



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity



22 MAY 2020

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Our solutions are in nature



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Impact of COVID-19 on CBD: Policy response and approach of CBD to the Crisis

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VIRTUAL EVENT, 26 MAY 2020



'Frightening' number of plant extinctions found in global survey

Study shows 571 species wiped out, and scientists say figure is likely to be big underestimate



UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'



Rise of the Extinction Deniers

Just like climate deniers, they're out to obfuscate and debase the scientists and conservationists trying to save the world—and maybe get rid of a few pesky species in the process

By John R. Platt on June 22, 2019



06-11-2019

One million species gone: What humanity stands to lose

By **Michael Dhar**
Earth.com staff writer

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Five things we've learned from nature crisis study

By Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent

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EXAMPLES OF DECLINES IN NATURE

ECOSYSTEM EXTENT AND CONDITION

47%

Natural ecosystems have **declined by 47 per cent** on average, relative to their earliest estimated states.

SPECIES EXTINCTION RISK

25%

Approximately **25 per cent of species are already threatened with extinction** in most animal and plant groups studied.

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

23%

Biotic integrity—the abundance of naturally-present species—has **declined by 23 per cent** on average in terrestrial communities.*

BIOMASS AND SPECIES ABUNDANCE

82%

The global biomass of wild mammals has **fallen by 82 per cent.*** Indicators of vertebrate abundance have declined rapidly since 1970

NATURE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

72%

72 per cent of indicators developed by indigenous peoples and local communities show **ongoing deterioration** of elements of nature important to them

1. Fast forward to 2020: Data on the impact of COVID-19

- **Global health crisis** unlike any in UN's 75-year history.
- Leading into a **global humanitarian crisis**
- “Unprecedented **wake-up call from nature**” (*UN SG, April 2020*)
- UN policy response to “**Build Back Better**” – leaping forward to build the new normal

Interconnections are clear - Our health is dependent on the health of the planet

Continued alteration by our human activity (i.e. deforestation, pollution, biodiversity loss, mismanagement of wildlife use and trade) all contributory factors to the spread of this virus.

Response - Working with the extended UN family to address impacts of COVID19, to mitigate the risks and examine preventive approaches to lower risk of future pandemics.

1a. COVID19 Implications to CBD Activities

Direct implications: 75% of all emerging infectious diseases, like COVID, are zoonotic, i.e. *viruses originating from the transfer from animals, whether domesticated or wild, to humans.* Experiencing **zoonotic diseases** for a long time (e.g. Spanish flu, bird flu, swine flu).

Response: CBD Programmatic Work provides multi-disciplinary research & policy guidance.

- Sustainable Wildlife Management, Invasive Alien Species and Biodiversity and Health.
- Preparing and equipping countries and society to identify, manage and reduce the risks, with adequate mitigation measures. (Inter-agency led – ex. One Health Approach)

Social-Economic Implications: World's poorest and most marginalized have been impacted, including indigenous peoples and local communities, disrupting community traditions & livelihoods. (i.e. traditional land use & medicinal practices).

Response: assess the implications of our responses as they pertain to people, their livelihoods & income, food security and nutrition, in particular, in low-income rural areas and communities.

Cannot play down the economic hardship countries will experience in response to the crisis.

2. COVID19 Impacts to CBD Activities – cont.

Implications to COP15: heightened societal attention on human-nature interconnections & urgency to protect. Pivot from nature as an “add-on” to nature as a “global priority”.

