

DEC 2020



BIODIVERSITY: LET'S LIVE IN HARMONY

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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Our planet is endowed with a wide variety of rich diversified living species. Biodiversity or Biological diversity is the term used to denote the various living organisms on earth. It includes different kinds of lives like animals, plants, birds, insects, fungi and microorganisms. All of these living beings are dependent on each other for maintaining ecological balance and support. But due to various anthropogenic activities, the balance in the ecosystem gets disturbed and there is loss of biodiversity.

According to World Wide Fund's 2018 Report, there has been a 60% decline of global populations of mammals, fishes, birds, reptiles and amphibians since 1970. Three-quarters of the land-based environment and two-thirds of the ocean environment have been significantly altered. All these impacts are due to over use of resources, excessive deforestation and clearing of land for urbanization, over fishing and exploitation of water resources, pollution of water, air and land and which ultimately lead to climate change. There are natural reasons for biodiversity disturbances attributed to factors such as seasonal change, floods, and forest fires. But these impacts are temporary and the ecosystems have adaptations to such changes.

If we observe keenly, we can clearly notice changes in biodiversity in our daily life. During our childhood, we would have seen many sparrows near our house chirping around, eating grains and flying. But now we can hardly find sparrows especially in cities and industrial towns. This is an example of degradation of biodiversity. There is visible reduction in natural pollinators also.

Every living organism in nature has been created in such a way that there is a balance in the ecosystem. Disturbance to that balance could lead to dangerous consequences. Many species are already in the list of endangered species. It is high time that we take actions to prevent further loss of biodiversity and restore it. The richness of biodiversity is of huge benefits to humans. A recent example is fungus that grows on the fur of sloths has been found to fight cancer.

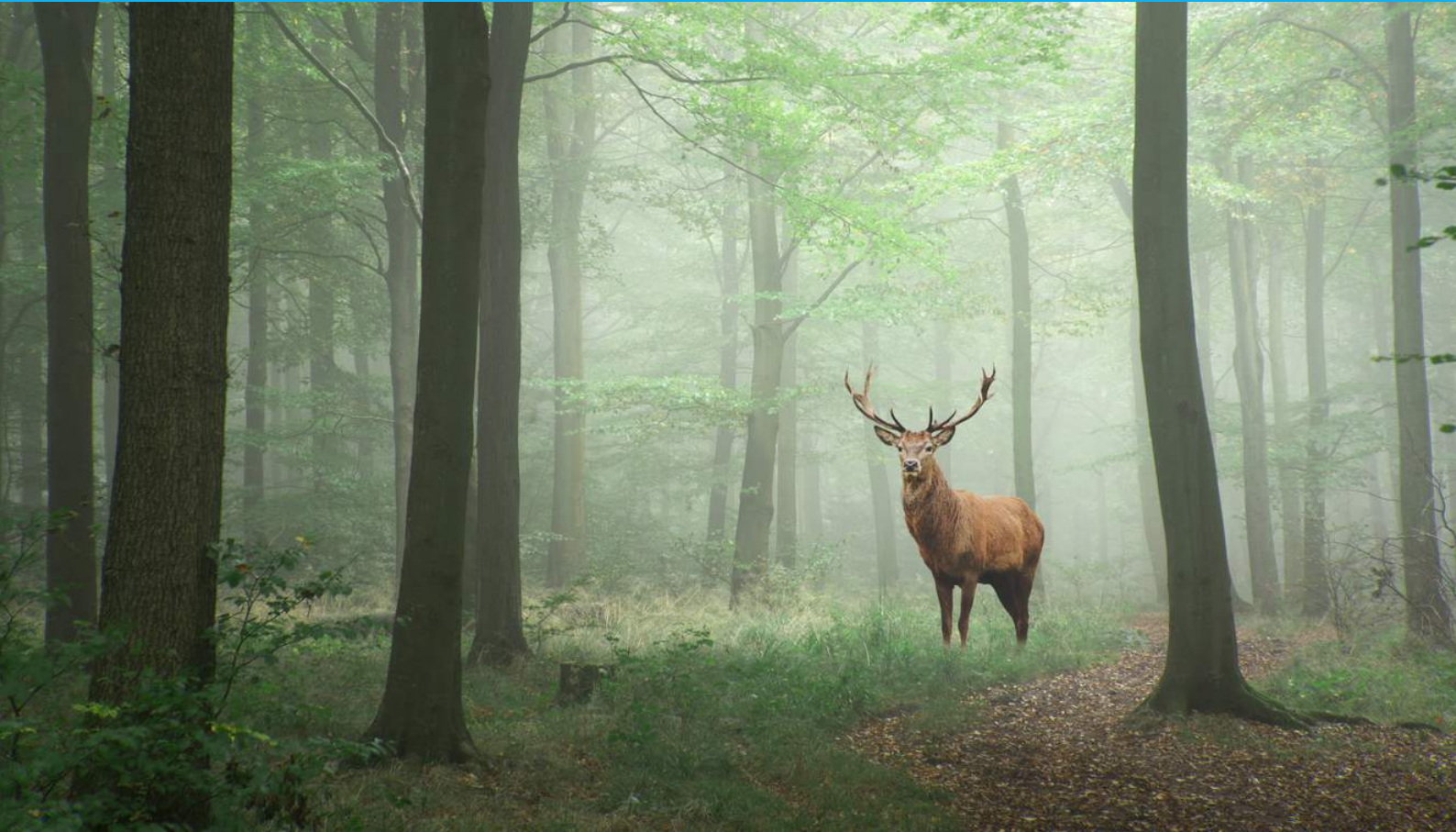
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If we start taking initiatives towards restoring biodiversity, then we can prevent extinction of species and could bring endangered species to normal population.

There are many international organizations devoted to the conservation of biodiversity. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), World Wide Fund (WWF), Fauna and Flora International, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society are some organizations working for biodiversity conservation. International conventions and policies have also been signed by many countries for biodiversity conservation. Convention on Biological Diversity, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Wetlands are some of the international conventions for biodiversity conservation.



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By taking actions such as controlling of pollution, preventing deforestation, doing more of afforestation, minimal and appropriate usage of natural resources, bans on illegal hunting of animals, mitigating climate change, avoiding destruction of animal's habitat, etc. could help in tackling the issue of loss of biodiversity. When all of us work together along with the actions of government and policies, we would be able to reverse the negative effect on biodiversity. Earth is a beautiful place to live in, by sharing our ecosystem with other living organisms also. Let us pledge to conserve biodiversity and live in harmony with all living organisms.

