



THIS REPORT
HAS BEEN
PRODUCED IN
COLLABORATION
WITH:

ZSL
LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE



LIVING PLANET REPORT 2020

BENDING THE CURVE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London)

Founded in 1826, ZSL (Zoological Society of London) is an international conservation charity working to create a world where wildlife thrives. ZSL's work is realised through ground-breaking science, field conservation around the world and engaging millions of people through two zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

ZSL manages the Living Planet Index® in a collaborative partnership with WWF.

Citation

WWF (2020) *Living Planet Report 2020 - Bending the curve of biodiversity loss.*

Almond, R.E.A., Grooten M. and Petersen, T. (Eds).

WWF, Gland, Switzerland.

Design and infographics by: peer&dedigitalesupermarkt

Cover photograph: © Jonathan Caramanus / Green Renaissance / WWF-UK
Farmer Nancy Rono with a chameleon on her sleeve, Bomet County, Mara River Upper Catchment, Kenya.

ISBN 978-2-940529-99-5

Living Planet Report®
and *Living Planet Index*®
are registered trademarks
of WWF International.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY MARCO LAMBERTINI	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
AT A GLANCE	9
CHAPTER 1: AN SOS FOR NATURE	10
CHAPTER 2: OUR WORLD IN 2020	50
CHAPTER 3: PEOPLE AND NATURE ARE INTERTWINED	74
CHAPTER 4: IMAGINING A ROADMAP FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE	112
REFERENCES	140

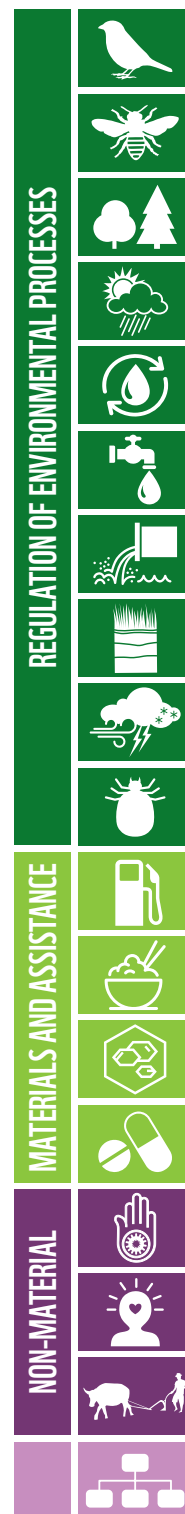
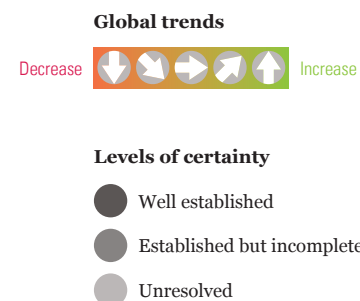
STRETCHING OUR SAFETY NET ALMOST TO BREAKING POINT




























Berta Martin-Lopez (Leuphana University, Lüneburg) and Sandra Díaz (CONICET and Córdoba National University, Argentina and IPBES Global Assessment Co-Chair)

Nature is essential for human existence and a good quality of life, providing and sustaining the air, freshwater and soils on which humanity depends. It also regulates the climate, provides pollination and pest control, and reduces the impact of natural hazards. While more food, energy and materials than ever before are being supplied to people in most parts of the world, this is increasingly coming at the expense of nature's ability to provide them in the future, with the overexploitation of plants and animals frequently undermining nature's many other contributions^{13, 99}. Within the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) conceptual framework, these contributions are referred to as 'Nature's Contributions to People'^{13, 99}. This table was included in the IPBES Summary for Policymakers and it presents the global trends for some of these contributions from 1970 to the present day: we explore these concepts in more detail in the final section of this chapter.

Figure 21: Global trends from 1970 to the present of the 18 categories of Nature's Contributions to People: 14 of the 18 categories analysed have declined since 1970^{13, 99}. (Figure adapted from Díaz, S. et al. (2019)⁹⁹, IPBES (2019)¹³)

Key



NATURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEOPLE	50-YEAR GLOBAL TREND	SELECTED INDICATOR
HABITAT CREATION AND MAINTENANCE	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of suitable habitat • Biodiversity intactness
POLLINATION AND DISPERSAL OF SEEDS AND OTHER PROPAGULES	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollinator diversity • Extent of natural habitat in agricultural areas
REGULATION OF AIR QUALITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention and prevented emissions of air pollutants by ecosystems
REGULATION OF CLIMATE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevented emissions and uptake of greenhouse gases by ecosystems
REGULATION OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to sequester carbon by marine and terrestrial environments
REGULATION OF FRESHWATER QUANTITY, LOCATION AND TIMING		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem impact on air-surface-ground water partitioning
REGULATION OF FRESHWATER AND COASTAL WATER QUALITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of ecosystems that filter or add constituent components to water
FORMATION, PROTECTION AND DECONTAMINATION OF SOILS AND SEDIMENTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil organic carbon
REGULATION OF HAZARDS AND EXTREME EVENTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability of ecosystems to absorb and buffer hazards
REGULATION OF DETRIMENTAL ORGANISMS AND BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of natural habitat in agricultural areas • Diversity of competent hosts of vector-borne diseases
ENERGY	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of agricultural land – potential land for bioenergy production • Extent of forested land
FOOD AND FEED	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of agricultural land – potential land for food and feed production • Abundance of marine fish stocks
MATERIALS AND ASSISTANCE	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of agricultural land – potential land for material production • Extent of forested land
MEDICINAL, BIOCHEMICAL AND GENETIC RESOURCES	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraction of species locally known and used medicinally • Phylogenetic diversity
LEARNING AND INSPIRATION	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people in close proximity to nature • Diversity of life from which to learn
PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIENCES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of natural and traditional landscapes and seascapes
SUPPORTING IDENTITIES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stability of land use and land cover
MAINTENANCE OF OPTIONS	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species' survival probability • Phylogenetic diversity