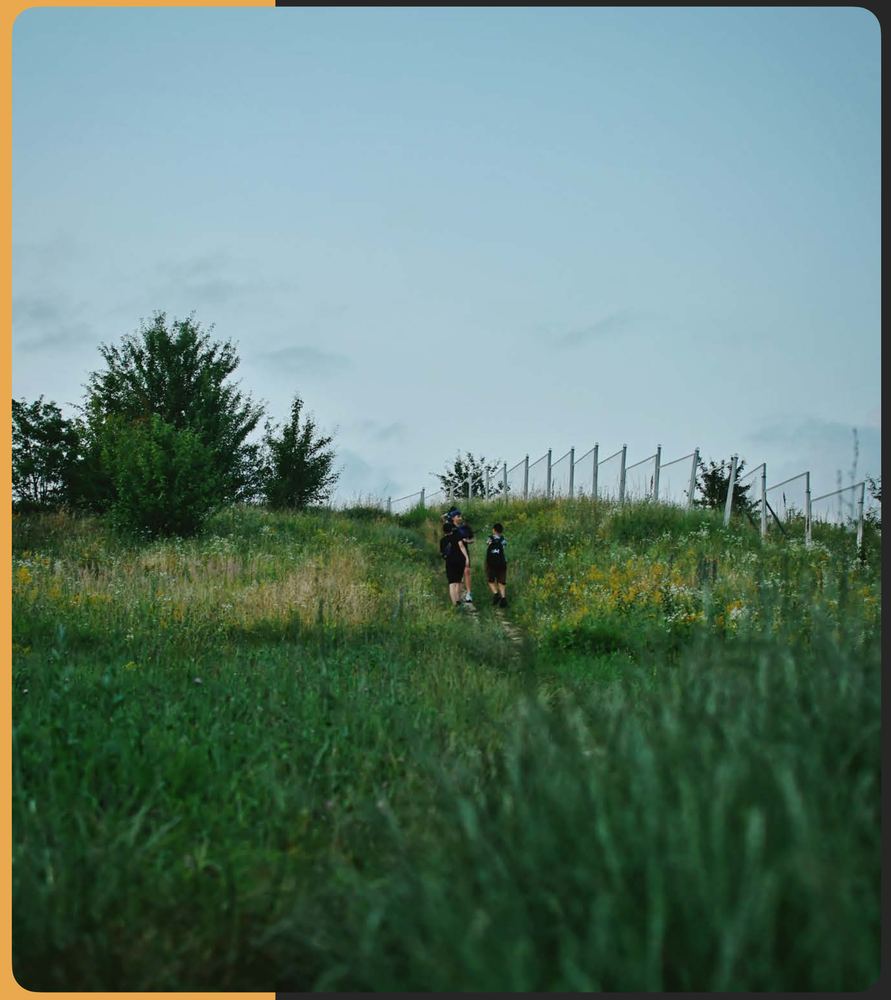
2024-2025
Walking Softer Education
2 - Rewilding and Social Impacts

Rewilding and Social Impacts



Learning Outcomes

- Analyze the historical relationship between humans and biodiversity
- Examine rewilding through a social lens
- Understand the importance of considering both social and ecological impacts when designing and implementing rewilding efforts

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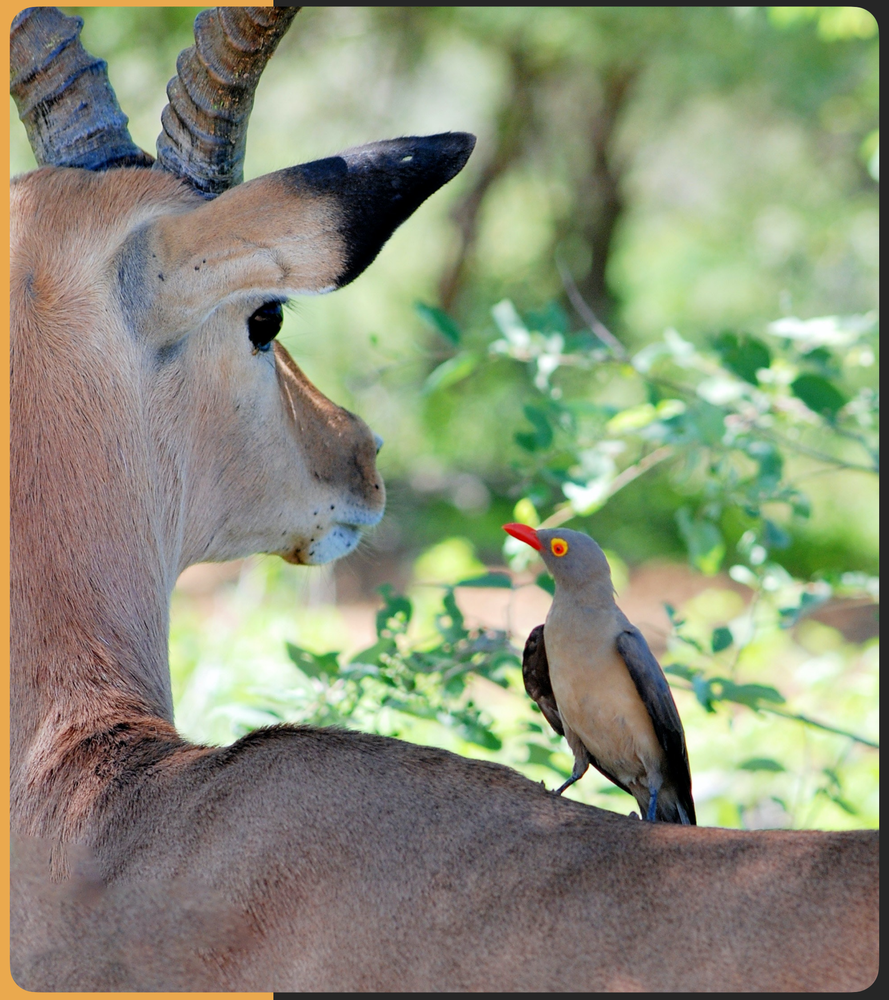
2 - Rewilding and Social Impacts

