

Environmental Changes causing Endangerment or Extinction

Storms, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, as well as forest fires can cause rapid changes to the environment.

After a change in the ecosystem, the environment reacts by permitting new additions of plant and animal life. These new additions are called "**succession**". Fires speed up the process of succession.



Forest fires occur on most of the islands of The Bahamas during the dry season. Some forest fires burn dead leaves and branches on the forest floor releasing nutrients into the soil.

After a fire, grasses sprout and dormant seeds germinate in the rich soil. The bark of pine trees are resistant to fires which enable them to survive forest fires

Small changes in climate, in soil conditions or in plant or animal population can change an ecosystem. This change is gradual over thousands of years.

These activities can affect the ecosystem:

- pollution
- mass land clearing
- cutting down of hills
- filling in of mangroves
- digging canals and marinas

Human activities such as these can also affect the ecosystem:

- adding chemical fertilizers to soil
- building new roads
- building homes, schools & shopping centres
- burning fossil fuels

These activities that affect the ecosystem can lead to the **endangerment** and **extinction** of organisms.

Animals such as the **white crown pigeon**, the **iguana**, the **green sea turtle** and the **Bahama Parrot** are endangered. Laws are being enforced to prevent the capture of these animals. This way the number of these species can increase to avoid extinction



Created by: Mrs. LeahGreen