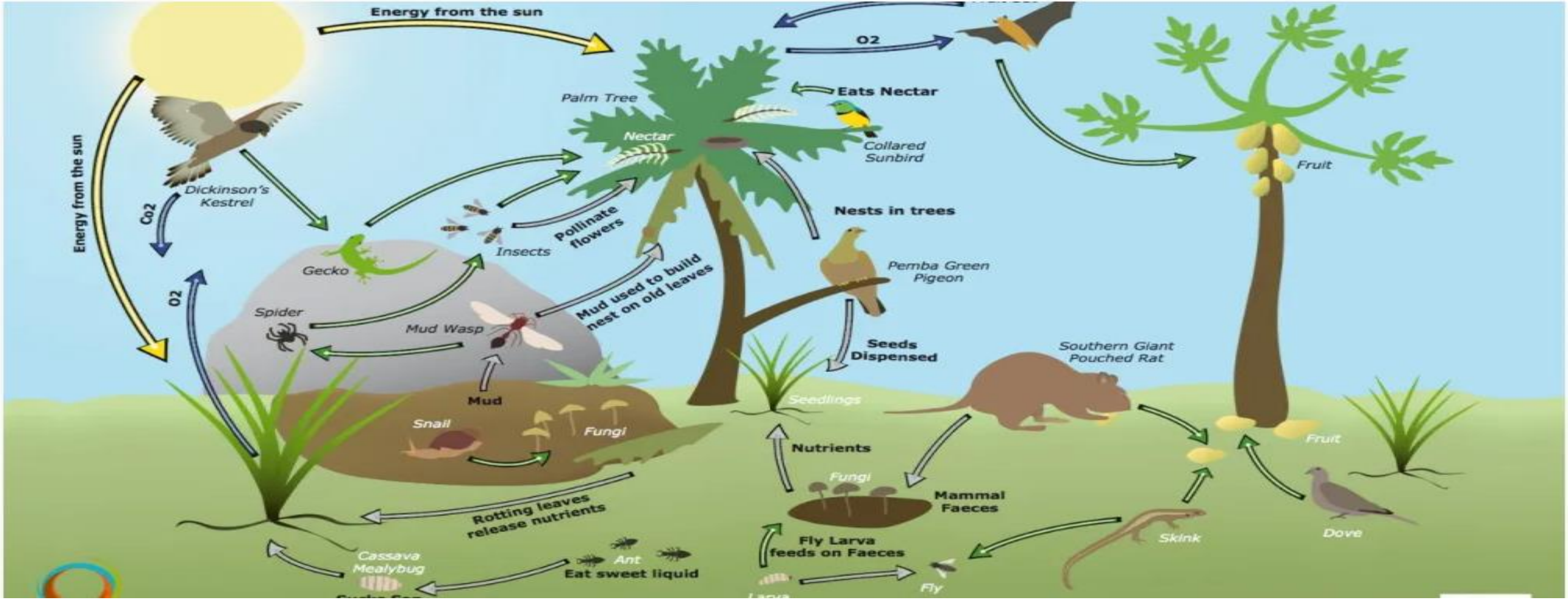
Biodiversity

Loss

Species in danger of Extinction



Biodiversity reflects the number and variety of living organisms on the planet. It forms the basis for healthy functioning of ecosystems around us, which contribute to economic, social, cultural, spiritual well-being of people all around the globe.

6 BIGGEST THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

1. CLIMATE CHANGE

Increase in the temperature of the atmosphere has major effects on the environment such as the seasons, rising of the sea levels, and glacial retreats.

2. HABITAT LOSS & DEGRADATION

Habitat loss may either be caused by natural events like natural calamities and geological events or anthropogenic activities like deforestation and man-induced climate change.

3. POLLUTION

Be it water, air, or land pollution, all forms of pollution appear to be a threat to all life forms on Earth.

4. INVASIVE SPECIES

An exotic or unnatural species can be any kind of organism that has been introduced to a foreign habitat. This introduction can cause major threats to the native species.

5. OVEREXPLOITATION

Overexploitation refers to the act of over-harvesting species and natural resources at rates faster than they can actually sustain themselves in the wild.

6. OTHER POTENTIAL THREATS

Epidemics and infectious diseases of wildlife such as Ebola virus disease, infectious bursal disease, and flu affect wildlife and biodiversity.

1. Climate Change

Climate change refers to the long term and irreversible change that occurs in the Earth's climate. This increase in the temperature of the atmosphere has major effects on the environment such as the seasons, rising of the sea levels, and glacial retreats.

2. Habitat Loss and Degradation

Habitat loss refers to changes in the environment that result to the rendering of a specific habitat to be functionally valuable. The habitat can no longer accommodate and support the life of the organisms present, thereby declining their population.

3. Pollution

Be it water, air, or land pollution, all forms of pollution appear to be a threat to all life forms on Earth. However, it plays a major threat to biodiversity when it comes to the nutrient loading of the elements nitrogen and phosphorus.

