

16.4 Threats To Biodiversity

KEY CONCEPT

The impact of a growing human population threatens biodiversity.



16.4 Threats To Biodiversity

- **Preserving biodiversity is important to the future of the biosphere.**
- The loss of biodiversity has long-term effects.
 - loss of medical and technological advances
 - extinction of species
 - loss of ecosystem stability



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- **Loss of habitat eliminates species.**
 - Habitat fragmentation prevents an organism from accessing its entire home range.
 - occurs when a barrier forms within the habitat
 - often caused by human development

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- Habitat corridors are a solution to the problem.
 - corridors can be road overpasses or underpasses
 - allow species to move between different areas of habitat



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- **Introduced species can disrupt stable relationships in an ecosystem.**
 - An introduced species is one that is brought to an ecosystem by humans.
 - accidental
 - purposeful
 - Invasive species can have an environmental and economic impact.



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- Invasive species often push out native species.
 - Burmese python (Florida Everglades)



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- Invasive species often push out native species.
 - mice (Australia)



16.4 Threats To Biodiversity

- Invasive species often push out native species.
 - kudzu (southeastern United States)

