

Chapter 11 Biodiversity: Preserving Species

The nature of biodiversity is fundamental to the study of environmental science. That being said, understanding what it is and how to describe it can be difficult. Knowing the three basic components (genetic diversity, species diversity, and ecological diversity) is helpful in understanding the concept.

Most environmental science topics are related to the threats to biodiversity. The acronym HIPPO, for Habitat destruction, Invasive species, Pollution, Population [human], and Overharvesting, can be beneficial. Habitat loss is the main threat to biodiversity.

Many ecosystem services are derived from organisms in nature. Loss of biodiversity can affect these services, therefore it is important to maintain biodiversity.

Maintaining biodiversity is critical. Methods to help species that are threatened or endangered to survive include captive breeding programs and specialized programs organized by zoos. It is important to understand the two major pieces of legislation: ESA and CITES.