

Biodiversity



Department of the Environment
Government of Gibraltar



What is biodiversity?

‘The variety of life on earth’

- ✓ It is all living things all around us.
- ✓ It is in our forests and mountains, our rivers and seas, our gardens and parks.
- ✓ It is the soaring eagle, the leaping salmon, the tiny ladybird, the lowly earthworm.
- ✓ It is the natural capital which supports all our lives.
- ✓ It is vital for our survival and is a key measure of the health of our planet.

Benefits of Biodiversity

- ✓ It relies upon ecological systems completing and complementing each other.
- ✓ The food chain is a good example.
- ✓ Today there is enough biodiversity to support a multitude of chains, all of which can benefit humans. Just a few of these benefits include:

- ❖ **Food.**
- ❖ **Beverages.**
- ❖ **Medicine.**
- ❖ **Building materials.**



Habitats

Biodiversity is an important characteristic of a habitat.

In a habitat, the variety of organisms living in the area determines the amount of biodiversity.

Gibraltar

Upper Rock Nature
Reserve Habitat

Marine Habitat

Windmill Hill

Marine Habitat



Planted area in an estate

Local Habitats

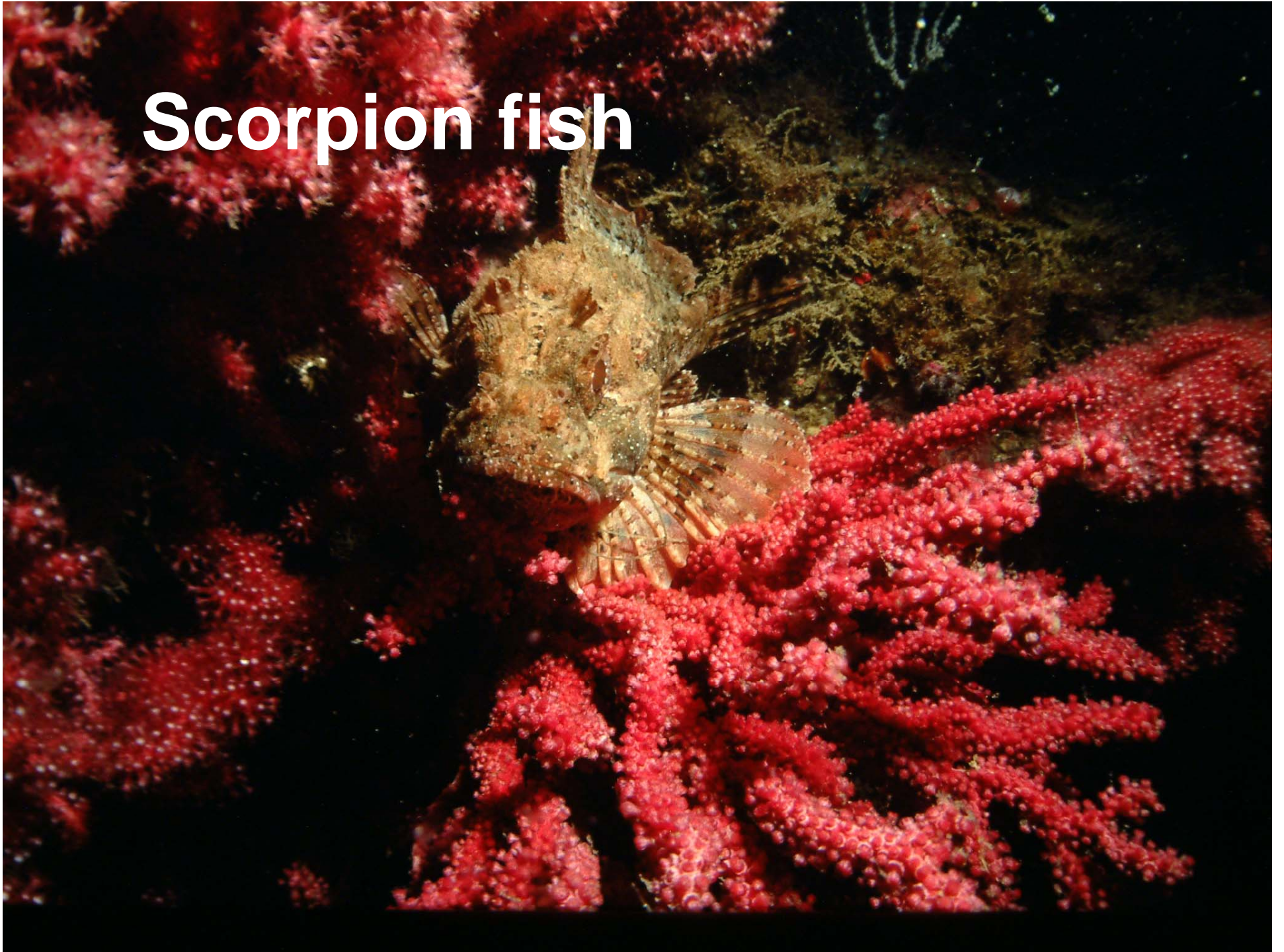
- ✓ 605 plant species
- ✓ 41 terrestrial molluscs
- ✓ 12+ Woodlice and relatives
- ✓ 46 species of butterfly
- ✓ 4 species of amphibians
- ✓ 20 species of reptiles
- ✓ 308 species of birds
- ✓ 16 species of mammal

Under the sea.....

