



## “An end to birth”<sup>1</sup>

"There is strong evidence that we are...witnessing a mass extinction episode – that is...a sudden and pronounced decline worldwide in the abundance and diversity of ecologically disparate groups of organisms. Whereas past extinctions have occurred by virtue of natural processes, today the virtually exclusive cause is *Homo Sapiens*...who eliminate entire habitats and complete communities of species...in the twinkling of an evolutionary eye."<sup>2</sup>

**"Unless humanity takes prompt action - the outlook for the future seems all the more adverse."<sup>2</sup>**

"In effect we are conducting an irreversible experiment on a global scale with Earth's stock of species. A longer-term, ultimately more serious...outcome is that certain evolutionary processes will be suspended or even terminated."<sup>2</sup>

**"Death is one thing....an end to birth is something else."<sup>1</sup>**

"The critical factor lies with the likely loss of key environments. We appear ready to lose virtually all tropical forests - there is also progressive depletion of coral reefs, wetlands...and other biotopes with exceptional biodiversity. Furthermore, the species depletion will...apply across most if not all major categories of species...in addition to eliminate a sizable share of terrestrial plant species."<sup>2</sup>

"In sum...the evolutionary impoverishment of the impending extinction spasm, plus the number of species involved, and the telescoped time scale of the phenomenon, may result in the greatest single set back to life's abundance and diversity since the first flickering of life almost 4 billion years ago."<sup>2</sup>

**“This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us.”<sup>3</sup>**



1 Soule and Wilcox (1980)

*Conservation biology: an evolutionary-ecological perspective.*

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2...Myers.N (1988)

*Tropical forests and their species. Going, going...?*

In Wilson.E and Peter.F Eds. (1988)

Biodiversity

National Academy Press

3...Wilson.E (1984)

*Biophilia*

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