a passion of ours might be an understatement! That's why we want you to join us in advocating for protection of our biological diversity. Keep reading to find out how.

Quick Guide: How Humans Create More Endangered Species

- **6th Mass Extinction – it's now!**: The natural rate of extinction is one to five species per year but we are averaging a loss of species that is between 1,000 and 10,000 times this natural rate.^[i] As a result, scientists believe we are currently in the middle of the sixth mass extinction event ever to occur on our planet! If it continues at this rate, it could take more than 200,000 generations of humankind before levels of biodiversity return to those we inherited.^[ii]

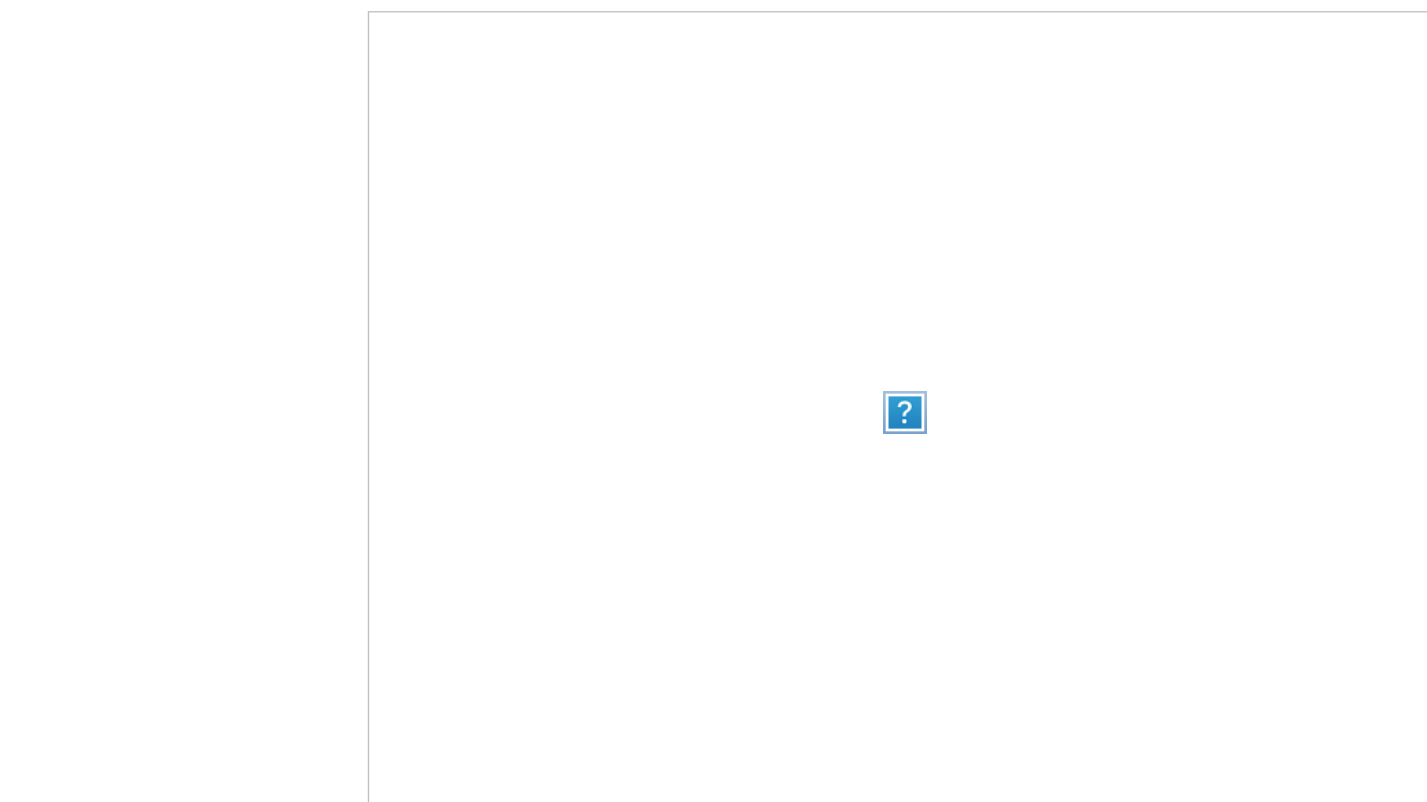
- **Number of endangered species in the world:** The list of endangered species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has gone up by 620 species between 2007 and 2008. The total number of threatened species is now at 16,928 worldwide.^[iii]

- **Forest degradation per day:** Everyday there are at least 126,000 square miles of forest destroyed due to climate change, ranching, unsustainable logging, and other human activities.^[iv] Since 90% of all plants and animals call forests home, cutting them down has an extremely detrimental impact on biodiversity.

