



LIVING PLANET REPORT 2020

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SINCE 1970, AVERAGE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS HAVE DECLINED BY TWO THIRDS

“IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO TAKE UNPRECEDENTED AND COORDINATED GLOBAL ACTION TO HALT AND START TO REVERSE THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE BY THE END OF THE DECADE”

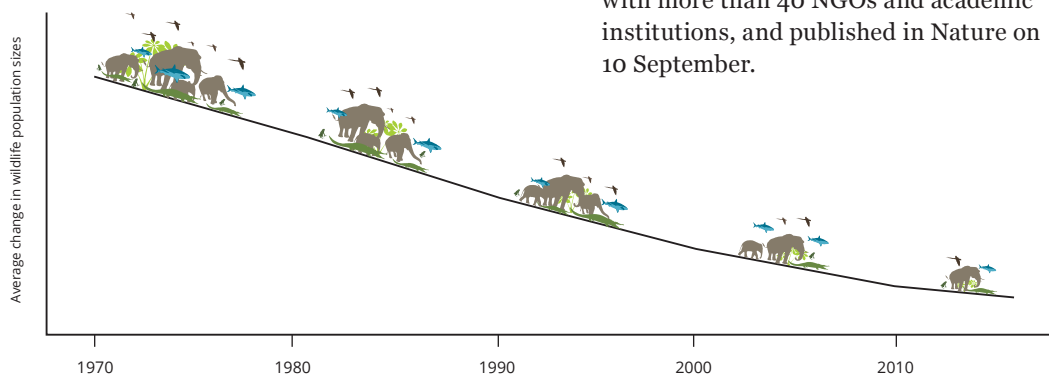
Marco Lambertini,
Director General, WWF
International.

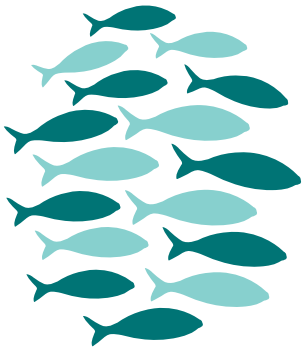
It's time to reverse the trend

Produced every two years by WWF, the *Living Planet Report* (LPR) is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity (the variety of life on Earth) and the health of the planet, providing an overview of the state of the natural world, human impacts and potential solutions.

LPR 2020 is the thirteenth edition of the report and it underlines how humanity's increasing destruction of nature is having catastrophic impacts not only on wildlife populations but also on human health and all other aspects of our lives. The report includes these key indicators and tools:

- **Living Planet Index (LPI):** The LPI, provided by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), is one of the most comprehensive measures of global biodiversity. It tracks 4,392 vertebrate species and 20,811 populations. It is not a census that provides the specific number of animals that have been lost or gained; instead it reports how wildlife populations have changed in size.
- **‘Bending the Curve’ modelling:** Pioneering modelling based on the research paper, ‘Bending the curve of terrestrial biodiversity needs an integrated strategy,’ – co-authored by WWF together with more than 40 NGOs and academic institutions, and published in *Nature* on 10 September.





WHAT THE RESEARCH IS TELLING US

Between 1970 and 2016, so in less than half a century:

- Global population sizes of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish have suffered an average two-thirds decline.
- Wildlife populations found in freshwater habitats have suffered the starkest average population decline in any biome (regions that can be distinguished by their climate and wildlife) of 84 per cent, equivalent to 4 per cent per year since 1970.

WHY THE DECLINE IN NATURE MATTERS

Humanity's increasing destruction of nature is having catastrophic impacts not only on wildlife populations but also on human health and livelihoods, food security and all other aspects of our lives. The drivers of wildlife population decline are also direct threats to humans, potentially putting our health in peril by contributing to the emergence of zoonotic diseases, which jump from animals to humans such as COVID-19.

THE FACTORS DRIVING THE DECLINES

The main cause of the dramatic decline in species populations is habitat loss and degradation, including deforestation, much of which is driven by how people produce and consume food.

DID YOU KNOW?

Infectious diseases of animal origin represent more than 60 per cent of all recent pandemics and epidemics, including COVID-19, come from zoonotic diseases.





