



## Future of the Planet

### Task: The Biodiversity Crisis

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **the biodiversity crisis**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

It is amazing how some companies, industries, people in general, can **turn a blind eye** to the crisis that we have with biodiversity. It is **totally mind blowing** that people can ignore the extremity of this problem. It affects every living lifeform in the world. **Don't you think it might** be time that we paid some attention to this overly serious problem that is harming the planet we live in?

To begin with, **rest assured** that scientists are constantly studying how biodiversity is being affected in the world. **Notwithstanding**, the data provided is not at all reassuring in itself. **For instance**, it is **quite** worrisome to know that some species are reducing and it has been reported in the last half century that the declination could be as much as 70%, **not to mention** the even more troublesome fact of **having lost** entire species. Another aspect that is adding to this crisis is that of habitat destruction. **By and large**, we can see much of this damage is caused by how humans have transformed habitats for their own use and actions such as clear-cutting trees, drilling for oil and gas, as well as mining. This takes us into the next reason that biodiversity is failing, which would be overutilization. **Basically**, we are exploiting natural resources for mass consumption. **Not only** is overharvesting plants for industrial agriculture occurring, **but also** overfishing due to that of industrial fishing. So, to sum it up we are at a loose end in the sense that the Earth cannot replenish itself fast enough for our current needs. **Only by reducing** the use of natural resources will this problem be remedied. **Sooner or later**, we are bound to run out of certain fish, making yet again other species disappear, which is something devastating to consider. Also, **it is vital** to bring people's attention that, **as it happens**, chemical pollution is also a notable problem in this crisis of biodiversity. Because of this, it causes the insect population to collapse, and as you may know, they are crucial for most of the ecosystem, which should be a real concern for us. Finally, I dare say that we are all aware of the problems of climate change. Thus, it shouldn't be a surprise that climate change is worsening the effects of habitats, making it become inhospitable, with climates that are too hot and dry for many lifeforms to survive in.

That being said, not all is lost yet. There is still time to reverse the loss of plant and animal life on the planet. Although, that being said, there isn't too much time. Therefore, the time to act in protecting biodiversity is now! It is clear that we must enforce existing protection and create new protection for this biodiversity crisis, but alas, how do we do it? First and foremost, **certainly** we can not allow fossil fuel companies to use the land to detract fossil



fuel. If this happens, we have seen that it destroys habitats that are essentially threatened species. Furthermore, a long-term commitment to protecting ecosystems must absolutely be made. By doing this, it is made sure that industries do not harm important natural areas. So if need be, industries that do not abide with the preservation of the habitats, which affect the ecosystem, should be taken to court to keep it from happening. It is paramount that the government is made accountable in the duty of protecting endangered species and restoring degraded ecosystems, as well as working with other local and tribal governments. It is likely that this is the best way to stop the destruction of habitats. Finally, there must be a way to get landowners on board too. Creating incentives to protect vital habitat areas might just do the trick. It's high time that everybody takes some responsibility.

All in all, I may be wrong but I think we still have a shot to make this a sustainable world if we don't wait another second. Everybody has to be on board and make a move to get this to happen.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the problems that are caused in biodiversity and how it can be protected.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the problems that are caused in biodiversity and how it can be protected. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• can still make the world sustainable and everybody needs to be on board/ get involved; everybody takes some responsibility</li></ul>
The causes of the problems with biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species are reducing, declined 70% in the last half century, losing entire species</li><li>• Habitat destruction: humans transform habitats for their own use; clear-cutting trees, drilling for oil and gas, mining</li><li>• Overutilization: exploiting natural resources for mass consumption; overharvesting plants for industrial agriculture, overfishing due to</li></ul>

	<p>industrial fishing; the Earth cannot replenish it fast enough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chemical Pollution: insect population to collapse, crucial for most of the ecosystem</li> <li>● Climate Change: worsening effect of habitats; becoming inhospitable, too hot and dry</li> </ul>
Protecting the biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● not allow the land to be used by fossil fuel companies, habitats that are essential for threatened species; lawsuits is need be</li> <li>● long-term commitment to protecting ecosystems; making sure that industries does not harm important natural areas, take to court these industries</li> <li>● Making the government accountable in the duty of protecting endangered species, restoring degraded ecosystems and working with other local and tribal governments to stop the destruction of of habitats</li> <li>● Create incentives for private landowners to protect vital habitat areas</li> </ul>

Marks: +\_ / +10



**Grammar Used in the listening task:**

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off