

Term Paper BEE

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Problems faced by wild animals

1 Introduction

My term paper topic is all about the problems faced by wild animals in current time.

1.1 Wildlife is suffering

Wildlife on planet Earth is under siege from all sides, facing down habitat loss and the impact of climate change. Some of the biggest threats to wildlife include illegal wildlife trade, habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution, and climate change.

1.1.1 Illegal Wildlife Trade

The illegal wildlife trade is the fourth largest criminal industry in the world, after drugs, arms, and human trafficking. Gathering in over 20 billion a year, it is also one of the biggest threats to some of the most iconic species on the planet, like the rhino and the elephant.

1.1.2 Habitat Destruction

The fires that swept across the Amazon and Australia rightly drew attention to just how fragile the most important ecosystems are. Half of the world's original forests are gone, and what remains is being cut down ten times faster than it can be replaced.

1.1.3 Invasive Species

Whether accidentally or intentionally introduced, the non-native species grow and reproduce rapidly, then spread across ecosystems aggressively. They are one of the leading threats to native wildlife, putting 42 percent of threatened or endangered species at risk.

1.1.4 Pollution

There are 500 times more pieces of micro plastic in the sea than there are stars in our galaxy. Eight hundred million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the ocean each year, washing up on previously pristine parts of the planet and is a threat to the survival of more than 600 species of marine wildlife.

1.1.5 Climate Change

From more regular and fiercer storms to more prolonged and more intense droughts, the impact of climate change is rising ocean temperatures and diminishing Arctic sea ice affecting marine biodiversity, shifting vegetation zones and forcing species to adapt to new conditions.

The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health, and quality of life worldwide.

2 What is needed?

Public awareness and education must play an essential part in teaching an environment of compassion in protecting animals with sustainable solutions to address these issues. And all these need to be discussed collectively at a global scale to make a positive impact. In addition to this, we need to be mindful of tackling increased urbanization, rising temperatures, and ecotourism, which are negatively contributing and fueling to affect wildlife.

Dramatic urbanization has led species living in urban environments to develop differently from their non-urban counterparts. In the last 50 years, the global average temperature has risen at 170 times, having dangerous effects on wildlife populations. Although ecotourism can help to raise awareness of wildlife, it has severe adverse effects like chronic stress and decreased immune systems. The scale of the problem is multifaceted; as individuals, we can strive to lower the carbon footprint and urge governments to help make our countries greener.

3 Threats to Wildlife

There are few places left on the planet where the impact of people has not been felt. We have explored and left our footprint on nearly every corner of the globe. As our population and needs grow, we are leaving less and less room for wildlife.

Wildlife are under threat from many different kinds of human activities, from directly destroying habitat to spreading invasive species and disease. Most ecosystems are facing multiple threats. Each new threat puts additional stress on already weakened ecosystems and their wildlife.

4 Why are species disappearing?

Global biodiversity is being lost much faster than natural extinction due to changes in land use, unsustainable use of natural resources, invasive alien species, climate change and pollution among others.

Land conversion by humans, resulting in natural habitat loss, is most evident in tropical forests and is less intensive in temperate, boreal and arctic regions. Pollution from atmospheric nitrogen deposition is most severe in northern temperate areas close to urban centres; and the introduction of damaging alien species is usually brought about through patterns of human activity.

Species loss is also compounded by:

- the ongoing growth of human populations and unsustainable consumer lifestyles.
- increasing production of waste and pollutants.
- urban development
- international conflict.