Agenda

- Trivia about humans and biodiversity
- Examine the social impacts of a specific example of biodiversity destruction
- Video and discussion about an example of rewilding

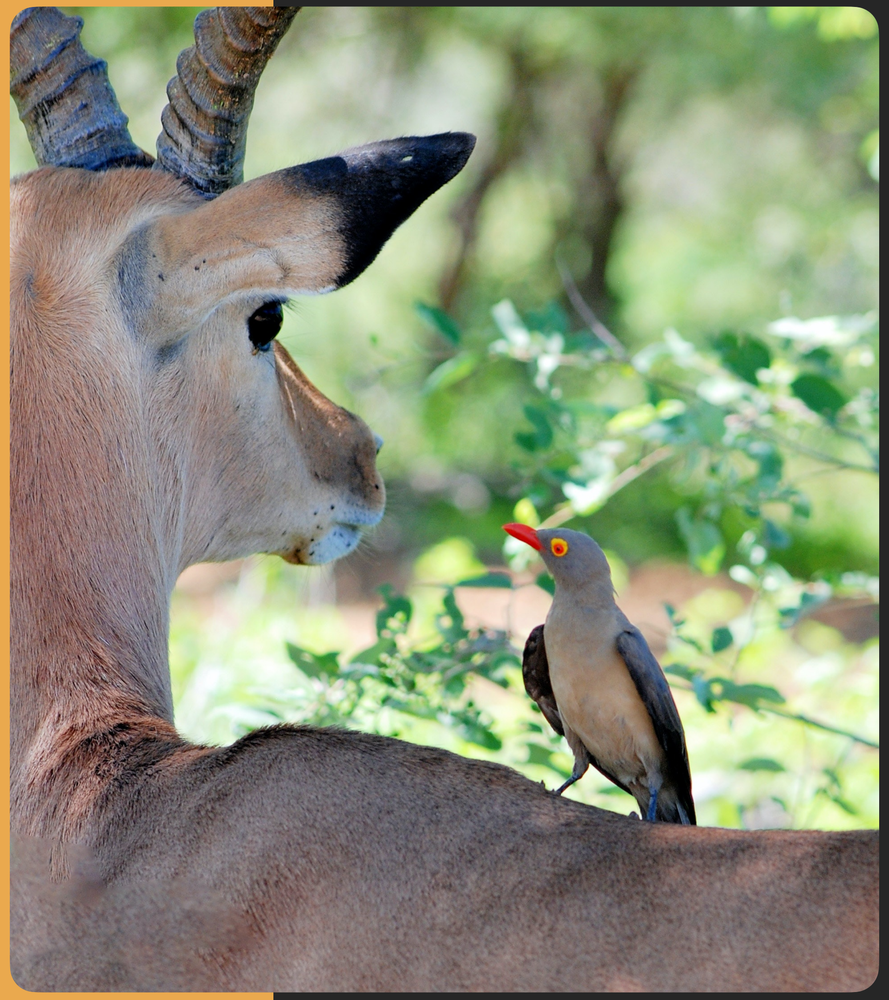


Trivia!

1. Have species always gone extinct?

    A. Yes

    B. No



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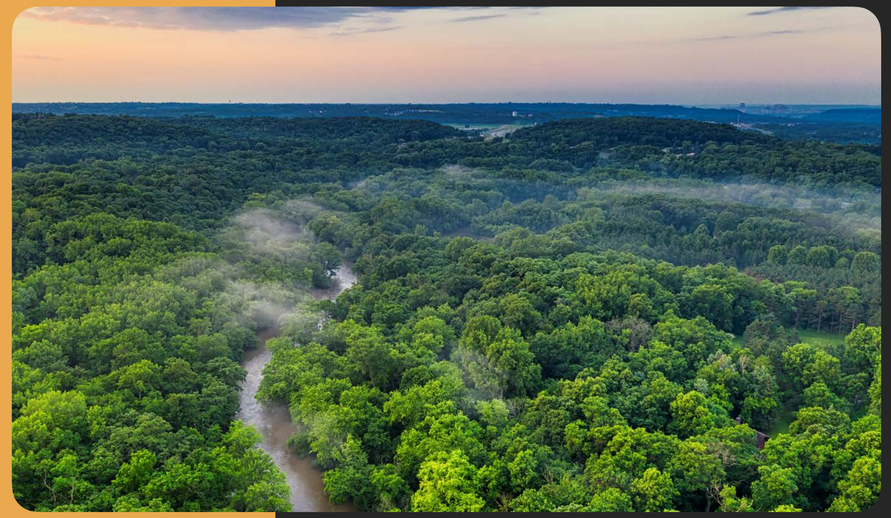
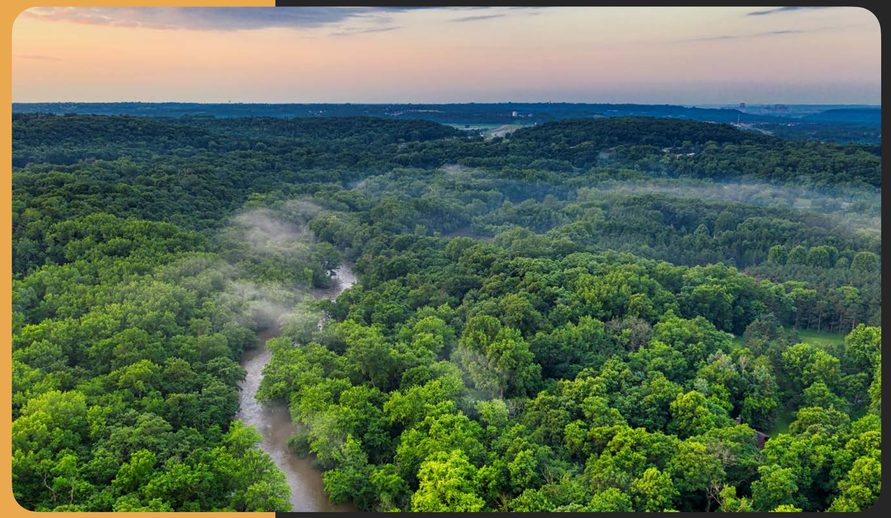


