

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION SCRIPT

Hi! Listen to this... (bees buzzing)... and now listen to this... (absolute silence), wow! bees... or complete silence... have you ever stopped to think about the terrible consequences if all the bees were to disappear?

It's not that I want to be dramatic, it's just that as you know, bees are in serious danger and they are responsible for pollinating the plants, all of them? Yes, all of them. Well, not the plastic ones you have at home, and here's a thing... it'd be better to have natural plants at home, and learn how to take care of them... and have your children take care of them... so, we need to learn to take care of the plants... the animals... the planet... and, yes, ourselves... we are also an animal species...

The podcast for everyone who wants to change the world. Now is the time to be thinking about the future of the planet. Everything you need to know about... the extinction of some of the world's biodiversity

(intro)

The ecosystems, and especially their flora and fauna, are not doing well. More than 35,000 species, one third of all known, are threatened with extinction. And climate change will be responsible for 8% of these extinctions.

(some concern and curiosity about the message)

Have you heard of the sixth extinction? Driven by the use of fossil fuels, pollution, deforestation and forced migration, which are all human activities, we are on the road to a global change of the Earth's natural biodiversity. The previous five extinctions were caused by meteorites and volcanic eruptions. This time, we are largely to blame.

Quote from the article

It is estimated that one third of corals, freshwater molluscs, sharks and rays, one quarter of all mammals, one fifth of all reptiles and one sixth of all birds are headed for extinction.

These words by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Elizabeth Kolbert in her book "The Sixth Extinction" sum up the current situation regarding the planet's species.

(informative. Some alarmism)

As a title The sixth great extinction, key facts

- In addition to climate change, the major threats to biodiversity are habitat loss, overexploitation of species, pollution, invasive species and diseases
 - The Red List of Threatened Species, compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, includes more than 130,000 species, of which more than 37,400 are threatened with extinction.
 - About 6% of the threatened species are critically endangered. Around 14% are endangered.
 - According to their family, extinction will occur to the greatest extent in species of amphibians, sharks, conifers and corals.
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(as an aside, curiosity) Species you would have loved to have seen

Beyond the dinosaurs, which disappeared in one of the great extinctions of the past, there are animals that have not inhabited planet Earth for centuries.

The Irish elk, similar to the elk still living today, was over two metres tall and its antlers could reach up to 3.65 metres. It disappeared 7,700 years ago.

Perhaps the most popular is the Dodo, the most famous extinct bird, which lived on the island of Mauritius. It disappeared in the late 1700s.

The Cuaga, a cross between a zebra and a horse, was an African animal that was wiped out by poachers and disappeared in the 1880s.

Recently we have also lost some species to hunting, such as the black rhino and the Sumatran tiger.

(explanatory, listing, accompanied by sound effects related to the animals mentioned)

If we don't do something soon, more of the species we all know will disappear.

This is already happening, for example, with coral reefs, which have gone from being a maelstrom of marine species to lifeless, bleached deserts.

Another alarming aspect is the disappearance of flying insects, a 75% decline in 30 years. I'm sure you've heard about the bee crisis, which has halved the number of bees. Who will pollinate 71% of the plants that feed us?

Pollution is affecting more familiar animals such as the panda, the polar bear and the Magellanic penguin, by destroying their habitats.

Encroachment by humans is also wiping out several species, including the African antelope and the snow leopard.

What about the bluefin tuna? As it has become a delicacy, it has been overfished and its existence endangered.

Invasion by non-native species, as a result of human actions, is also destroying native flora, such as the North American ash tree being infected by an Asian beetle, or six of the eight known species of baobabs.

If we are to blame for this Sixth Extinction, we must ensure that the consequences are kept to a minimum. The fight against climate change, a commitment to the circular economy and a more responsible consumption model, especially in the field of energy, will help to protect biodiversity and, if we get there in time, to reverse our actions.

Thank you for caring about the future. Now it's time for action. Discover more inspiring initiatives for the planet in the following podcast, on your favourite listening platform, or in the innovation and sustainability sections at [Iberdrola.com](https://www.iberdrola.com)