

From: Catrina S [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 September 2020 10:46 AM
To: ecosystems
Subject: Extinction Inquiry

Categories: Submissions

To whom it may concern,

extinction is one of the biggest existential threats facing humanity. We depend on other life forms for our survival. Ecosystems provide the essentials of life - clean air, clean water, food, shelter. None of these things human beings can create on their own. It is time for a massive cultural shift that acknowledges our dependence on the wider web of life and prioritises being caretakers of this world, rather than takers. If we continue to let species slip away (and in fact actively push them over the edge) then we will ultimately make this planet uninhabitable for ourselves.

Preventing extinction is a matter of the greatest urgency. If we take flying foxes as one example - last year we lost 56,000 grey headed flying foxes, out of a population of approximately 400,000. These animals' deaths were due to heat stress. Why are they suffering heat stress - because extreme weather is increasingly common due to climate change. Because they have inadequate shelter to protect them against the sun and provide moisture for hydration - due to habitat loss from logging, development and the bush fires (climate change again!). Because they were already starving. Thousands of babies were abandoned last summer as their mothers (usually devoted to their offspring) were starving and unable to provide the nutrition their pups needed.

It is becoming generally accepted that we need bees to pollinate our crops. Flying foxes are the bees of the night - their role in pollination is essential to the maintenance of our native forests.

The covid crisis has created a window in which to re-examine our values and priorities. Lets help those in need of work, let's help humanity and let's help other species by investing in jobs rehabilitating land and nurturing biodiversity.

Also, bats are great dancers - see this link: https://video-syd2-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t42.9040-2/118187731_312549003286715_6797213363248990241_n.mp4?nc_cat=105&nc_sid=985c63&efg=eyJ2ZW5jb2RlX3RhZyI6ImxIz2FjeV9zZCJ9&nc_ohc=CZoNAH4UIXwAX-VNIwm&nc_ht=video-syd2-1.xx&oh=f76cc02c744409b825d01c085a792e93&oe=5F4CE86B - do we really want to live in a world devoid of their unique beauty?

Yours sincerely,

Catrina Sturmberg
[REDACTED]

I am happy for my submission to be public