Trivia!

2. Which has higher biodiversity, the Amazon Rainforest or Antarctica?

A. Amazon Rainforest

B. Antarctica



Trivia!

2. Which has more biodiversity, the Amazon Rainforest or Antarctica?

A. **Amazon Rainforest**

B. Antarctica

Trivia!

3. What is the most biodiverse country in the world?

A. Australia

B. United States

C. Brazil

D. Tanzania

Trivia!

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A. Australia

B. United States

C. Brazil

D. Tanzania

Trivia!

4. Do you think human activity has increased or decreased extinction rates (extinction rates refer to how often species go extinct)?

A. Increased

B. Decreased

C. Stayed the same

Trivia!

4. Do you think human activity has increased or decreased extinction rates (extinction rates refer to how often species go extinct)?

A. **Increased**

B. Decreased

C. Stayed the same

Trivia!

5. What is the current predicted rate of extinction compared to pre-human times?

A. The Same

B. 5 times faster

C. 10-100 times faster

D. A million times faster

Trivia!

5. What is the current predicted rate of extinction compared to pre-human times?

A. The Same

B. 5 times faster

C. 10-100 times faster

- **Extinctions are now estimated to be occurring ten to a hundred times faster than they were in pre-human times**

D. A million times faster

Trivia!

6. Between 1970 and 2020, what percentage of animal populations decrease?

A. 25%

B. 52%

C. 73%

D. 99%

Trivia!

6. Between 1970 and 2018, what percentage of animal populations decrease?

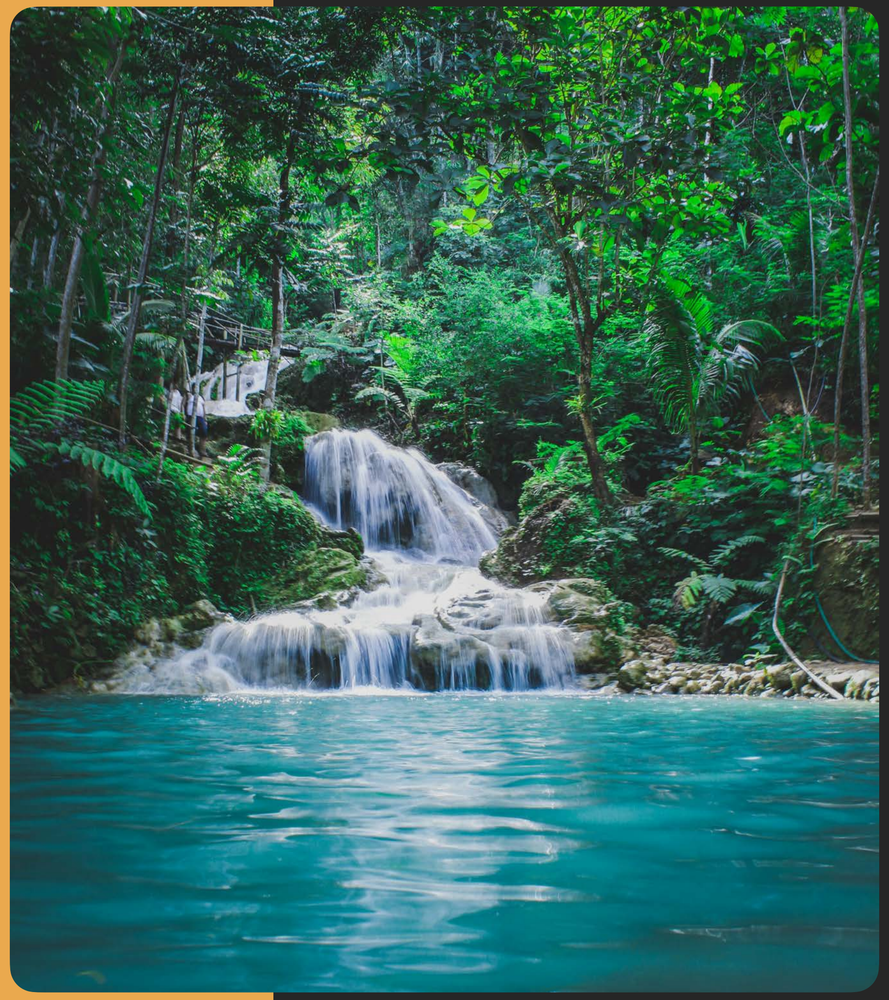
A. 25%

B. 52%

C. 73%

- **According to the World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet Report 2022, the animal populations assessed decreased by an average of 73% between 1970 and 2020.**

D. 99%



Trivia!

