

16.4 Threats To Biodiversity

▶ Introduced species can disrupt stable relationships in an ecosystem.

- An **introduced species** is any organism that is brought to an ecosystem by humans.
 - accidental
 - purposeful
- **Invasive species** can have an environmental and economic impact.



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- An **introduced species** is any organism that is brought to an ecosystem by humans.
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- Only those that prove highly successful in their new homes are referred to as **invasive species**.



Example:

If someone releases a carp from Asia into a pond ecosystem in Wisconsin, the carp is an introduced species.

But if the carp dies or does not reproduce, it will not be considered invasive.

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Loss of habitat eliminates species.

- **Habitat fragmentation** occurs when a barrier forms that prevents an organism from accessing its entire home range.
 - often caused by human development

FIGURE 4.2 By providing a safe way to cross barriers such as roads and highways, land bridges such as this one in Canada allow animals to move safely from one part of their habitat to the next.



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- **Habitat corridors** are a solution to the problem.
 - corridors can be road overpasses or underpasses
 - allow species to move between different areas of habitat

