



Biodiversity with David Suzuki
Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity
Royal Ontario Museum

[Podcast opens with music and a blank white screen; text fades in: Biodiversity]

[Fade to David Suzuki against a black background] **David Suzuki:** Most of us in Canada now live in big cities, so it's very difficult there, to see that we're, in some ways, we're still embedded in nature.

[Fade to white screen; text appears: Web of Life] **David:** ...but it is biodiversity, it's the web of living things around world that makes the planet habitable for an animal like us.

[Fade to a shot of David against a black background] **David:** We are facing a biodiversity crisis of unbelievable proportions; we're entering into a phase of species extinction unlike anything planet has seen for sixty-five million years.

[Cut to white screen; image of a clear cut forest appears in the upper left-hand corner; image of smokestacks appears in the upper right-hand corner] **David:** The United Nations tells us that *[image of bird covered in oil appears in the lower left-hand corner]* fifty thousand species of plants *[image of a truck in a garbage dump appears in the lower right-hand corner]* and animals go extinct every year. *[Screen fades to split screen: on the left, an underwater shot of a whale; on the right, a still image of a green snake]* And that's a huge guess. We don't even know *[the image of the whale is replaced by two images: a still shot of a cheetah above and a still shot of an owl below]* how many plants and animals there are on the planet *[the image of the snake is replaced by a still shot of flamingoes below and a black bear above]* but they are surely disappearing *[the image of the cheetah is replaced with a close up of three mushrooms; image of the owl is replaced with a close-up of a praying mantis]* faster than we can discover them all *[all four images on screen are replaced one by one: a jellyfish; a sea turtle; a butterfly; a baby elephant; a group of dolphins; a parrot; a monkey; an orchid; a seal; a spider; screen fades to white]*

[Fade to David against a black background] **David:** Without biodiversity, the stability of the things that animals like us need to survive becomes far less certain. We are tearing apart the web of living things that we depend on for our very survival.

[Fade to white screen; text appears: Protect what's yours]

[Fade to animated screen showing a collage of various plants and animals]

[Fade to shot of David speaking against a black background] **David:** Who needs biodiversity? We do and if we didn't have biodiversity, animals like us wouldn't be alive.

[Cut to black; fade to white with animated butterfly and text: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity; music fades out and podcast ends as screen fades to black]