

CHAPTER 9 VOCABULARY - Sustaining Biodiversity

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background extinction rate	Normal extinction of various species as a result of changes in local environmental conditions. Compare <i>mass extinction</i> .
biological extinction	Complete disappearance of a species from the earth. It happens when a species cannot adapt and successfully reproduce under new environmental conditions or when a species evolves into one or more new species. Compare <i>speciation</i> . See also <i>endangered species</i> , <i>mass extinction</i> , <i>threatened species</i> .
climate	Physical properties of the troposphere of an area based on analysis of its weather records over a long period (at least 30 years). The two main factors determining an area's climate are its average <i>temperature</i> , with its seasonal variations, and the average amount and distribution of <i>precipitation</i> . Compare <i>weather</i> .
commercial extinction	Depletion of the population of a wild species used as a resource to a level at which it is no longer profitable to harvest the species.
endangered species	Wild species with so few individual survivors that the species could soon become extinct in all or most of its natural range. Compare <i>threatened species</i> .
exotic species	See <i>nonnative species</i> .
extinction rate	Percentage or number of species that go extinct within a certain period of time such as a year.
habitat fragmentation	Breakup of a habitat into smaller pieces, usually as a result of human activities.
HIPPCO	Acronym used by conservation biologists for the six most important secondary causes of premature extinction: H abitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation; I nvasive (nonnative) species; P opulation growth (too many people consuming too many resources); P ollution; C limate change; and O verexploitation.
immigrant species	See <i>nonnative species</i> .
invasive species	See <i>nonnative species</i> .
mass extinction	Catastrophic, widespread, often global event in which major groups of species are wiped out over a short time compared with normal (background) extinctions. Compare <i>background extinction</i> .
nonnative species	Species that migrate into an ecosystem or are deliberately or accidentally introduced into an ecosystem by humans. Compare <i>native species</i> .
pollutant	Particular chemical or form of energy that can adversely affect the health, survival, or activities of humans or other living organisms. See <i>pollution</i> .
pollution	Undesirable change in the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of air, water, soil, or food that can adversely affect the health, survival, or activities of humans or other living organisms.
population	Group of individual organisms of the same species living in a particular area.
survivorship curve	Graph showing the number of survivors in different age groups for a particular species.

threatened species	Wild species that is still abundant in its natural range but is likely to become endangered because of a decline in numbers. Compare <i>endangered species</i> .
wild species	Species found in the natural environment. Compare <i>domesticated species</i> .
wildlife	All free, undomesticated species. Sometimes the term is used to describe animals only.
wildlife resources	Wildlife species that have actual or potential economic value to people.