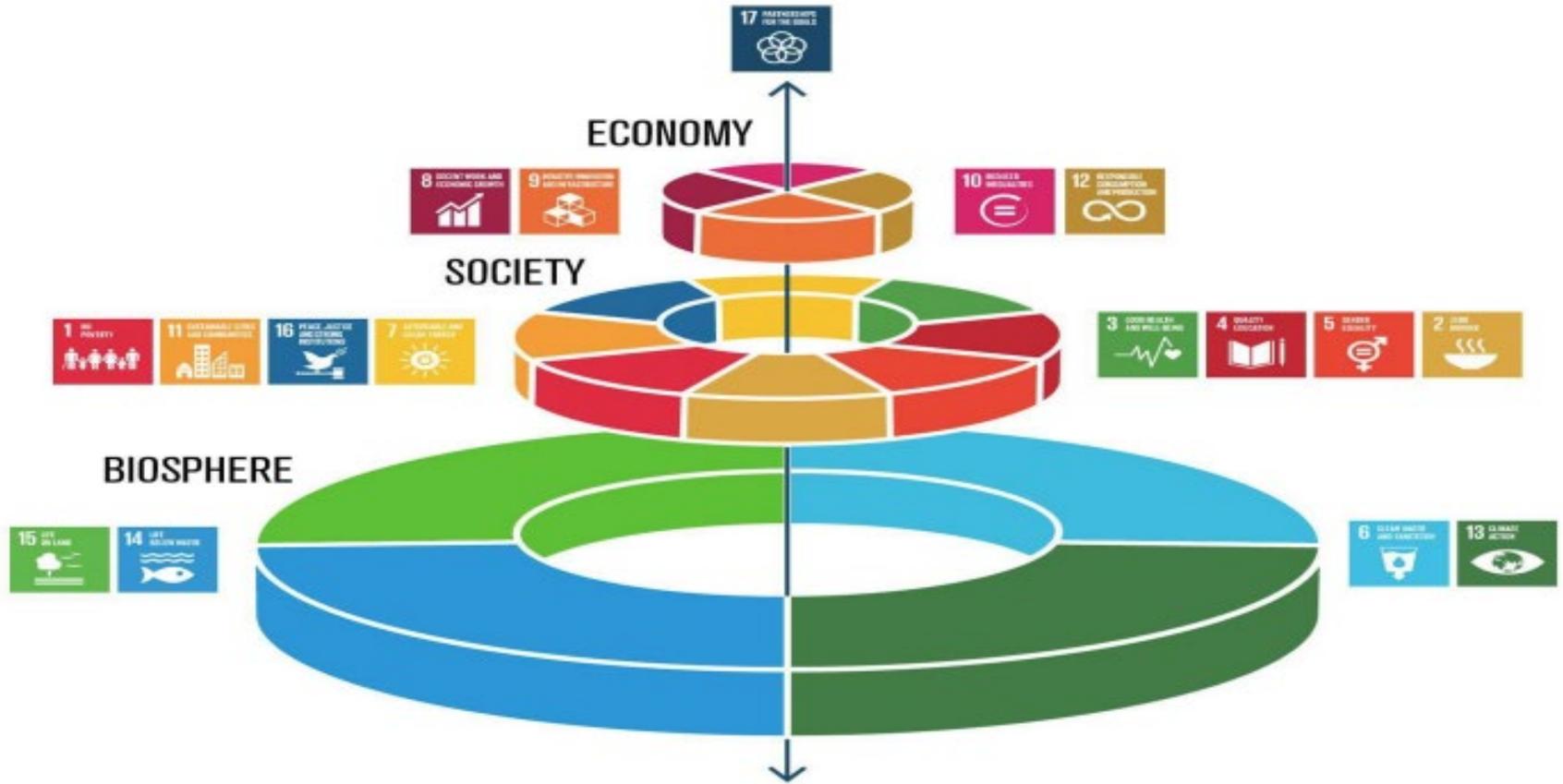
Mainstreaming biodiversity into broader sustainability objectives (i.e. “the future we want”).

COVID19 revealed why an ambitious and comprehensive post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, with all sectors engaged, is needed to shift away from “continued crisis management” to “Living in Harmony with Nature”.

Response: On track to develop a robust and ambitious 30 yr Framework - 2030 targets & 2050 goals.

- Important meetings convened virtually by the Secretariat.
- Prepared to keep building momentum to SBI/ SBSTTA/COP15 & thru the UN Decade for Action.
- Road to Kunming includes 2020 Summit on Biodiversity at UNHQ, margins of 75th UNGA.
- Examining the transformation required to rebuild our societal values and respect for nature.
- Working to make nature part of recovery packages to restart economies and protect societies.

