

Royal Palm Walkway

Everything is connected. Changes in biodiversity in one region have an impact on other areas. In the Everglades, wetlands are biologically diverse systems that enhance water quality, sequester carbon, and provide a home to about one-third of all threatened and endangered species.

Consider how these species transport matter from wetlands to other habitats. A raptor may find prey in a marine estuary, consume the fish in a forest, and discard the carcass below a tree. These nutritious remnants are consumed by smaller animals and insects, eventually becoming a part of the Earth.

This ancient life cycle has been altered by unchecked development, resulting in fragmented landscapes, unprecedented pollution, and excessive greenhouse gas emissions. Changes over the last 100 years are evident in the decreasing biodiversity documented by scientists worldwide. Large-scale efforts to increase biodiversity on farms and ranches are needed to effect real change. We all must work together to face ecological challenges to conserve, restore and protect our fragile natural resources for future generations.