Wrasse



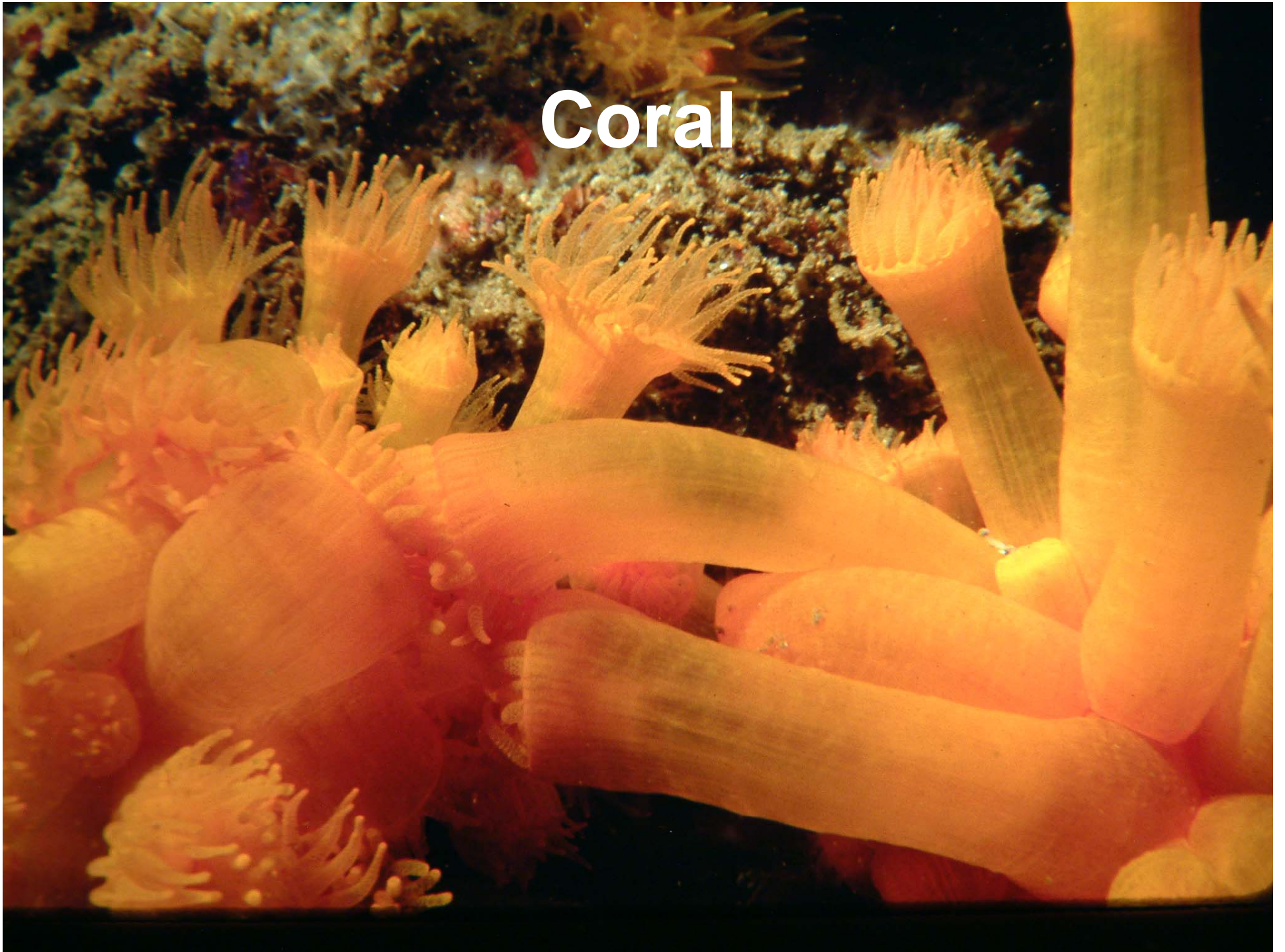
Scorpion fish





Anemone

Coral



Species unknown



Star Gazer



Loggerhead Turtle



A close-up photograph of several purple delphinium flowers. The flowers have a distinctive spurred shape with five petals. They are growing on green stems with narrow, lanceolate leaves. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

On the land...

