

# Digital time capsule

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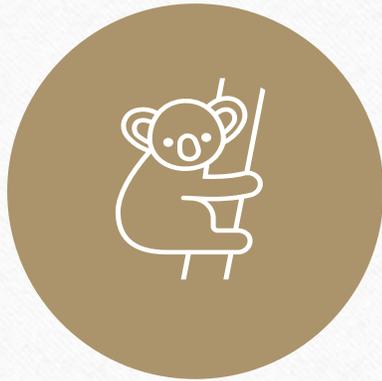
Emisha Barnard

# Introduction

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- The earth has been rapidly changing since human civilization started. Many ecosystems and species are already gone and forgotten. This capsule aims to capture five endangered places in the world today. These pictures are for future generations who may not have the chance to ever see what we see now.

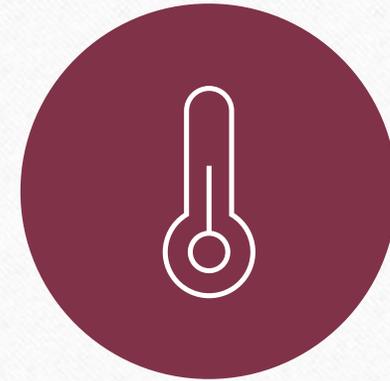
# Our planet in 2023



- 68% decrease in animal populations from 1970-2016 (LPI 16)



- 1 in 5 plants are threatened with extinction as of 2020 (LPI 36)



- Global temperatures up 1.1 degree Celsius since preindustrial (Nasa)

# Why is our planet dying?

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- **Habitat loss and degradation:** clearing land for agriculture, logging, residential or commercial development, energy production and mining
- **Species overexploitation:** unsustainable hunting, poaching, or harvesting
- **Invasive species:** compete with native species for resources and food, can turn out to be predators, and introduce new diseases
- **Pollution:** turning the environment unsuitable
- **Climate Change:** cause species to move to more suitable climates, affect their natural systems, harms their habitats



# Madagascar

- 80% Deforestation for agriculture, timber, and fuelwood
- Up to 1/3 of Madagascar burns every year
- Animals hunted and sold as exotic pets
  - Invasive species that threaten natives



# Borneo

- 56% of forests were cut down between 1985-2001 for timber demand
- 2 degrees of warming will be almost devastating by 2050
- Huge source for illegal pet trades
- 2 main contributors to forest loss: Forestry and mining



# Micronesia + Polynesia

- Hundreds of invasive species threatening natives
- 1,000s of bird species extinct
- Climate change drives catastrophic rises in sea level and increasing floods and cyclones



# Sky Islands

- Climate change brings devastating droughts
  - 41+ endangered species
- Border wall between US and Mexico threaten wildlife
- Increase in number and severity of wildfires



# Antarctica

- Global warming melting ice caps leading to sea level rises and ocean acidification
- Overfishing harming the food chain
  - Tourism brings pollutants and invasive species
- Pollutants from around the world end up in Antarctica's atmosphere and ice

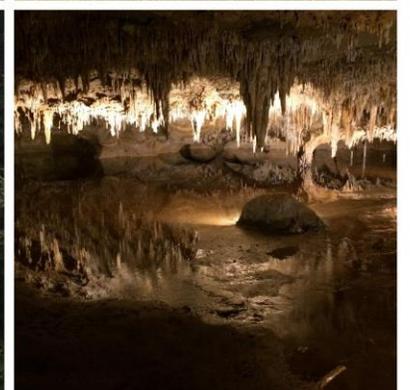
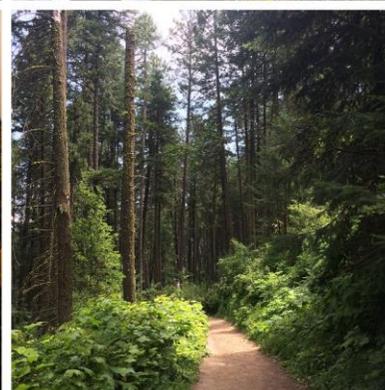
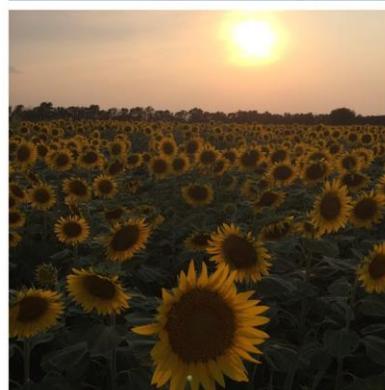
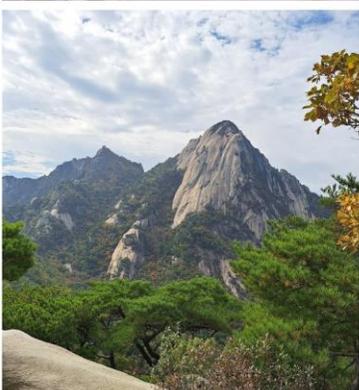
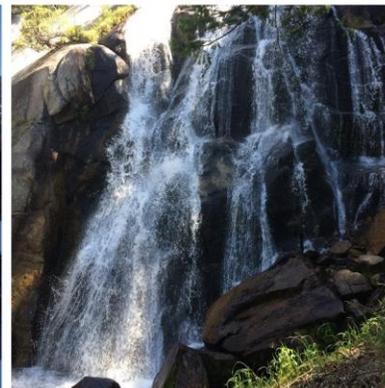
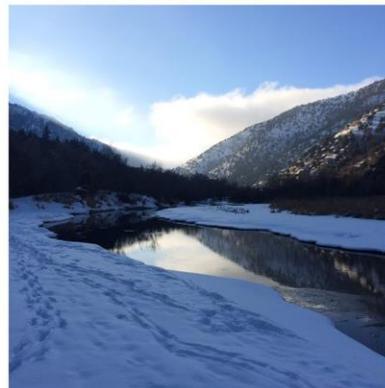
# Letter to the Future

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- The generations before us have rapidly changed the world in which we live in today. We have built systems that are completely unsustainable and devastating to the planet. We are in a crisis and need to make changes now to ensure that future generations have a home still.
- If this capsule is found in the future, I desperately hope that these animals and habitats are still there. There will be change in the future, whether by design or disaster and I sincerely hoped it was from the first option. May we continue to keep our planet safe, healthy, and inhabitable!

P.S. I've added some of my favorite personal photos of nature as well

Signed by Gen Z



# Works cited

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- [8 of the World's Most Endangered Places | Live Science](#)
- [Home – Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet \(nasa.gov\)](#)
- [Threats to Madagascar's Environment \(wildmadagascar.org\)](#)
- [Threats to Borneo forests | WWF \(panda.org\)](#)
- [Polynesia-Micronesia - Threats | CEPF](#)
- [Sky Islands | Defenders of Wildlife](#)
- [Sky Island Fire Ecology \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)
- [Living Planet Report 2020 | Publications | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](#)