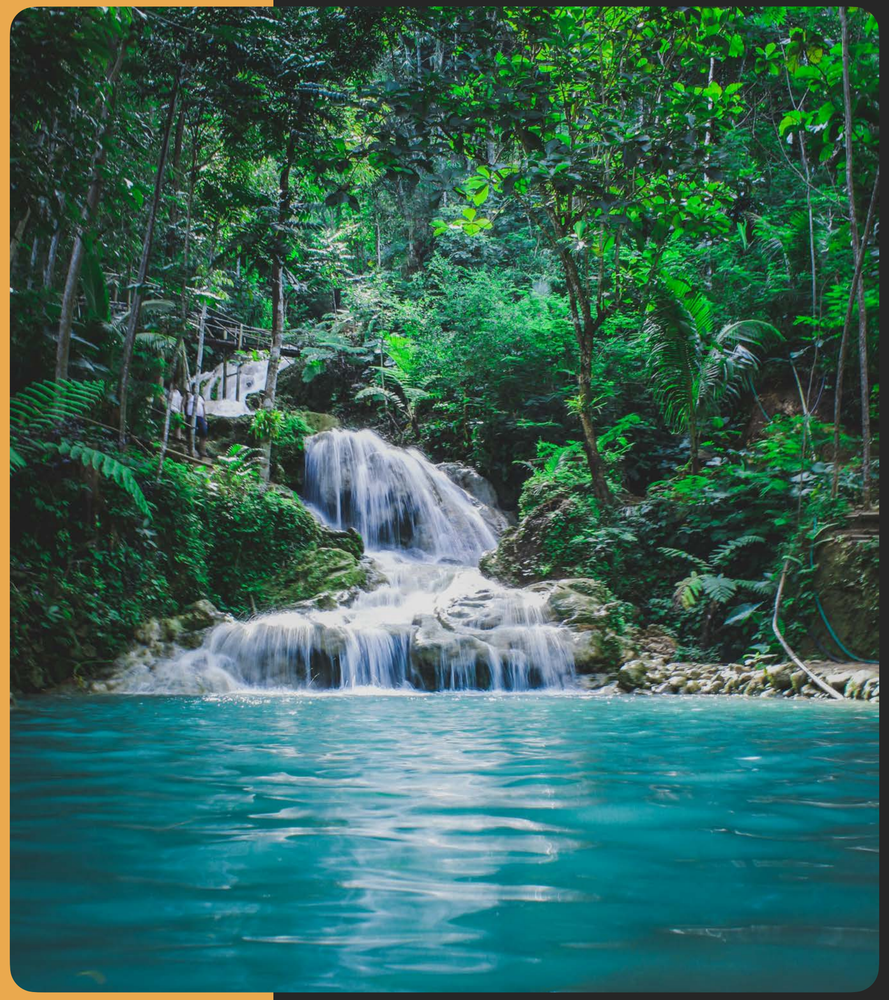
7. What region of the world shows the greatest regional decline in average biodiversity population abundance?

A. Latin America

B. Africa

C. Asia

D. The Arctic



Trivia!

7. What region of the world shows the greatest regional decline in average biodiversity population abundance?

A. **Latin America**

- **Latin America shows the greatest regional decline in average population abundance (95%)**

B. Africa

C. Asia

D. The Arctic

Trivia!

8. What kind of species have shown the most significant overall global decline?

A. Desert species

B. Alpine species

C. Saltwater species

D. Freshwater species

Trivia!

8. What kind of species have shown the most significant overall global decline?

A. Desert species

B. Alpine species

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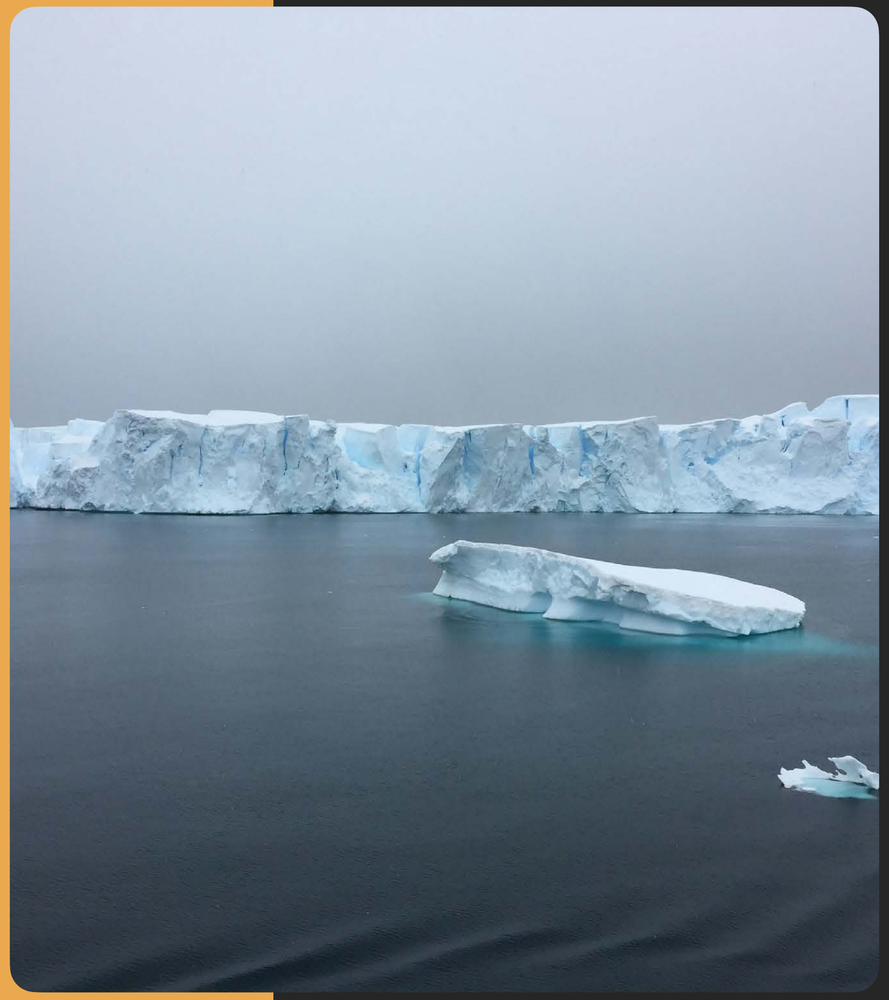
D. Freshwater species

