

# Earth's plant and animal species need each other to survive, report says

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.13.19

Word Count **443**

Level **560L**



Burchell's zebras and Masai giraffe seen in Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. Photo by: Anup Shah/Getty Images

Some people might think plants and animals do not make much difference to us. Scientists say we are all connected, though.

The world's biodiversity trouble could hurt everyone.

Biodiversity is the variety of living things in an environment. An environment can be big or small. Forests, oceans and deserts are examples.

## **A Report On Earth's Species**

A new report was released on May 6. It said that nature is in trouble. It said that many kinds of animals could become extinct, or die out. The decline of nature is everyone's problem, it said. It is happening around the world.

The report was done by the United Nations. It is an international group that tries to get countries to work together.

Nature is important for people to live, the report said.

Stuart Pimm is a professor at Duke University in North Carolina. He said if you hurt nature, it is "going to bite you back."

Below are four ways people depend on nature.

### **Food Comes From Nature**

Kai Chan helped to write the report. He said almost all food comes from nature. He is a scientist at the University of British Columbia in Canada.

The world is growing more food. There has been pressure on crops from pollution and other forces, though, he said. That has made prices go up, he said.

### **Medicine And Tests Need The Environment**

Many people use medicines that come from nature.

Thomas Lovejoy is a scientist at George Mason University in Virginia. He points to a microbe that lives in Yellowstone National Park. The park is in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The microbe is a tiny living thing. It is the key to a scientific reaction. It is used for health tests.

### **Trees Can Help Stop Climate Change And Storm Effects**

The Earth is getting warmer. Scientists think that it is because of the fuel that people use. People burn these fuels to make energy. Many things from cars to lights run on this energy.

Burning the fuels creates greenhouse gases that get trapped in the air. They store heat, making the world hotter. Scientists call this global warming.

The world's forests and oceans help. Without them, Earth would be warming faster, scientists said.

Mangroves are trees that grow around the coast. They protect land from oceans and storms, the report said.

Robert Watson was a leader on the report and said the mangroves are in trouble.

People have used mangroves for other things. That leaves the land in more danger from storms, Watson said.

### **A Living Planet**

The Earth is a "living planet," Lovejoy said. Many parts depend on each other, he said.