

# Human Population growth is the primary threat to Biodiversity

In 1 second:  
5 babies are born and 2 people die (an increase of 3 humans every second)!  
In that same second, 1.5 acres of rainforest get cut down

## Can we stop the devastation of our planet and save our own species?

### Around the world, human activities are taking a heavy toll

- Unsustainable agriculture, unregulated extractive industries, creeping urbanization, rampant coastal development, and rapacious over-fishing by giant industrial fleets are fragmenting and destroying natural environments
- Other assaults from the introduction of exotic species to climate change are throwing delicate ecosystems out of balance
- Illegal and unregulated hunting, fishing, and trade in wildlife products are depleting many species

### Measures of Human Impact on Biodiversity:

Half of the world's wetlands were lost last century

Logging and conversion have shrunk the world's forests by as much as half

Some 9% of the world's tree species are at risk of extinction  
tropical deforestation may exceed 130,000 square kilometers per year  
Some 30% of the world's original forests have been converted to agriculture

Soil degradation has affected 2/3 of the world's agricultural lands in the last 50 years

Fishing fleets are 40% larger than the ocean can sustain  
Nearly 70% of the world's major marine fish stocks are overfished or are being fished at their biological limit  
Recent scientific studies estimate that commercial fish stocks will collapse by 2050 if overfishing and climate change are not immediately addressed

Dams, diversions or canals fragment almost 60% of the world's largest rivers

20% of the world's freshwater fish are extinct, threatened or endangered

Since 1980, the global economy has tripled in size and the world population has grown by 30% to 6 billion people