

1. **ecosystem** (noun) – complex situation/environment.
2. **biodiversity** (noun) – the existence of a number and variety of species (plants & animals) in a particular geographic region/ environment.
3. **factor into** (phrasal verb) – include into something as a applicable/appropriate part.
4. **overwhelming** (adjective) – very strong.
5. **rapaciously** (adverb) – materialistically, greedily, extortionately.
6. **exploit** (verb) – utilize, use, capitalize on.
7. **species** (noun) – a group/breed/family of living organisms (animals & plants) with the individual having the same quality & can breed.
8. **gravely** (adverb) – seriously, importantly, critically.
9. **pursue** (verb) – engage in, follow, conduct.
10. **extinct** (adjective) – vanished/lost, destroyed, no longer existing, .
11. **catastrophic** (adjective) – destructive, ruinous, disastrous.
12. **erosion** (noun) – destruction, deterioration, decline.
13. **unsustainable** (adjective) – undefendable, unjustified/insupportable, irrational.
14. **harvest** (verb) – obtain, gather in, gain.
15. **climate change** (noun) – a long-term change in the Earth's climate, or of a region on Earth (Courtesy: NASA).
16. **alien** (adjective) – foreign, non-native, tropical.
17. **habitat** (noun) – (natural) environment/territory, home.
18. **accelerate** (verb) – increase, rise, escalate.
19. **decade** (noun) – a period of ten years.
20. **devastation** (noun) – destruction, damage, havoc/wreckage.
21. **tropical** (adjective) – very hot, oppressive, sweltering.
22. **endow** (verb) – provide, furnish, give/present.
23. **integrity** (noun) – soundness, robustness, strength.
24. **spare** (verb) – not harm, leave uninjured, leave unhurt.
25. **provision** (noun) – supplying, supply, providing/ furnishing.
26. **moderation** (noun) – the state of being moderate; mildness; balance.
27. **skewed** (adjective) – asymmetrical, misaligned/lopsided, partisan.
28. **extinction** (noun) – disappearance, destruction, elimination/eradication.
29. **alarmingly** (adverb) – disturbingly, worryingly.
30. **humanity** (noun) – humankind, the human race, people.
31. **court** (verb) – risk, invite/attract, bring on oneself.
32. **terrestrial** (adjective) – earthly, worldly, earthbound.
33. **marine** (adjective) – seawater, sea, aquatic.
34. **pollination** (noun) – the transfer of pollen from a male part of a plant to a female part of a plant, later enabling fertilisation and the production of seeds, most often by an animal or by wind.
35. **tenfold** (adverb) – by ten times.
36. **turtle** (noun) – a large (marine) reptile with a body encased in a bony shell including tortoises.
37. **mammal** (noun) – a vertebrate animal characterized by being warm-blooded, having hair and feeding milk to its young.
38. **domesticated** (adjective) – tamed, pet, domestic.
39. **shrink** (verb) – lessen, reduce, decrease.
40. **dire** (adjective) – urgent, desperate, pressing/serious.
41. **stave off** (verb) – avert, prevent, avoid.

42. **irreparably** (adverb) – in a method that is not possible to repair.
43. **impoverish** (verb) – make poor, reduce to destitution/penury, ruin.
44. **endanger** (verb) – imperil, jeopardize, risk.

Circle of life: on economic growth factoring(to include) ecosystem(a system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environment)

Biodiversity(जैव विविधता) assessments(आंकलन) must be factored into (शामिल करना) all economic activity

The **overwhelming(ज़बर्दस्त)** message from the global **assessment(आंकलन) report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform** on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is that human beings have so **rapaciously (लालची)exploited (उपयोग करना)**nature, and that species belonging to a quarter of all studied animal and plant groups on earth are **gravely(गंभीरता से) threatened(संकट में)**. If the world continues to pursue the current model of economic growth without factoring in environmental costs, one million **species(प्रजाति)** could go **extinct(लुप्त)**, many in a matter of **decades(दस वर्ष का समय)**. **Catastrophic (विनाशकारी)erosion (कटाव)**of ecosystems is being **driven(चालित)** by **unsustainable (विवेकहीन use of land and water, direct harvesting(पैदावार)** of species, climate change, pollution and release of **alien(विदेशी)** plants and animals in new **habitats(निवासस्थान)**. While ecosystem losses have **accelerated(तेज़ होना)** over the past five decades **universally(हर जगह)**, there is **particular(खास)** worry over the **devastation(तबाही)** occurring in tropical areas, which are **endowed(संपन्न)** with greater biodiversity than others; only a quarter of the land worldwide now **retains(बनाये रखना)** its ecological and **evolutionary(विकासमूलक) integrity(अखंडता)**, largely **spared(बचना)** of human **impact(प्रभाव)**. Nature provides ecosystem services, but these are often not included in **productivity(उत्पादकता)** estimates: they are **vital(अत्यावश्यक)** for food production, for clean air and water, **provision (व्यवस्था)**of fuel for millions, **absorption(समावेश)** of carbon in the atmosphere, and climate **moderation(संतुलन)**. The result of such **skewed (पक्षपातपूर्ण)**policies, as the IPBES **estimates(आंकना)**, is that the **global (दुनिया भर का)**rate of species **extinction(लुप्त होना)** is at least tens to hundreds of times higher today than the average rate over the past 10 million years, and it is **accelerating(तेज़ी से बढ़ना) alarmingly(खतरनाक ढंग से)**.

Ecological economists have for years pointed to the extreme harm that humanity as a whole is **courting(आमंत्रित करना, पैदा करना)** by **modifying(रूपांतर करना)** terrestrial, marine and freshwater **ecosystems** to suit **immediate(तत्काल)** needs, such as **raising(बढ़ोत्तरी)** agricultural and

food output and *extracting*(निकालना) materials that *aid*(सहारा देना) ever-increasing consumption. *Expanding* (बढ़ना)agriculture by cutting down forests has raised food volumes, and mining feeds many industries, but these have severely affected other functions such as water availability, pollination, maintenance of wild *variants*(प्रकार) of domesticated plants and climate *regulation*(नियंत्रण). Losses from pollution are usually not *factored into* claims of economic progress made by countries, but as the IPBES assessment points out, marine plastic pollution has increased tenfold since 1980, affecting at least 267 species, including 86% of marine turtles, 44% of seabirds and 43% of marine mammals. *At the same time*, about 9% of 6,190 domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture had gone extinct by 2016, and another 1,000 may disappear permanently. Viewed against a shrinking base of wild varieties of farmed plants and animals, all countries have cause for alarm. They are rapidly emptying their genetic *resource*(संसाधन) kit. Reversing *course*(दिशा) is a *dire*(अत्यंत) necessity to *stave off*(रोकथाम करना) *disaster*(विनाश). This can be done by *incorporating*(शामिल करना) biodiversity *impacts*(प्रभाव) into all economic activity, *recognizing*(पहचानना) that *irreparably*(जिसे सुधारा न जा सके) breaking the web of life will *impoverish*(अशक्त कर देना, साधनहीन करना) and *endanger*(खतरे में डालना) people everywhere.