- **Freshwater species populations have seen the greatest overall global decline (85%). (Note: Habitat loss and modifications, particularly barriers to migration routes, such as dams, account for around half of the threats to these freshwater species populations.)**



Trivia!

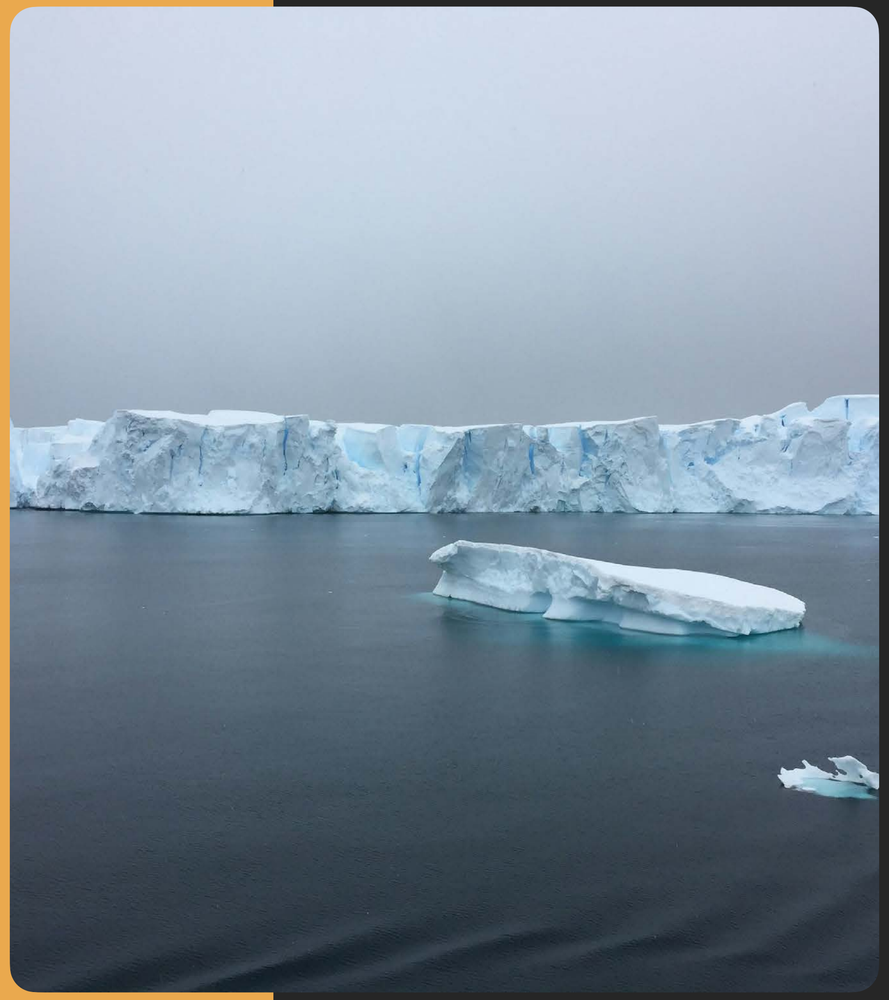
9. What is the leading direct cause of biodiversity loss?

   A. Land use change (habitat loss/degradation)

   B. Climate change

   C. Natural disasters

   D. Asteroids



Trivia!