4. Invasive Species

An exotic or unnatural species can be any kind of organism that has been introduced to a foreign habitat. This introduction can cause major threats to the native species as they often become subjected to great competition for resources, disease, and predation. When these species have successfully colonized the area, they are already called "*invasive*" ones.

5. Overexploitation

Overexploitation refers to the act of overharvesting species and natural resources at rates faster than they can actually sustain themselves in the wild. Because of this, species population is put into great risk of reduction.

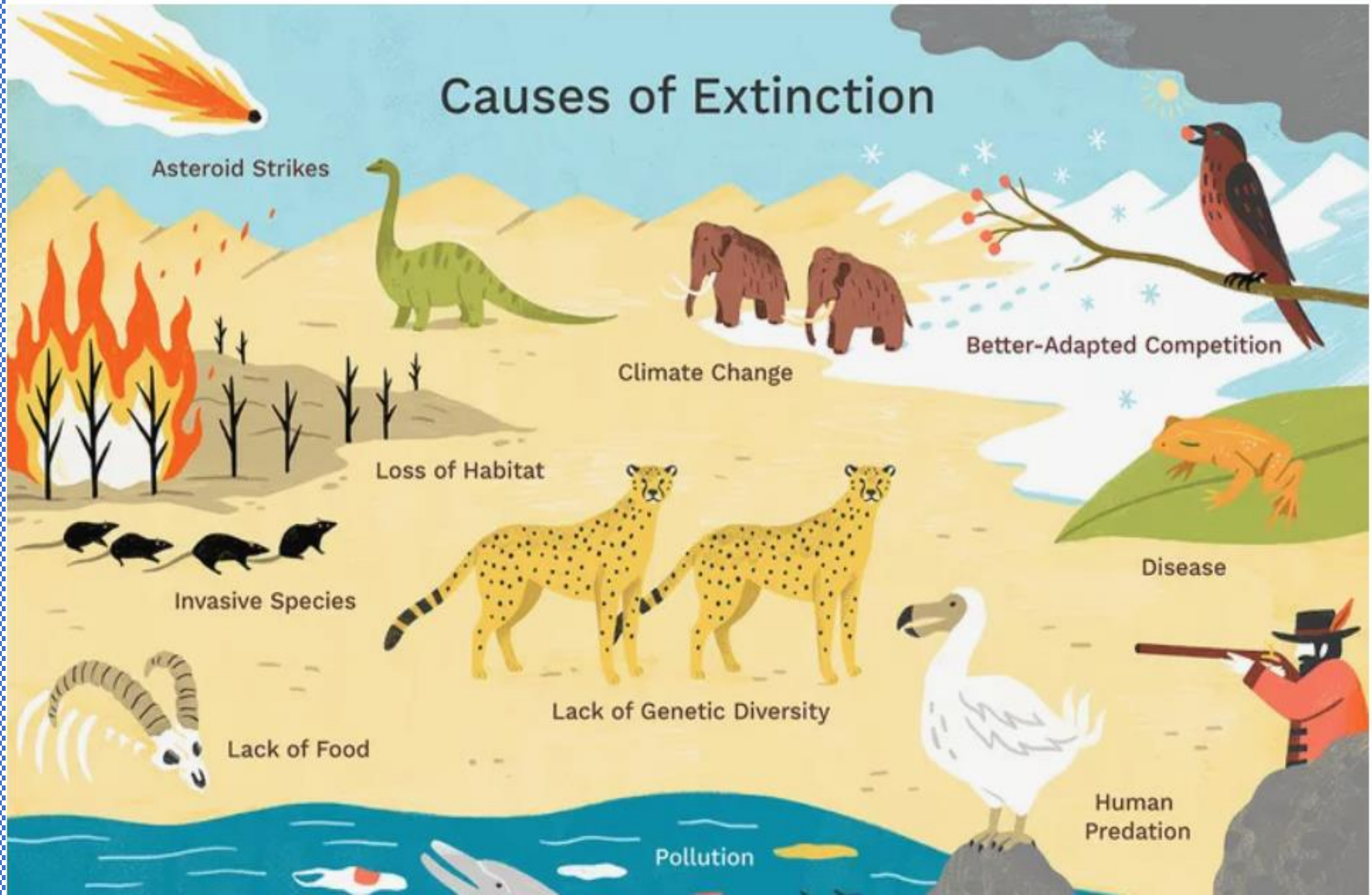
6. Other Potential Threats

Aside from the five aforementioned threats, there are still a lot of drivers that may either directly or indirectly contribute to the loss of biodiversity. One good example of this are the epidemics and infectious diseases of wildlife such as Ebola virus disease, infectious bursal disease, and flu. This phenomenon does not only affect wildlife but also human health as well.

What is species extinction?

