

A CONCISE GUIDE TO Cooperative Ecology and Biodiversity

Bio = relating to life Diversity = a range of different things

Biodiversity: defined as a wide assortment of living species in a given area, and proper balance of give and take amongst them.

Nature requires a number of interrelated life forms to successfully survive. A very simple example is the relationship between PLANTS and BEES. Bees need flowers for nectar from which they make honey to feed their larvae. They also need pollen to eat. Plants need bees to collect nectar and pollen.

Why is that? This is because Pollen sticks to the hairs on the bee's body and as the bee moves from flower to flower the pollen fertilises the flowers. This allows plants to make seeds. Without bees and other pollinators, the majority of plants could not be able to make seeds and would die out. Without plants bees we would die out too.

Biodiversity in Practice

The population of mankind has tripled in the last 60 years. The rapid population growth has put a great deal of pressure on natural areas. At this time animal farming takes up a third of the earth's land and a third of the earth's water, threatening our life support systems and upsetting Earth's balance.

We are currently faced with a situation where species are going extinct 1000 to 10 000 times faster than is natural. losing up to 200 species per day. If this continues mankind may go extinct. Dr Anthony, Founder of the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization, wanted to help people understand that none of us survive alone – that we need to maintain the web of life to prosper ourselves. The belief that decisions should be made in a way that all lifeforms can benefit is called COOPERATIVE ECOLOGY.

Cooperative = performed together for shared benefit

Ecology = the study of interactions between creatures

Cooperative Ecology™ (CoECO) = the study of the mutual interdependency and cooperation of all lifeforms.

There are already a number of people who have come up with wonderful solutions to reduce and reverse the damage that is being done examples are:

Ethical farming which mimics nature and minimises the toxic chemicals that are currently being used.

Mining that lessens environmental damage, restores natural areas and handles chemical by-products.

Ethical manufacturing which limits industrial pollution.

Plastic alternatives made from biodegradable plant cellulose. Plastic being one of the greatest polluters on this planet.

Cooperative Ecology in Practice

There are many threats to biodiversity such as habitat destruction, chemicals, fertilisers, burning fossil fuels, agriculture, invasive plants, plastic pollution, illegal logging, wildlife trade, the destruction of rainforests, mining and many more. Every action and creation that mankind is party to has a knock-on effect. For this reason it is vital that we practice CoEco in our lives and make all our decisions taking into consideration the effects they will have on all things with which our lives are interrelated. Make choices that enhance the survival of all.

“The answer to that lies in each of us. Therefore, we will strive to bring about understanding that we are – each one of us – responsible for more than just our family, our friends, and our job; that there is more to life than just these things. That each one of us must also bring

the natural world back into its proper place in our lives and realize that doing so is not some lofty ideal but a vital part of our personal survival.” Dr Lawrence Anthony

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