

BIODIVERSITY LOSS



WHAT ARE THE MAIN DRIVERS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS?

1. Changing use of sea and land i.e. converting forestry, bogland or grassland into urban areas or for agricultural use. An example of this would be deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest for commercial cattle ranching.
2. Unsustainable fishing, logging, hunting and the harvesting of plants and animals. An example of direct exploitation of natural resources would be overfishing as this will lead to the collapse of different types of fish.
3. Climate change is another main driver of biodiversity loss. Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns will alter ecosystems and the species' habitats. An example of this would be coral bleaching which can happen as a result of a rise in ocean temperatures.
4. Pollution is also a main driver of biodiversity loss. Ecosystems can become contaminated with plastics, chemicals and toxic waste. An example of this would be eutrophication in water bodies which is caused by agricultural runoff.
5. Invasive non-native species can prey, outcompete or bring diseases to native species. An example of this would be the grey squirrel in Ireland known to outcompete our native red squirrel and cause serious economic damage to forestry. Rhododendron has become a major problem in Ireland posing a particular threat to oak woodlands.

Sources: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/ipbes-irelands-biodiversity-crisis/>
<https://www.britannica.com/science/biodiversity-loss>