- **Pesticide and fertilizer use:** The rate by which farms make use of pesticides and fertilizers have increased by 26 times within the last 50 years. Crops have benefited from this but at the expense of aquatic and insect life, and water and soil quality.^[v]

- **Ocean garbage patches in the world:** There are five ocean garbage patches in the world and one of them, the Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch, is twice as big as Texas.^[vi] This trash has big consequences for marine wildlife, killing 100,000s every year. Plastic ocean trash is definitely a threat to biodiversity.

Most Endangered Species in the US

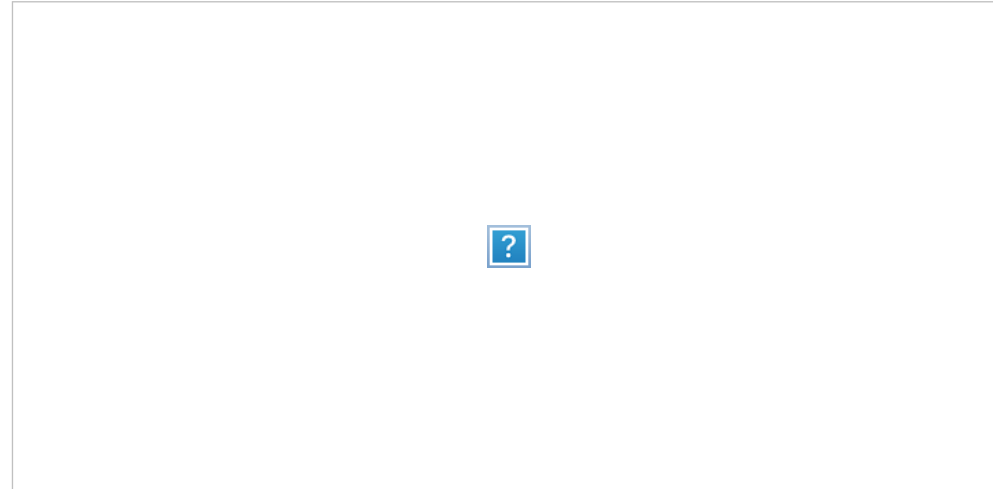


1. **The Tricolored Blackbird in California:** Tricolored Blackbirds are mostly found in California. Each colony would have about 50,000 birds and they settle within very small acres of land.^[vii] This habit of nesting has contributed to their steep decline of more than 80% in the past 70 years.^[viii] Their nests have suffered as coastal wetlands gave way to more developed areas. These birds, who feed on wheat, are also in competition with the dairy farmers who grow the wheat to feed their herd.^[ix] Today there are less than 260,000 birds remaining of this species of bird and most of them can be found in the San Joaquin Valley.^[x]
2. **The Red Wolf in North Carolina:** There are only two species of wolves in the world and the Red Wolf is one of them.^[xi] Eastern North Carolina is home to this endangered specie.^[xii] Red wolves reached the endangered status because of massive predator control programs that were implemented at the start of the 20th century.^[xiii] These programs came about

because red wolves are known to feed on young cattle, raccoon, and other small animals.^[xiv] There are at least 100 of them living in North Carolina and another 200 can be found in breeding facilities all over the US.^[xv]

3. **The Florida Bonneted Bat in Fort Myers:** This species of bat was considered extinct before a tiny colony of them was found in 2002,^[xvi] but even today this bat is listed among the rarest types of animal in the US. The main threat that Florida Bonneted Bats face is the use of pesticides. The bugs they consume start to carry pesticide toxins that can harm the bat's reproductive systems.^[xvii] Currently there are only about 100 individuals of this type of bat.^[xviii]
4. **The Dusky Gopher Frog in Mississippi:** Three ponds in Mississippi serve as the home for the entire 250-strong population of Dusky Gopher Frogs that live in the wild.^[xix] One continuous threat to this amphibian is the loss of longleaf-pine forests in the US, 98% of which has already been destroyed.^[xx]
5. **The Cahaba Shiner in Alabama:** The population of the Cahaba Shiner, native to the Cahaba River in Alabama, has gone down to 20% of what it used to be.^[xxi] This species' habitat decreased from 90 miles to 15 miles of the river.^[xxii] The construction of dams, deteriorating water conditions, and the decline in population of smaller fish that they feed on are mostly to blame for the endangerment of the Cahaba Shiner.^[xxiii]