ROADMAP TO RESTORE BIODIVERSITY



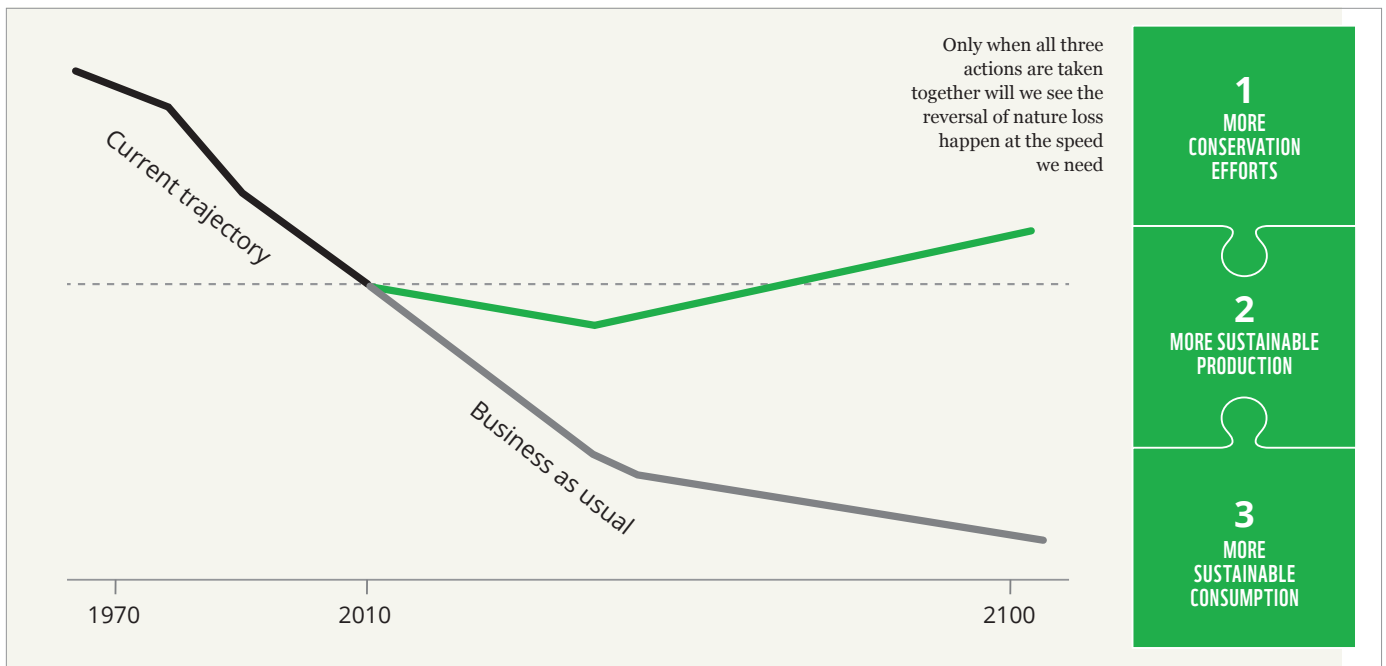
If nothing changes, populations will undoubtedly continue to fall

But we also know that nature conservation works and species can be brought back from the brink. With commitment, investment and expertise, these trends can be reversed.

The 'Bending the Curve' modelling provides invaluable evidence about how we can restore nature to provide current and future generations of people with what they need. World leaders must, in addition to conservation efforts, make our food system more sustainable and take deforestation – one of the main causes of

wildlife population decline – out of supply chains. Changes needed include making food production and trade more efficient and ecologically sustainable, reducing waste, and favouring healthier and more environmentally-friendly diets.

Coming together now to implement these measures will allow us to restore nature decades earlier than if we adopt alternative approaches that allow nature loss to continue and rely on us attempting to reverse the damage later on.



THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

From consumers to businesses to governments, to communities living right alongside and amongst nature, if we all work together, we can put nature back on the path to recovery



We must act now to heal our relationship with nature, for the sake of the wildlife, plant and insect populations that support us, if we too are to survive. With world leaders gathering virtually for the UN General Assembly from 15 September, we have a chance to push for a New Deal for Nature and People - a commitment by leaders to put nature back on the path to recovery.

A New Deal for Nature and People has never been more vital.

WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO?

People everywhere are invited to add their names to WWF's petition which can be found at: panda.org/pandemics and help call on world leaders to implement policy frameworks and action plans that ensure they are doing all they can to protect us from future pandemics.



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Working to sustain the natural world for people and wildlife

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