- Extinctions occur when the last individual of a species dies out.
- Functional Extinctions occur when individuals remain but the odds of sustainable reproduction are low
  - i.e. the species is effectively extinct even though individuals remain.

What are we doing that is driving species to the brink of extinction?


Causes of Extinction
Asteroid Strikes
Climate Change
Better-Adapted Competition
Loss of Habitat
Disease
Invasive Species
Lack of Genetic Diversity
Lack of Food
Human Predation
Pollution

Extinct Animals

Dinosaur

Saber-Toothed Cat

Dodo

Tasmanian tiger

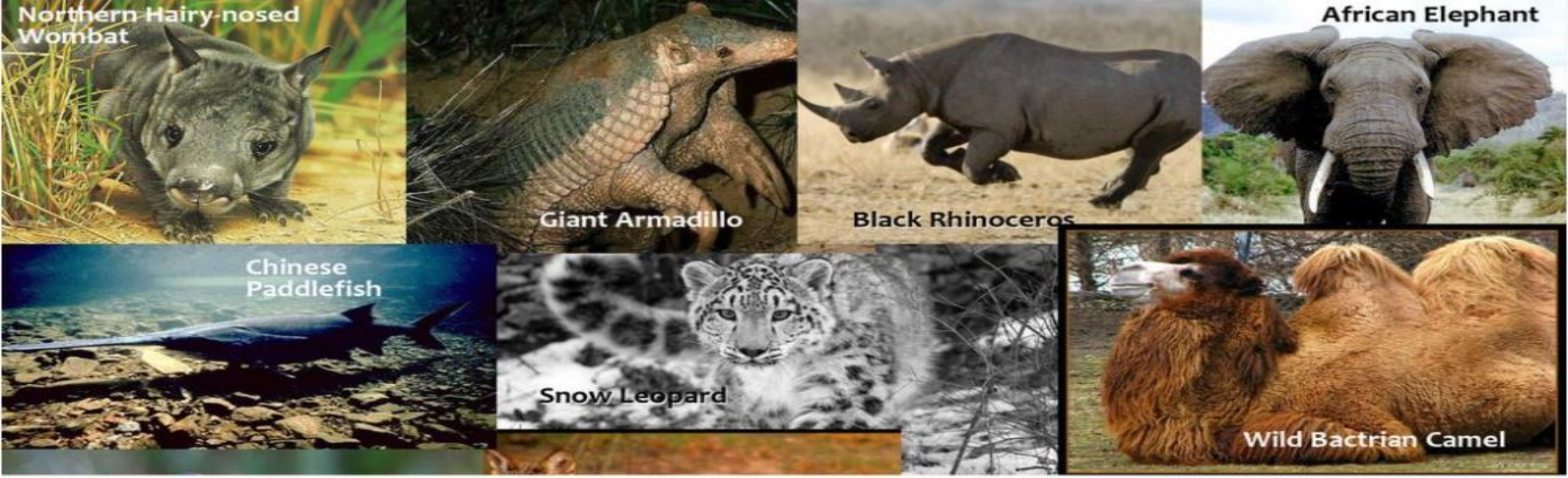
Golden Toad

Woolly Mammoth

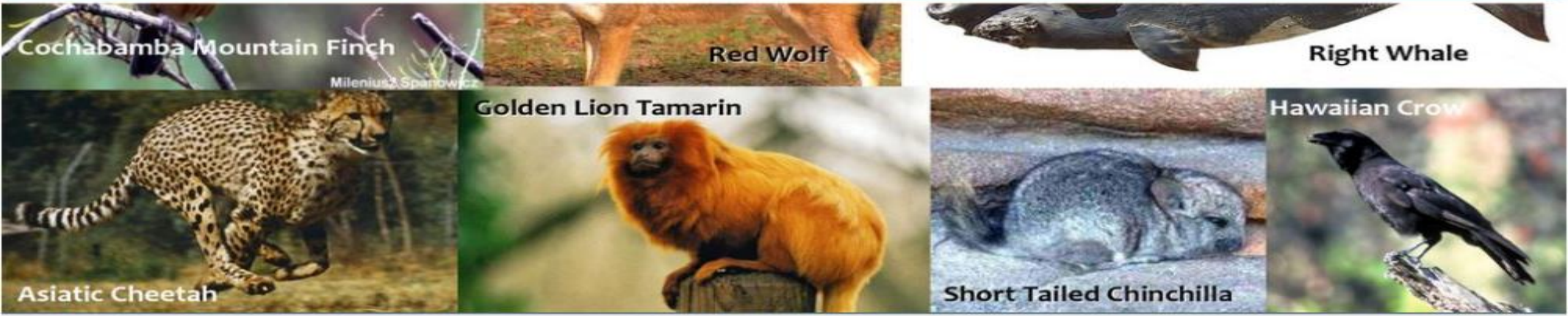
Passenger Pigeon

Ground Sloth

EXTINCTANIMALS



All of these species, along with hundreds of others are currently endangered



We are all connected.