

Smart STEM Challenge

Threats to Biodiversity

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Category: Biological and Ecological Sciences

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ABSTRACT:

Ecosystems all around the world are endangered and destroyed little by particular factors which play a major role in biodiversity loss. Biodiversity refers to a variety of life forms including all kinds of living organisms from all sources such as inter alia, terrestrial and marine. It is true that this issue must be addressed because, in the future, the world could lose livelihood, lose sight of “nature”, reduced food security, unpredictable weather, and so on. The process of extinction and speciation has been continual; as new species have arisen, others have dwindled and become extinct. Throughout the course of life on this planet, average background extinction rates have been punctuated by extinction episodes. Over 99% of all species that have existed are now extinct. Around 10 000 years ago, the transition began with gathering and hunting cultures to sedentary agricultural societies. The source of danger to biodiversity on a worldwide scale includes taxonomically specific threats such as climate change, forest degradation, overexploitation, nutrients loading, and pollution. Humans have triggered a sixth mass extinction.

This project is to bring upon the awareness of the extinction of certain species in the world; to give everyone a clear understanding of why biodiversity is important and to start protecting it.

In addition, it is to inform about the negative effects on this matter as well as the steps to take heading towards a world with a balanced life form percentage.

To approach everyone in a polite and respectful manner about this concern, informative posters were made by including photographs of the events that had happened in the world that have made a negative impact on biodiversity. To make sure the public is aware and conscious of these: awareness will be made by posting these infographic materials up on the school walls for students, teachers, and staff to see. Further, social media platforms will also be used to spread the messages because, in all, the aim of this project is to reduce biodiversity loss and also to address the possible ways that each individual contributes to it.

After conducting the survey, we received 50 responses with diverse answers. Whilst the majority of participants in this survey are acutely aware of loss, causes, and consequences of biodiversity, a number of people are still unfamiliar with this subject. Consequently, the essence of this topic is to inform the public about the issue of biodiversity loss.

Respondents gave their thoughts on this matter and it turns out 66% are aware of biodiversity loss while only 33% said no. Each of them also gave out examples of how to converse and make biodiversity better and can be assumed that they all had some idea on this matter despite knowing exactly that biodiversity is endangered. It will be shown in the slide presentation.

