



## Biodiversity

### What is happening?

In Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique, bushbuck antelopes have changed where they feed because predators had become fewer. They moved from wooded areas to the floodplains. The bushbuck are healthier and larger but this has damaged plant life in the floodplains, reducing biodiversity.

### How do we know this?

- Scientists observed bushbuck antelope populations in Mozambique for several months after many of their predators had disappeared.

### Why is this important?

- The interactions between living things in an ecosystem are finely balanced. The slightest change can cause the rapid decline of one or more species and of biodiversity.
- Humans have interacted with almost every ecosystem on Earth and often those interactions are rarely positive.
- By understanding more about how living things depend on each other, we could restore biodiversity.

### What else can you find out?

- Watch these short films to find out how apex predators, wolves<sup>1</sup> and whales<sup>2</sup>, affected their ecosystems.



1 <https://video.link/w/mZGPb>

2 <https://video.link/w/bHHPb>

## KEY FACTS

### Biodiversity

The number of different living things found in an ecosystem. In many places, biodiversity has halved in the last 100 years.

### Ecosystem

The living things (animals and plants) and the non-living parts (e.g. air and water) of a habitat. Almost every ecosystem has been affected by human activity.

### Apex predators

These are animals that eat other animals but are not normally hunted themselves. The number of apex predators (leopards, hyenas, wild dogs and lions) in Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique was severely reduced in a civil war.

### Rewilding

Rewilding is about creating conditions for all nature to thrive and restoring the biodiversity in an environment.

