

Text of 'The Threat to Biodiversity'

Vandana Shiva: "Today, biodiversity is under severe threat. Concrete is given primacy, cars are given primacy, not biodiversity."

Norbert Jürgens: "The greater public and many politicians got aware of the threats of climate change. Unfortunately, change in biodiversity is even more important because it's irreversible. If evolutionary elements like species got extinct, they will not come back."

Miguel Araujo: "You are talking about not only climate, but also changes in land use, changes in policies, changes in other kinds of human pressures that combined with climate, those that really make it really difficult for species to adapt."

Robert Scholes: "Ultimately, our ability to survive on this planet depends on a series of ecological processes, which provide us with food, with water, with air, everything you can name as a life necessity comes out of ecosystems, and ecosystems are based on biodiversity."

Stephen Schneider: "We're driving tenths of percent of species into extinction, we're threatening coral reefs, the food chain, and the quality of our own life."

Terry Root: "If you're losing that many species, you're gonna end up having individual species that are very important to an ecosystem disappearing, and so the whole ecosystem itself could disappear."

Neville Ash: "The situation for biodiversity loss is getting worse and worse, we're seeing the accelerating loss of biodiversity, and that may well lead to some devastating collapses in certain ecosystem functions. We're seeing typically at the moment this at local scales; potentially this could happen at larger planetary scales."

Stephen Schneider: "We're talking about the life-support system of the earth being potentially threatened by small changes which, once you cross that point, you go irreversibly toward destroyed systems."

Norbert Jürgens: "With future development and more extinction of species, in many ecosystems of the world there will be a decline not only of biodiversity but of human welfare as well, and only then we will get aware in a larger public and political dimension, and then it will be too late."

Vandana Shiva: " 'Til we wake up to the fact that we have to live in biodiversity-based economies, we will not be able to maintain a livable planet for the human species."

Stephen Schneider: "We're performing an experiment on laboratory earth with us and all the other living things along for the ride. My own personal view is: that's just insane because why would we take that kind of chance on this planet for what do we get? A little bit richer, a little bit sooner on a timeframe of a century. That's not worth the risk."