

Are People Destroyers or Protectors of Nature?

Human beings are the protectors of the earth. We have the technology and understanding to let every species of animal, plant, and natural resources thrive. We can save entire species from extinction, and plant trees faster than they could have ever reproduce by themselves. So if we can do all that, why is the planet dying? I think the reason is simple, as a society we are terrible at our one true job.

Now I wouldn't immediately say that more people are intentionally destroying nature than protecting it, because that would be a little unfair. It doesn't matter if my friend is protecting the environment and my neighbour is not. Ultimately we are all on the same earth, so it's really are us as a society protecting nature or destroying it? I would say that 99% of people on this earth are contributing to the destruction of nature whether they like it or not.

If I were to go to the grocery store and buy some carrots, I would be helping the destruction of nature. For that carrot to be bought by me, it would have been shipped most likely by a gas powered truck or plane putting CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere. The farm that the carrot was grown on may have led to the deforestation of the surrounding land. The farm could have also used pesticides on the crops that poisoned the surrounding animal life. It goes on and on for pretty much everything we do in modern society.

Humans are still capable of protecting the environment and the millions of other species that call earth home. Take the fastest bird in the world for example. The Peregrine falcon was endangered in America around the 1950s, with its population taking a dive due to poison in their food supply. However, because of human led conservation efforts like captive breeding and release, the population has come back up once again. Although, the main reason that the Peregrine falcon made a comeback was because public and government opinion changed leading to the ban of the poisonous pesticide that was originally the cause of their decline.

Throughout most human history we have been destroying nature, and that has created a society that only functions at the cost of the environment. But it's stories like the Peregrine falcon's that give me hope that the destructive ideology is changing. Conservation efforts and attention to the environment have increased drastically in the past years. More and more people are realizing that nature needs help, but only once the baseline function of how society works changes, it's not going to be enough.

Humans have every possibility to be the protectors of the earth. We have so much power and control over how the environment behaves and we know what we have to protect it. The problem is that we are so interconnected, that even if you make efforts in being environmental, you are still in some part leading to the destruction of the environment. In the end, we are still pumping billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and reducing biodiversity at an alarming rate. We can't keep working around the natural world, we need to work with it because it's the only way that we can create sustainable life on earth. It's only then when the entire human race can function alongside the natural world instead of against it, would I consider there to be more people protecting earth than destroying it.