9. What is the leading direct cause of biodiversity loss?

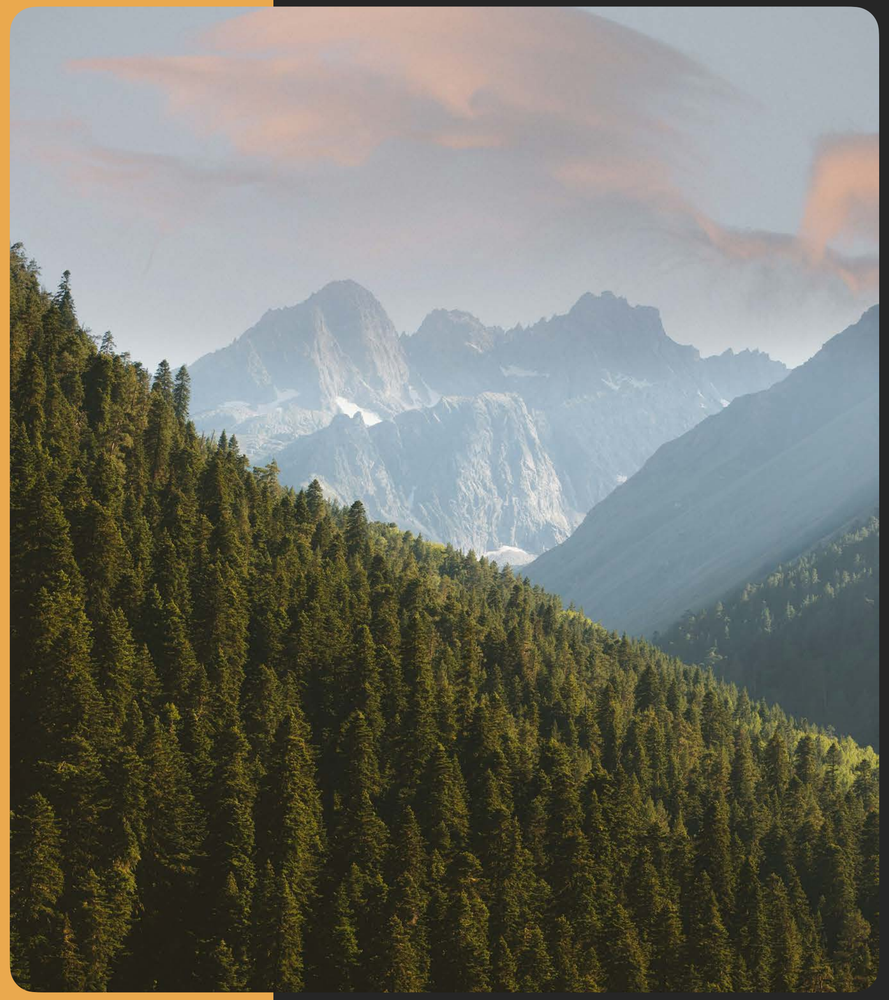
A. Land use change (habitat loss/degradation)

- **The leading direct cause of biodiversity loss is land use change (primarily for large-scale food production), which drives an estimated 30% of biodiversity decline globally.**

B. Climate change

C. Natural disasters

D. Asteroids



Trivia!

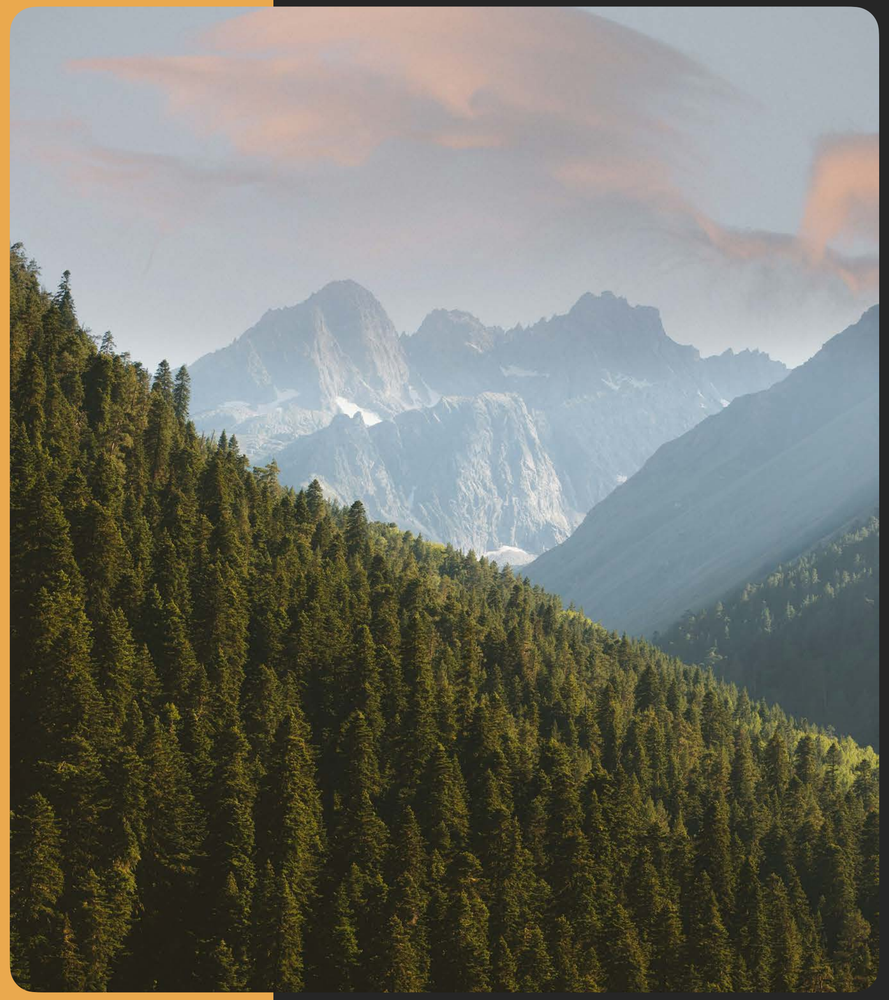
10. Between 1990 and 2020, how many hectares (100 acres) of forest have been lost?

A. 2

B. 2 thousand

C. 2 million

D. 420 million



Trivia!