...and why it matters:



2. Building a narrative shift for COP15: Ecological Civilization - “Building a Shared Future for all Life on Earth”

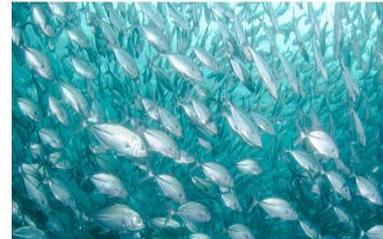
- **Securing Life on Earth** = biggest challenge for humanity
- Biodiversity = **solution and opportunity** for human health, climate change, sustainable & resilient economy, greener job creation
- Biodiversity = **infrastructure** that supports development & well-being

Healthy biodiversity - healthy Planet - healthy food - healthy people:

Shift away from:

- 70,000 premature deaths each year from air pollution (ex. India)
- Annual costs of environmental degradation and resource depletion approach 10 percent of GDP
- Degraded land costs the world USD 6 trillion annually in lost services, goods and livelihoods.

3. Opportunities & solutions for nature, people and sustainability



3. Reactions from International Community:

New green initiatives (Federal Level): renewed policy urgency for protecting biodiversity. (Germany, France, Chile)

Local Level: Leaders from 40 cities (Europe, US, Africa) formed a taskforce to coordinate low-carbon, sustainable recovery from the crisis.

Final communiqué & Annexes from the G20 Finance Ministers (15 April):

“Commits to support an environmentally sustainable and inclusive recovery..., guided by a sense of shared, long-term responsibility for our planet & citizens consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, national and local development strategies, and relevant international commitments.”

UNSG: calls for policies, investments & actions that protect nature and are carbon neutral.

UNCEB: decides to develop a common approach to integrating biodiversity & nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy & programme planning and delivery.

This momentum creates strategic opportunities for the UN System.

3. Working towards positive investments & nature co-benefits

2019 OECD Economic and Business Case for Action: ~ USD 4-20 trillion per yr in ecosystem services lost globally (1997 -2011) owing to land-cover change & USD 6-11 trillion per yr from land degradation. Affects all sectors.

2020 Shared responsibility, global solidarity in response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19: reveals broadening of gaps in inequality.

Data from Dasgupta Report on Economics of Biodiversity and other reports: to show models of development to mainstream nature into immediate actions. Links needed for a more sustainable recovery, redirecting financial flows, incentivising greener investments and technical and policy solutions.

Opportunities for businesses to invest in green growth or eco-innovation: SDG implementation opened US\$12 trillion of market opportunities in four core economic sectors: food and agriculture, cities, energy and materials, and health and well-being. (*Impacts Post COVID- unclear*)

4. Elements of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- Overarching **science-based global targets, building on Aichi Targets**
- **Aligned** with SDGs agenda, Paris agreement, other UN frameworks
- **Enabling implementation - Operationalize Mainstreaming, Transition & Transformation in all economic sectors that depend on, benefit, or impact biodiversity** (*food, agriculture, health, forests, fisheries, tourism, energy, infrastructure...*)
- **Enabling coherent, positive, transformative policies and measures:** (1) **whole-of-government approach**; (2) **eliminate or repurpose harmful subsidies**; (3) **stimulate sustainable consumption and production**; (4) **science, innovation & technology**
- **Mechanisms to review** the ambition & implementation gap (*Review, Transparency and Accountability*)
- **Pledges & voluntary contributions:**(*Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People*)
- **Shared success at national level** for achievement of targets - with all actors of society, including business, civil society, youth, local and sub-national governments and IPLCs

4. Elements of the Zero Draft: Post-2020 Framework vis a vis COVID19

Outlines 5 long-term goals linked to 2050 Biodiversity Vision “Living in harmony with nature”.

- Goals will set us on track to ensure that risks from pandemics are mitigated.
- Draft proposes agreement Protect nature - Prevent human-wildlife conflicts – Build Ecosystem and Human Resilience/ Well-being - Decrease risks from future pandemics.
- Proposals to sustainably increase nature’s benefits to people; to improve global nutrition; access to drinking water; develop resilience to natural disasters; support climate targets.
- Provisions for linkages between biodiversity and health (One Health Approach).
- COVID19 shows that international cooperation is paramount for the health of our nature, our economies, and our people.
- Crisis is border less.
- Building back better requires renewed multilateralism, cooperation, trust & accountability.