

Bats and Rats ... the orders Chiroptera and Rodentia ... are the largest groups of mammals in the world. Shrews, often mistaken for rodents, make it even larger.

There are 1116 different species of bats in the world today and 2277 species of rodents. In South Asia alone -- India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives -- there are 123 species of bats and 128 species of rodents.

But is this a good thing or a bad thing -- so many kinds of bats, rats and shrews? Definitely it is a good thing: species diversity is the natural wealth of a nation.

Yet, many people think bats and rats are just pests.

In fact, less than 10% of rodents have been categorised as agricultural pests by rodent control experts. Bats do so many good things for the world, they far exceed their flaws and failings.

Why do you think there are so many bats and rodents on Earth? Well, like insects, which are the most numerous animal order with 7,51,000 identified species and many more unidentified, bats and rodents have a role to play in the Earth's production system, in the survival of plants and other animals, and thus of mankind itself. As many as exist are required to keep the ecosystems of the Earth healthy.

That is why it is a good thing to have so many ... it is because we **need** them!

Many bats and rats are threatened with extinction. The loss of species affects the way ecosystems work, and that affects our own survival.

Learn more about bats and rats and their invaluable contribution to life on Earth.

The IUCN Species Survival Commission hosts specialist groups for nearly all animal orders. Read about what they do for species survival in the world on their website, www.iucn.org.

Zoo Outreach Organisation hosts regional branches of the Bat Specialist Group (CCINSA) and the Rodent Specialist Group (RILSCINSA) to help scientists in South Asia study them better. Learn more about South Asian bats and rats, and the people who study them at www.zooreach.org & www.zoosprint.org

or write to

ZOO, CCINSA, RILSCINSA
Box 1683, Peelamedu,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
PIN - 641 004, India

OR look on the
back of this poster

Bats 'n' Rats



ZOO
ZOO OUTREACH ORGANISATION

Columbus ZOO

WILD
WILDLIFE WORKING GROUPS

CCINSA

ZOO OUTREACH ORGANISATION

CHESTER

RILSCINSA