Take Action! Biodiversity Conservation



1. **Make your home and backyard wildlife-friendly:** Decals placed on windows can save birds from colliding with them. Avoiding pesticides by using [integrated pest management](#) can save owls and hawks from ingesting poison. Proper upcycling, recycling, and composting disposal can reduce water contamination.
2. **Take action against wildlife crime:** Always refuse to purchase products that are derived from endangered species such as ivory, fur, and crocodile skin. The [World Wildlife Fund](#) and the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) have guides on how to avoid such purchases while abroad.
3. **Purchase sustainable seafood:** Make sure that you only buy seafood that was caught using [sustainable fishing practices](#) in order to protect coral reefs, turtles, and dolphins from being sacrificed for your meal.
4. **Learn about and stand up for the endangered plants and animals near you:** Familiarize yourself with the plants, birds, fish, mammals, and other wildlife that are local to your area through the [complete list of endangered species](#) from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). At the very least, report to the authorities if you become aware of instances of shooting or trapping of these endangered animals. More importantly, advocate for regional and state legislation that protects endangered species in your area.
5. **Support pledges against activities destructive to wildlife:** Many of non-profits have activist pledges that you can support such as buying good wood to save forests, regulations against open season on endangered species, and taking action against aviation pollution. These pledges allow you to send letters, emails, and make phone calls to authority figures and legislators working on these issues. Find out how you can become a biodiversity activist through the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) or the [World Wildlife Fund](#).
6. **Donate to or volunteer with wildlife conservation agencies:** Choose a wildlife issue you feel strongly about and contact a conservation agency about how you can help. You can volunteer to educate your community on the issues, prepare emails to government officials, and get in touch with the media to increase awareness.

Dig Deeper: Speak Up for Threatened Species

- Get to know the [members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).

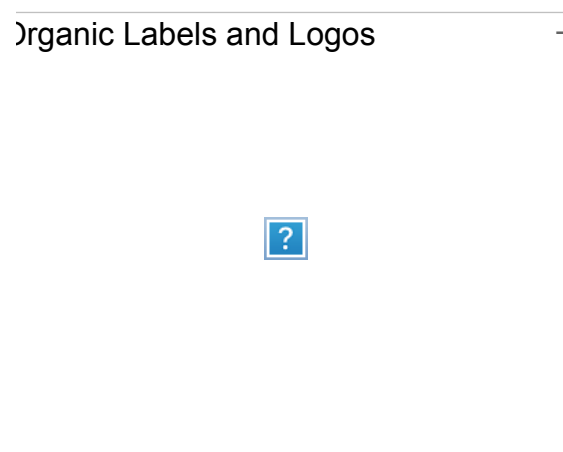
Images By [minicooper93402](#), [LaggedOnUser](#), and [UMBC Office of Student Life](#)

+ References

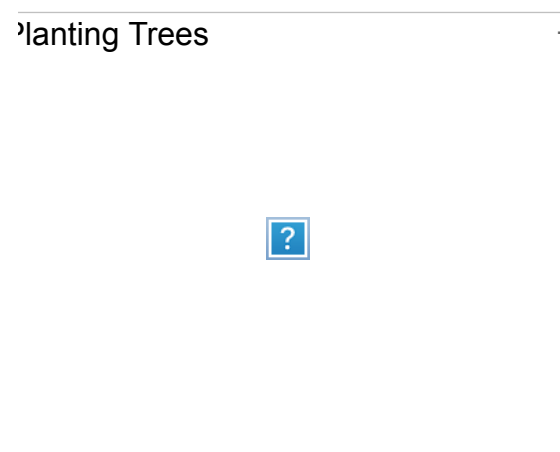
+ References

Share: [Pin it](#) [Like 0](#) [Email](#)

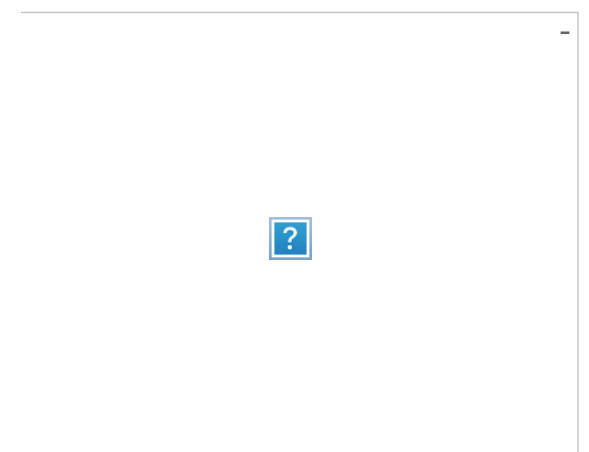
Related Articles



How to Recognize Organic Labels and Logos



Plant Trees to Reforest Habitats



Avoid Common Pesticides & Preserve Biodiversity

Comments

0 Comments

Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

