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Biodiversity and its importance

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1. Consumption patterns and their impact on global environmental problems, particularly the loss of global species

Consumption grows in lockstep with consumer capacity and population. Worldwide overall expenditure rose from 1970 to 2018, while the global population almost doubled and global average per capita spending increased. Additionally, worldwide household numbers grew much faster than international population numbers, particularly in nations with biodiversity hotspots, owing to rising divorce rates and more excellent single living (Van Mierlo et al., 2017). Since families constitute the fundamental unit of consumption, their expansion increases resource demand.

Changes in consumption habits have a profound effect on biodiversity. For instance, a meat-heavy diet consumes more resources (land, water, and energy) than a plant-heavy one, thus impacting greater habitat area and releasing more CO₂. Consumer goods with shorter lifetimes and more frequent replacements need more resources to produce and create more pollutants and trash, contributing to the depletion of certain world species.

2. Emperor penguin in Antarctic Sea

The emperor penguin is the world's most giant living penguin, measuring about 115cm tall.

Only two penguin species (the emperor and Adélie) are genuine Antarctic inhabitants (Younger et al., 2017). Emperor penguins play a critical role in the food chain of Antarctica. They feed on squid and tiny fish and are a vital food supply for predators such as leopard seals and big sharks.

Populations in certain areas have decreased by 50%, and one colony off the Antarctic Peninsula has entirely vanished. The greatest danger they face at the moment is climate change, namely changes in the sea ice on which they rely. Sea ice cover on a portion of the Antarctic Peninsula has decreased by more than 60% in the last 30 years. Due to the Emperor penguin's habitat and breeding grounds being frozen sea ice. At least three-quarters of their colonies are susceptible to future sea ice shifts. Warmer temperatures may alter the hatching dates of emperor chicks, and they hatch during times of food scarcity, resulting in massive fatalities.

The Pew Charitable Trusts works for ecosystem-based fisheries management and a Southern Ocean network of marine reserves to preserve emperor penguins and their habitat. Pew suggests the following:

- Establishment of marine reserves to safeguard the food supplies and foraging habitats of emperor penguins.
- Management of the Antarctic krill fisheries with care.

These efforts by the Pew Charitable Trust will undoubtedly solve the emperor penguin's dangers in the Antarctic waters since by conserving their food sources and foraging grounds, they will be able to get sufficient food and reproduce without any eating difficulties.

References

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