

Nature is in Crisis

By threatening the availability of our air, water and food, the catastrophic loss of nature imperils the future of humanity. At the same time, it will be impossible to prevent catastrophic climate change without the help of healthy natural systems. Nature is in a state of crisis, threatened by habitat loss, pollution, overexploitation, invasive species, and climate change. Evidence shows that the ongoing and rapid loss of natural areas across the world poses a grave threat to the health and security of all living things. One million plant and animal species face extinction, many within decades, because of human activity. Some 60% of the world's terrestrial wildlife populations have been lost since 1970, while 90% of the ocean's big fish have been killed in the last century alone. Scientists still don't know for sure how far we can push our natural ecosystems before they begin to collapse.

30x30

Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that conserving at least 30% of our land and ocean will curb biodiversity loss, store carbon, prevent future pandemics, and bolster economic growth. Our future depends on preventing the collapse of the natural systems that provide our food, clean water, clean air and stable climate. In order to preserve these services, we must protect enough of the natural world to sustain them. Experts have calculated that we must protect an absolute minimum of 30% of the world's land and ocean in order to prevent catastrophic outcomes for our climate and biodiversity. Protecting 30% of our entire planet by 2030 (30x30) is an ambitious but achievable goal. To achieve it, all countries must embrace the goal and contribute to it; Indigenous rights must be respected; and conservation efforts must be fully funded.

The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

In the run-up to the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China in 2021, the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is championing a global deal to put an end to the biodiversity crisis. The HAC is an intergovernmental group of more than 50 countries co-chaired by Costa Rica and France, and the United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair. Specifically, the HAC is working to support the 30x30 proposal and ensure it is embraced by all countries. As of January 2021, the HAC's membership included 52 governments across Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania and the Americas; many other countries have expressed interest in joining. Current HAC countries together harbour 30% of global terrestrial biodiversity, one quarter of the world's terrestrial carbon stores, and 28% of the world's priority areas for ocean biodiversity.

