

Wildlife facing Extinction in PNG

Papua New Guinea is the home of many wonderful tropical plants and animals. Many are found nowhere else in the world. As long as these special plants and animals are looked after, they will continue to be something which everyone in PNG can be proud of. But if they disappear, these plants, insects and animals can never be brought back. And that be a loss for Papua New Guinea.

Here is one PNG's animal which was once common in the county but now it is in trouble, for one reason or another.

The black (palm) cockatoo used to be found everywhere in the lowland forest many years ago. Now, it is facing the extinction. It hardly finds breeding place and hardly finds food to eat so it started disappear.

Today, you cannot find any palm cockatoos in some areas. They are still common in only few places. But if we in PNG do not look after these birds, at least they could still survive in some places, but not in PNG.

Many of these plants, insects and animals are exactly what visitors and researchers come to see when they visit PNG. Most of these tourists and researchers they are interested to see plants, insects and animals living free, in the forest (bush) where they naturally make their homes.

These plants, insects and animals may be useful to us in Papua New Guinea in other ways too. Some of them may have chemicals that could be used to cure sickness. Think of all the plants which were used as medicines. Even those common medicines from the pharmacies used today, like panadol and aspro-clear. Other plant might have oils that would be useful for industry. We never know what plants, insects and animals might be useful someday in the future. This dose not mean at all that all PNG's special plants, insects and animals are like a library. There are each storing things, and we don't know yet what all those things are. But if we lose that wildlife, it is bad. Once it is gone, it's like losing all the information which was in that book. If we lose PNG's special wild lives, we may lose our useful chemicals and other things which are worth less. Many people do not know these things, and are destroying the forests which most of PNG's special plants, insects and animals need to survive. Many kinds of plants, insects and animals that were once common in PNG are now hard to find them. Some may have disappeared completely. We must not destroy the natural homes of all our wildlife species in PNG.