10. Between 1990 and 2020, how many hectares (100 acres) of forest have been lost?

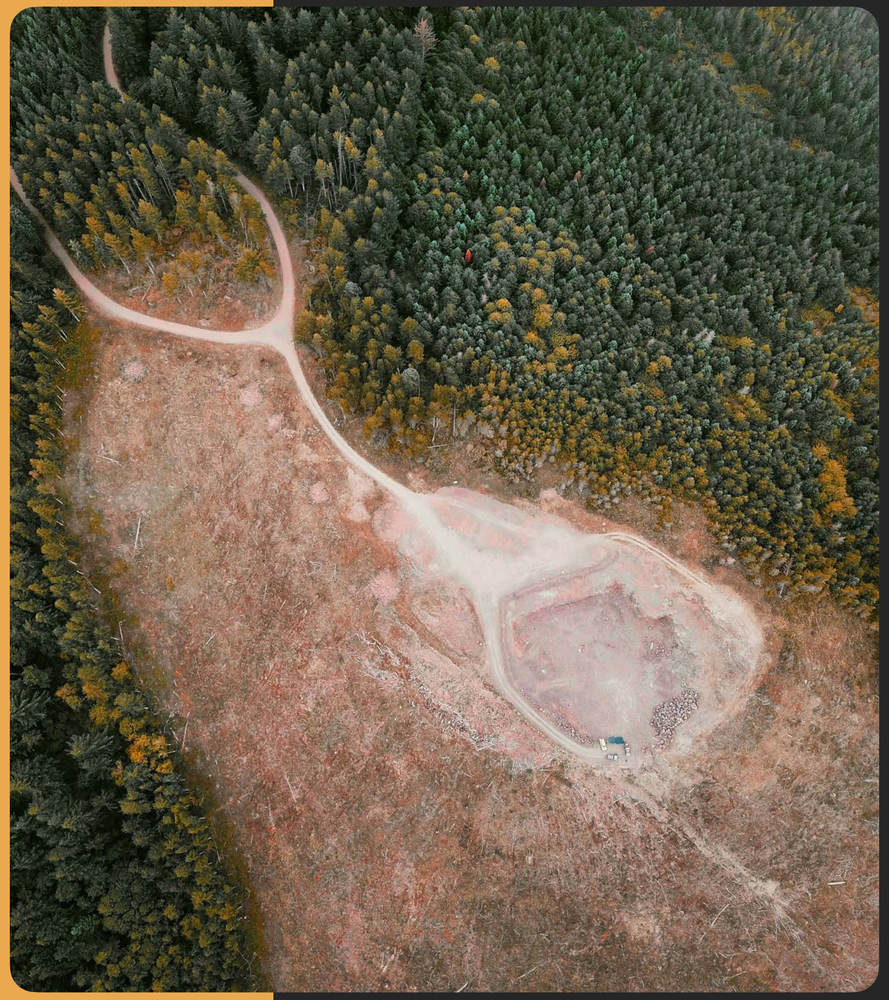
A. 2

B. 2 thousand

C. 2 million

D. 420 million

- **Between 1990 and 2020, around 420 million hectares of forest (mainly tropical forest) have been lost and a further 10 million hectares, an area the size of Portugal combined, is being lost each year.**

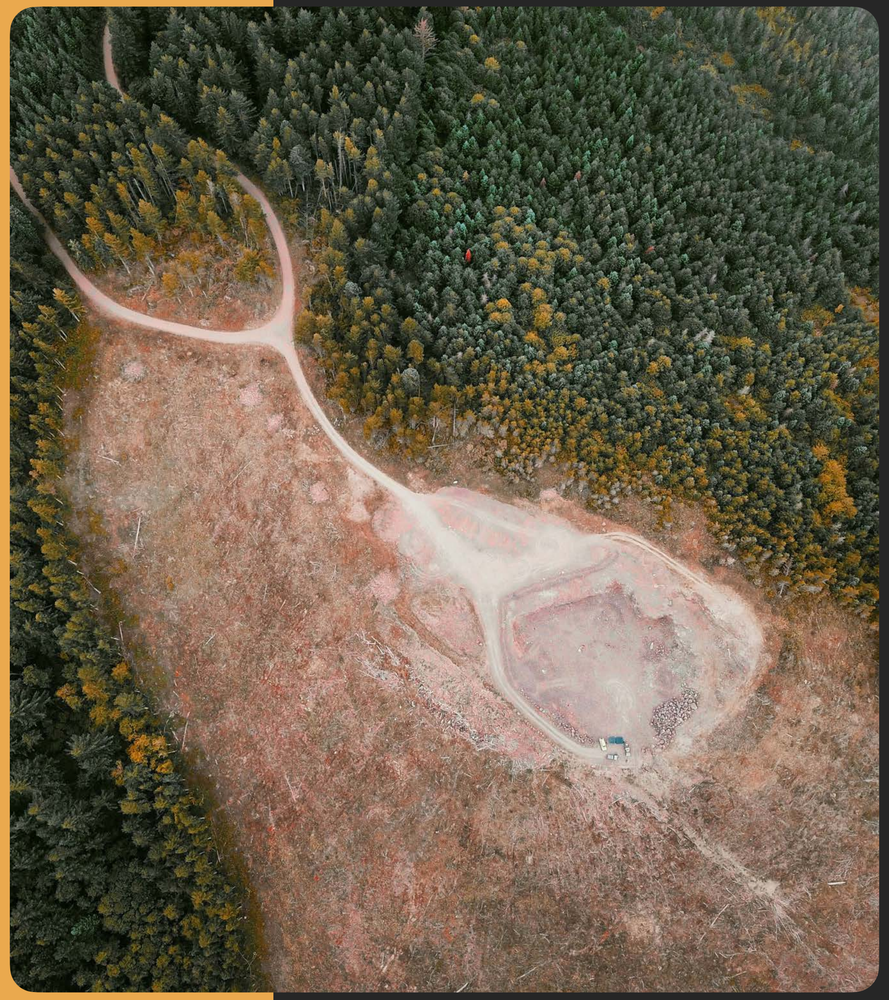


Trivia!

11. How does habitat fragmentation impact biodiversity?

    A. It benefits biodiversity

    B. It harms biodiversity



Trivia!

