

Nature Crisis (2022)

Background

- Equivalent of 1.6 Earth's resources is used to maintain our current way of life and ecosystems cannot keep up with our demands.
- One million of estimated 8 million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction.
- 75 % of the Earth's land surface was significantly altered by human actions, including 85 % of wetland areas.
- 66 % of the ocean area is impacted by human activities, including from fisheries and pollution.
- Close to 90% of the world's marine fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.
- Our global food system is the primary driver of biodiversity loss with agriculture alone being identified as a threat to 24,000 of the 28,000 species at risk of extinction.

Impacts

- Around 3.2 billion people (40 %) are adversely affected by land degradation.
- Up to \$577 billion in annual global crop production is at risk from pollinator loss.
- 25 % of global GHG emissions are generated by land clearing, crop, and fertilization.
- Development is putting animals and humans in closer contact increasing the risk of diseases like COVID-19. About 60 % of human infections are estimated to have an animal origin.
- 100-300 million people are at increased risk of floods and hurricanes because of coastal habitat loss.
- Current rate of declines in nature and biodiversity will undermine progress toward 35 out of 44 of the SDGs targets related to poverty, hunger, health, water, cities, climate, oceans and land.

Major drivers of Nature loss

In addition to climate change, five majors drivers are listed:

Conversion of forests for agricultural and other uses





Loss of habitat of animals and birds



Extensive use of dangerous chemicals that pose threat to animals and insects



Tree cutting leading to loss of habitats for plant and animal species



Invasive species pose threat to native species and impact negatively on ecosystems

What do we need to do to halt and reverse nature loss?

Humanity has only up to the end of this decade to make the necessary transformational changes. The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15 - 9 to 19 December 2022) in Montreal must culminate in a clearly defined, ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that is matched by finances and accountability mechanisms to achieve the framework's targets. (Adapted from UNEP)