Quiz: Species and extinction

Scientists warn that human activities may be bringing about the sixth mass extinction of species in the world's history.

As decision-makers discuss the future of the planet's flora and fauna at the 2004 CITES conference in Bangkok, test your knowledge of the web of life.

Question 1 There are an estimated 13-14 million species in the world. How many of those have been recorded and described? **A: 1.75 million**
B: 5 million
C: 7 million
D: 11 million
Question 2 What is the biggest threat to species? **A: Habitat loss**
B: Hunting, fishing and collecting
C: Alien invasive species
Question 3 How many plant species are used in medicines worldwide? **A: 100 – 200**
B: 1,000 – 2,000
C: 10,000 – 20,000
D: 100,000 – 200,000
Question 4 The Rosy Periwinkle is a plant species native to Madagascar. What condition is it used to treat? **A: Kidney stones**
B: Heart disease
C: Leukaemia
D: Rheumatism
Question 5 Which country has the most endangered plants in the world? **A: Indonesia**
B: Malaysia
C: Ecuador
D: Brazil
Question 6 Wild wheat varieties found in Turkey have a genetic property valued at $US50 million a year. What is it? **A: Resistance to pesticides**
B: High levels of vitamin A
C: Resistance to plant disease
D: Twice yearly crops
Question 7 The Sumatran tiger is at risk of extinction. Which everyday product is behind the threat? **A: Hamburgers - the tiger's rainforest home is being cut down to make way for cattle.**
B: Paper – logging companies are exploiting the forests for paper pulp.
C: Toothpaste – workers collecting an ingredient from the sap of a certain tree are disturbing the tigers' breeding cycle.
D: All of the above are true.
Question 8 What happened when a predatory snail from the US was introduced on the Pacific island of Moorea to control an imported African edible snail? **A: The edible snails' shells were too tough to crack, so the predatory snails died out.**
B: The predatory snail picked up a local disease, which was then carried back to the US in imported goods.
C: Instead of eating the African edible snail, the predator turned on a local species, which is now at risk of dying out.
D: The predatory snail was palatable to a local monkey species, and the sudden

abundance of food triggered a population explosion.
Question 9 During the 1990s, by how much was the Earth's forest cover reduced every minute? **A: 0.37 football pitches**
B: 3.7 football pitches
C: 37 football pitches
D: 370 football pitches
Question 10 Dinosaurs were wiped out in the mass extinction 65 million years ago - or were they? Which modern day group of animals do many experts say are technically dinosaurs? **A: Crocodiles**
B: Komodo dragons
C: Frogs
D: Birds

Press the button and see how you have done

1A
2A **Habitat loss and degradation affect 89% of all threatened birds, 83% of mammals, and 91% of threatened plants.**
5C Ecuador has the most with 975. Malaysia has the second-most with 683, followed by Indonesia with 383 and Brazil with 381.
6CSimilarly, Ethiopian wheat varieties have provided protection from viral pathogens to barley now grown in California ï¿½ worth US$160 each year.
7B Loss of forest habitat is a major threat to the Sumatran tiger. The remaining animals are being pushed back by logging companies which exploit Indonesia's lowland rainforests to supply the world with paper pulp.
8C Alien species ï¿½ particularly those introduced by migrating humans - affect 30% of all threatened birds and 15% of all threatened plants.
9C This takes into account the 1.8 of the worldï¿½s forest cover which was regained through reforestation during the decade, as well as the 4.2% which was lost due to threats such as logging, land clearance for agriculture and forest fires.
10D Many palaentologists believe birds descend directly from a particular group of dinosaurs called the Maniraptorians. Some experts say that strictly speaking the birds still belong to this group.