11. How does habitat fragmentation impact biodiversity?

A. It benefits biodiversity

B. It harms biodiversity

- **Habitat fragmentation harms biodiversity by limiting species' ability to migrate, disperse, find mates, feed, and complete their life cycles, possibly leading to extinction. Habitat fragmentation also reduces overall habitat area and quality, and increases isolation from other habitat patches.**

Social Impacts of Biodiversity Destruction

Why did the US try to kill all the bison? - Andrew C. Isenberg (5 mins)

https://youtube.com/watch?v=TXIdnrwrBws

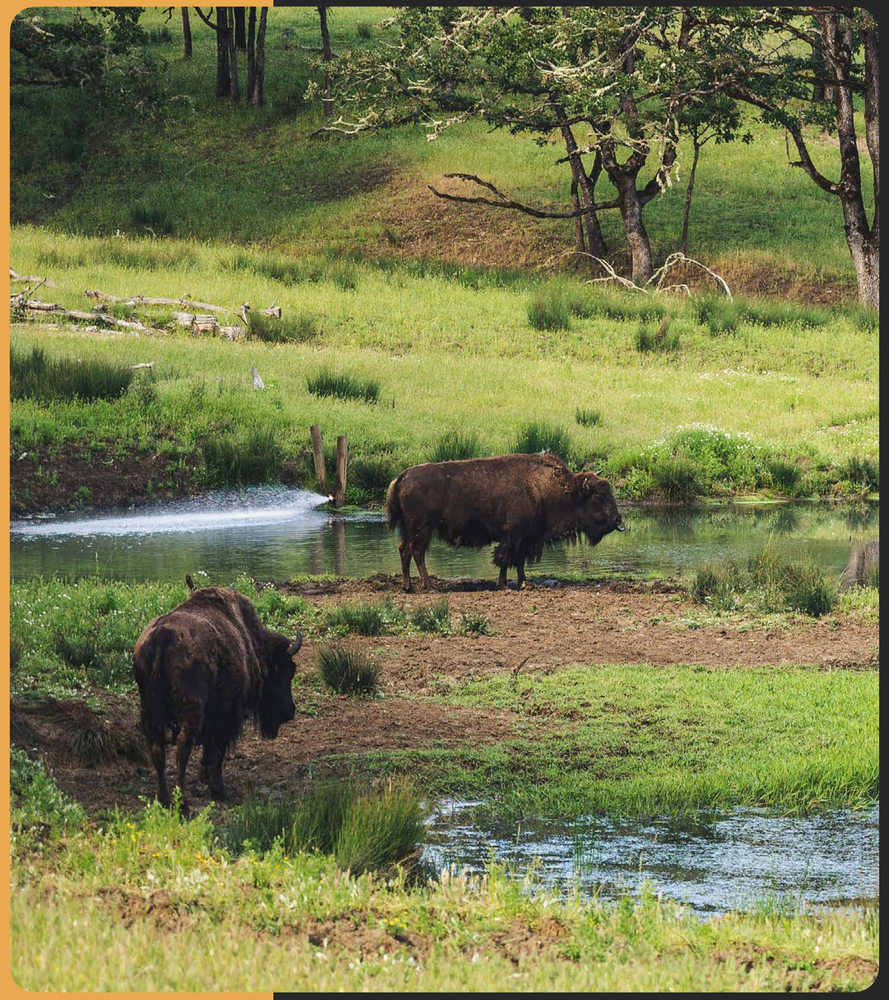
Discussion

- Why was the bison important to Native American Plains Tribes such as the Kiowa? What did they use the bison for?
- Why were white settlers hunting bison?
- What happened to bison populations as a result?
- What happened to Native American Plains Tribes as a result?
- When they created bison preserves to save the bison, what did that do to Native Americans and their reservations?

Rewilding Example

Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative - Boy-zshan Bi-den (Buffalo Return) (9 mins)

https://youtube.com/watch?v=5fSpqtXcP2M



Discussion

- What stood out to you about this video?
- How did it make you feel to see wild bison released onto Tribal lands?

Additional Resources

- **5 Human Impacts on the Environment: Crash Course Ecology #10**: Crash Course - Hank Green gives the rundown on the top five ways humans are negatively impacting the environment and having detrimental effects on the valuable ecosystem services that a healthy biosphere provides.
- **Biodiversity is collapsing worldwide. Here's why**: Our Changing Climate - Biodiversity measures the variety and variability of life, and climate change is causing the decline of biodiversity in numerous ecosystems via extreme weather, sea-level rise, and habitat destruction.
- **The Silent Cry of the Forest: How Deforestation Impacts Indigenous Communities**: Earth.org - Indigenous communities, the stewards of diverse biodiversity and cultures, endure the brunt of rampant deforestation in the midst of this crisis, as their ancestral lands, essential for sustenance and spiritual practices, are under threat from the destructive forces of logging, mining, and farming.
- **Why Indigenous Forest Guardianship is Crucial to Climate Action | Nonette Royo | TED**: TED - Indigenous communities have looked after their ancestral forests for millennia, cultivating immense amounts of knowledge on how to protect, nourish, and heal these vital environments.
- **The Movement of Indigenous-led Conservation**: Indigenous Leadership Initiative - Indigenous Peoples are at the forefront of sustaining biodiversity, from salmon recovery in the US to caribou monitoring in Canada to cultural burning practices in Australia and beyond.

Contributors

Walking Softer would like to thank Mackenzie Feldman and Sheina Crystal of Re:Wild Your Campus, and Morgan Graham for contributing to the rewilding learning materials.

re:wild your campus