

Why Do Endangered Species Need Condoms? And Other Frequently Asked Questions

The connection between endangered species and condoms isn't exactly crystal. When you're talking about saving the planet by having sex, you can get some pretty interesting questions. These are some of the frequently asked questions we've received and suggestions on how to answer them. By being prepared to answer these questions, you can help get people thinking about the impact of our population on wildlife.

Q1. Don't condoms for endangered species sort of defeat the purpose?

A1: To be clear, Endangered Species Condoms are strictly for human use. And no, they aren't made out of endangered species, either. The condoms and the endangered species featured on the packaging are a fun way to get people's attention and start conversations about how human population growth is impacting wildlife.

Q2. Why condoms?

A2: Every day we add 227,000 people to the planet. That's about 83 million per year. The global population is already over 7 billion people and is expected to surpass 10 billion by the end of the century.

When we take responsibility for our reproductive decisions, we're helping protect plant and animal diversity around the globe. Fewer people on the planet means fewer strains on wildlife, land, water, air and our climate.

Endangered Species Condoms not only help slow human population growth by preventing unplanned pregnancies — they're also a great educational tool to break the ice and get people talking about human population growth.

Q3. Is population really a problem?

A3: Unsustainable human population growth is at the root of the world's most pressing environmental problems, including climate change, pollution and wildlife extinction.

Over the past 50 years, wildlife populations have plummeted by half, while human population has doubled. Wild plants and animals are going extinct 1,000 to 10,000 times the natural background rate, and biologists believe we've entered the sixth mass extinction.

To put it simply, more people means more consumption. If we keep adding people at the current rate, even our best efforts to reduce our impact, like recycling and driving less, won't be enough to balance out the human impact on the environment.

Q4. How much of an impact can one less child really have on the environment?

A4: Having one less child saves more than 58 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year. In fact, it's 20 times more effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions over your lifetime than many other eco-friendly actions, like recycling and getting a hybrid car, combined. This is because having a child multiplies your carbon legacy five times over as he or she grows up to be a consumer, too, and likely have children of her or his own.

Q5. Doesn't population control infringe on human rights?

A5: Yes. Controlling an individual's ability to make his or her own reproductive decisions is not only ineffective, but an attack on basic human rights. We do not support coercive population control measures of any kind. Instead we strongly support solutions that advance human rights, like education for all, voluntary family planning, universal access to contraception and reproductive healthcare, the empowerment of women, smart urban growth, the protection of clean air and water, the preservation of wildlands, clean energy and sustainable lifestyle choices.

Q6. Why should the United States slow down? Don't other countries have higher population growth rates than us?

A6: Nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended. So even though our fertility rate is not as high as those in other nations, we still have a lot of work to do to take full responsibility for our reproductive futures. Plus, it's not all about the numbers. The American lifestyle has an outsized effect on the planet. In terms of climate change alone, Americans have the largest carbon footprint in the world. We only make up 5 percent of the global population but emit 15 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

Q7. I've heard our population is growing more from immigration than from our birth rate — is that true?

A7: Yes, but population is a global issue, not just any one country's. Immigration and the pursuit of better circumstances are basic human rights. While there's room for debate over the best methods to manage immigration, we don't view it as the way to address population growth, overconsumption, urban sprawl, unsustainable growth and the effects they have on wildlife and the wild places they need to survive and thrive.

People may still stump you with new questions, but don't panic. We're here to help. If someone asks you something you just don't know the answer to, be honest and direct them to get in touch with the Center for Biological Diversity's population experts by emailing us at condoms@biologicaldiversity.org.



For more info, visit: www.endangeredspeciescondoms.com



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