

10. Atlas maps life

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1. An interactive atlas of the world's natural wealth paints a graphic picture of humanity's spread. It shows that since 1850 humans have affected almost half the planet's land. But the atlas, produced by the United Nations, says nature is strong enough to survive our impact. The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Unep-WCMC), based in Cambridge, UK, has collected the centre's research, the work of independent scientists, and governmental and other reports.
2. The centre says the data will be made available to users by a unique interactive mapping service accessible from the Unep-WCMC website. This will let them create their own maps comparing subjects from wilderness density to human population.
3. The atlas details extinction of species in the past.
 - Up to 95 % of Earth's species disappeared during the later Permian extinction episode, about 250 million years ago
 - Starting 45,000 years ago, a high proportion of larger land animals became extinct, just at the time when humans arrived
 - 80 % of the maize varieties used in Mexico in 1930 have been lost
 - it is estimated that fewer than 1 % of the world's 250,000 tropical plants have been screened for medicinal potential
4. Yet 80 % of people in developing countries depend on medicines based largely on plants and animals, while 56 % of the top 150 drugs in the US derive from the wild. The atlas says humans have altered and had a direct impact on almost 47 % of the global land area in the last 150 years.
5. One idea suggests that biodiversity will be threatened on almost 72 % of the land area by 2032. Up to 48 % of south-east Asia, the Congo basin and parts of the Amazon will be converted to farming, plantations and urban areas, it says, compared with 22 % today.
6. Unep's executive director, Dr. Klaus Toepfer, said: „We must give developing countries an economic incentive to protect wildlife, paying them properly for the plants and animals whose genes get used in new drugs or crops.”
7. The atlas also shows how roads and settlements are spreading into former wildernesses like the Amazon, the Arctic and the deserts. Brian Groombridge, co-author of the atlas, said: „There is little true wilderness left to support the expansion of the human population on this planet.” But the director of Unep-WCMC, Dr. Mark Collins, said: „We know enough about the distribution of species and ecosystems to ensure that the world's biodiversity is managed effectively.” „Give nature half a chance, and it will take care of itself.”

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Első feladat

Olvassa el az „Atlas maps life” című szöveget és döntse el, hogy az állítások igazak vagy hamisak a példa (0) szerint.

	Statements	True	False
0.	The interactive atlas of the world's natural wealth shows the expansion of human beings throughout the centuries	X	
1.	The Unep-WCMC based the atlas on different research		
2.	According to the atlas the nature cannot take care for itself		
3.	250 million years ago only 5% of Earth's species survived		
4.	More species of animals died out when humans came to Earth		
5.	In 1930 a lot of maize varieties were found out in Mexico		
6.	Less than 1% of the tropical plants have been used for making medicines		
7.	Medicines are made mainly out of tropical plants and animals		
8.	More than 50% of the total land area of the Earth was affected by the humans		
9.	Over 70% of the world species will be threatened in the 21st century		
10.	People will cultivate all the jungles		
11.	The area of Congo basin will be doubled		
12.	The Amazonian jungle will be reduced by 22%		

Második feladat

Töltse ki a táblázatot az egyes természetvédelemre vonatkozó nézetek illetve elképzelések pótlásával a példa (0) alapján.

Ideas for protecting nature	Directors/executives/scientists/researches
0. Interactive maps will help to compare wilderness density to human population	Unep-WCMC's researches
13.	Dr. Klaus Toepfer, executive director
14. Human population will not expand	
15. The world's species and ecosystems can be managed very well	
16.	Dr. Mark Collins, director