Delphinium

Gibraltar Candytuft



Sea Lavender



Scorpion



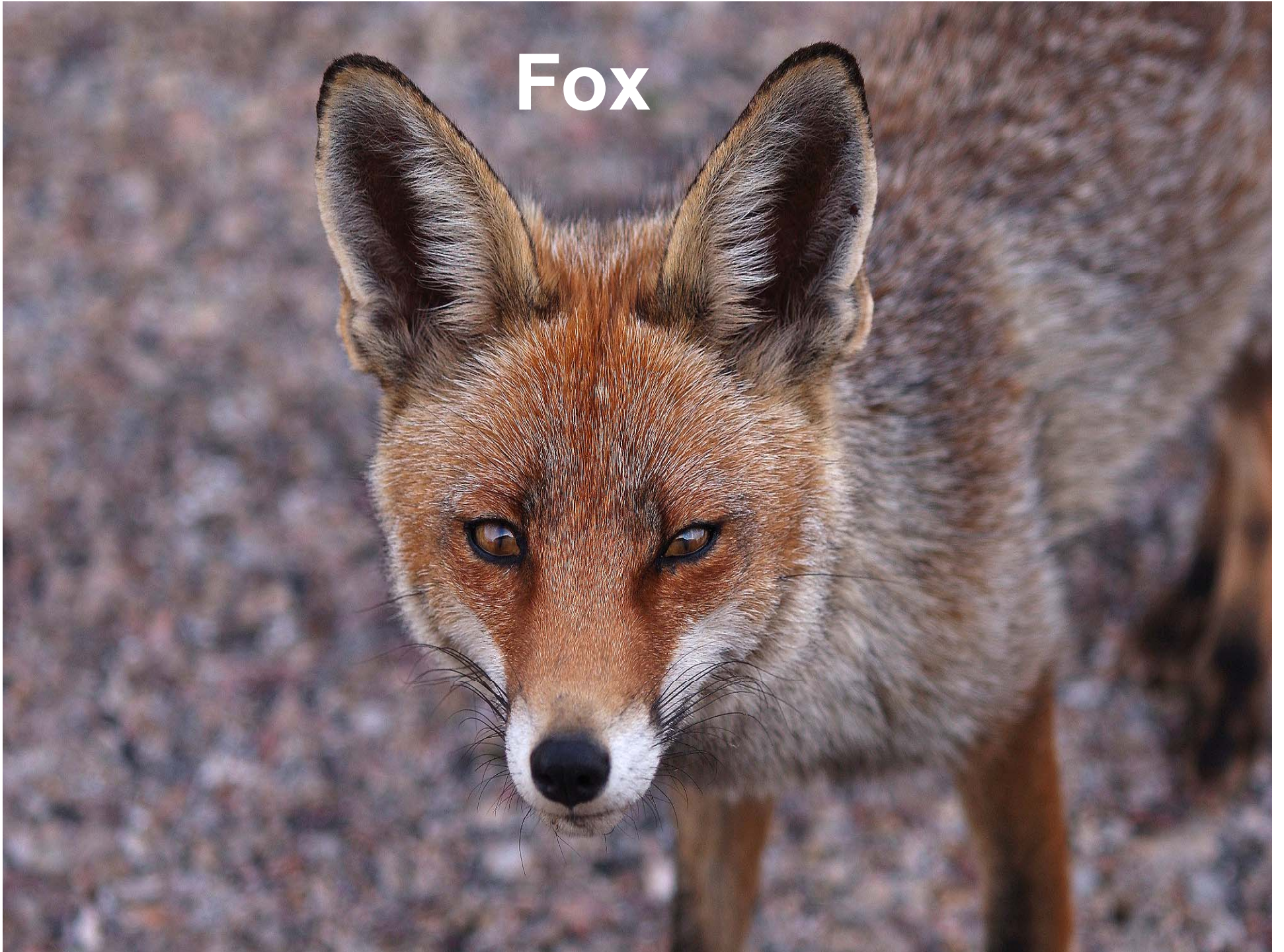
Spider



Dragonfly



Fox



In the air...

Black eared wheatear



Griffon Vulture



Storks

Eagle Owl



Threats to biodiversity

- ✓ The major threat to biodiversity is extinction.
- ✓ Some of the major threats to biodiversity include:
 - ❖ Hunting, or more specifically over-hunting.
 - ❖ Habitat loss - urbanisation
 - ❖ Invasion by foreign species.
 - ❖ Pollution.
 - ❖ Climate change.



Now extinct locally



Extinct



Extinct





**In danger
of
extinction**

In danger of local extinction



Habitat loss - urbanisation





Prickly Pear





Pollution...

Trees killed
by acid rain

Climate Change





Local threats to biodiversity

- Litter
- Reserve
- Picking wild plants
- Alien species in Upper Rock
- Introduction non native plants



Feral cats



Goats



Yellow Legged Gull



Feral Pigeon



Bermuda Buttercup

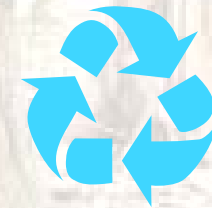


Protecting biodiversity

✓ Protecting biodiversity is fairly easy. For example:

❖ Do not participate in blood sports.

❖ Protest against deforestation



❖ Do not introduce alien species to local habitats.

❖ Cut down your “carbon footprint”

❖ Do your part!





It's our choice!

