**FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE MOST SUITABLE LINK WORDS.**

 *A. although B. as a result of C. by contrast D. despite E. for instance*

 *F. however G. in addition to H. in order to I. moreover J. since*

 *K. so that L. thanks to M. therefore N. unless O. whether*

1. A recent analysis in Nature estimated that, in the past 20 years, at least 70 species of South American frogs had gone extinct **as a result of** climate change.
2. **Despite** the action of conservation programs, 25 percent of mammals are at risk of extinction, according to a new assessment of biodiversity by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
3. The world has experienced many periods of mass extinction caused by a variety of natural factors. **However**, the greatest period of mass extinction the world has ever seen is occurring right now.
4. **Since** extinction is part of the natural order, and if many other species remain, some people ask: “Why save endangered species? What makes these animals and plants so special that money and effort should be spent to preserve and recover them?”
5. Biodiversity provides various goods - such as plants and animals - that individuals need **in order to** earn an income and secure sustainable livelihoods. **In addition to** agriculture, biodiversity contributes to a range of other sectors, including ecotourism, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and fisheries.
6. All living creatures, including ourselves, are part of a complex, delicately balanced network of life. **Although** there is much that we do not know about how ecosystems and biological communities function, we do know that no creature exists in isolation. **Therefore**, the removal of a single species can conceivably set off a chain reaction affecting many others.
7. *Endangered* animals are species which are likely to become extinct **unless** drastic actions are taken to ensure the survival of the species.
8. *Why was the Bali tiger vulnerable to extinction?* There are several reasons why this particular species was very susceptible to extinction. First of all, their population was originally small, so removing a small amount of individuals has devastating consequences. These tigers also lived on an island, which drastically increases their chance of extinction. **Moreover**, tigers have both aesthetic and commercial value. Killing tigers and selling their parts is a very lucrative business.
9. Since 1620, more than 500 species, subspecies, and varieties of our nation’s plants and animals have become extinct. **By contrast**, during the 3,000 years of the Pleistocene Ice Age, all of North America lost only about 90 species.