# Environmental Science

Progressive loss of biodiversity (Maron et al., 2020; Brondizio et al., 2019) Serves as a crucial indicator that we inhabit in changing world. Currently, the degree of landscape fragmentation across assessments tends towards a similar pattern (Fletcher et al., 2018a; 2018b; Wilkinson et al., 2018; Wilson et al., 2016; FAO 2015; Zhang et al., 2015). However, these events have been attributed to several human activities, including deforestation, fuelwood exploitation, expansion and intensification of agricultural land use, urbanisation, and large-scale industrialisation (Dai et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2018; FAO, 2015; Zhang et al., 2015; MA, 2005). The weak and misdirected implementation of policies initially designed towards reversing the trend and ensuring multi-level environmental management further threatens this challenge (Zhang et al., 2015; MA, 2005). These complex outcomes often exacerbate the problems, creating further multiscale local to continental biodiversity decimations. These claims have been substantiated in literature, especially by a series of global assessments. For example, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) report published in 2005 stated that more land was converted to cropland from 1950 to 1980 than at any other time in human history, leading to species extinctions, declining animal range, and genetic diversity (MA, 2005). The report also projected that approximately 10–20% of grassland and forestland is expected to be converted to anthropogenic uses before 2050 due to agricultural expansion and urbanisation (MA, 2005).

# Politics

The formation of party splits and splinter parties influence the terms of competition, even if they do not necessarily become major political players. Moreover, factional conflicts significantly impact the legitimacy of democratic institutions and practices. Frequent changes in the number of parties, caused by divisions and mergers, hinder the development of stable political identities and lead to volatility. Under such circumstances, parties are less likely to form long-term policy commitments and may become less accountable to voters. On the other hand, the switching of the deputies to splinter parties undermines the principle of accountability. Reducing the quality of representation and the unpredictability of parties hinder the stable development of a polity and the consolidation of democracy.

Despite the frequent occurrence of party splits and their impact on democratic consolidation, there is a lack of comparative studies specifically dedicated to this topic. Several studies examine individual cases of party splits. Studies on new party formation analyze the external factors influencing the calculations of the founders of both the genuinely new and the splinter parties. Similarly, works on party switching explore the goals and factors influencing the strategic calculations of the individual deputies. The final group of studies examines the institutional and social determinants of party system fragmentation and their indirect impacts on party splits.