

## Topic: Biological Annihilation

According to a study published by the National Academy of Sciences, we are on the verge of the sixth mass extinction. Gerardo Ceballos, who is an ecology professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, along with his co-author, Paul Ehrlich, a well known biologist from Stanford University have highlighted striking evidence that the species we think are common are not so common anymore. They have been suffering from severe reprimanding from their habitat because of the insatiable need of humans to reproduce and consume. In this blind rage of greed, after all, it is humanity that is at stake.

### The study has highlighted the following :

1. Nearly one-third of the 27,600 land-based mammal, bird, amphibian and reptile species are shrinking in terms of their numbers and territorial range.
2. A total of 177 mammal species have lost 30% of their territory in the last 115 years. Further, they have suffered a 30% decline in the population, resulting in an accumulative loss of 80% of their geographic range.
3. Barnosky, the Director of the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve at Stanford University has opined that the human species has wiped off 50% of wildlife in the last 40 years. It is not really difficult to imagine the momentum of destruction that we are going through.
4. In Africa, the number of elephants has dipped down to 4,00,000 from over a million. More than half of their population has disappeared from the lush forest to the black market. At this rate, there will be no elephants in no time in Africa. Twenty years to be precise !
5. There are only 20,000 lions, less than 7000 cheetas, 500 to 1000 giant pandas and about 250 Sumatran rhinoceros left with us.

The earth is going to be fine, it always has been and it will give birth to life long after we are gone but it is the present life on earth that is endangered by the greedy ways of humans. Humans might be at a risk in a while but humanity already is. The earth belongs to other species too. We might be destroying their habitat for having one for ourselves but it is going to bite us in the form of global warming and swallow our life in the midst of an arid desert.



### Topic Introduction

#### Read further:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/07/11/world/sutter-mass-extinction-ceballos-study/index.html>

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/07/05/1704949114>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/earth-facing-sixth-mass-extinction/article19260792.ece>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/10/earths-sixth-mass-extinction-event-already-underway-scientists-warn>