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Biodiversity is the variety of earth's species, quite simply. There is diversity within species and between species, as well as genetic and ecosystem diversity. Diversity is beautiful, it is the natural change and variance and ability to adapt within ecosystems, it is the differences that fill every niche and make human medicines for any ail, it is the aesthetic we seek in wildlands and natural photography, it is what allows our ecosystems to function.

Biodiversity is integral to ecosystems that provide goods and services beneficial to human health and wellbeing. Regardless of human benefit, biodiversity is the natural state of being in the world. It is us humans who have disrupted and degraded the planet to be less and less diverse.

The seed bank video resonated most with me. I understand the need for seed banks, I do, I follow the precautionary principle and realize it is much better for us in the long run to store these seeds and protect their genetic diversity for future generations and potential pandemics. However, I resent the fact that we've necessitated such actions. Humans since the industrial revolution and even before have been massively greedy and corporative, from the variety of East India Companies to the partitioning of Africa, humans have been taking what is not, nor ever should have been ours. Are we as a species inclined to avarice? Or is this a compounding of our racism, our

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homophobia, our xenophobia, our imperialism, our overwhelming desire to believe we are better than anyone and anything, the planet included?

Humans are causing the sixth mass extinction event on this planet. Seed banks can only save so much, captive breeding programs can only sustain species so long. We need to fix what we've broken, before it's too late, and climate change destroys what we've not yet even discovered.

One of my favorite biodiversity related resources is Michael Largo's Big Bad Book of Botany. As the title suggests it is more related to botany than to ecology, however it highlights the incredible amount of biodiversity the world holds, the amazing variance of the species we seek to protect. Additionally, I found that [this](#) website showed a more hopeful and narrowed aspect to the issue, in that biodiversity can be restored.