



THE LIVING PLANET REPORT 2016

Summary

BY 2020 WILDLIFE POPULATIONS WILL HAVE DECLINED BY 67% IN THE LAST 50 YEARS

WWF's Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based look at the health of our amazing planet. The latest edition shows the devastating impacts humans are having on the world's wildlife and natural world.

Wildlife populations have already shown a concerning decline, on average by **58 per cent between 1970 and 2012**, and this decline is likely to reach **67 per cent by the end of the decade**.

For the first time since the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, we face a global mass extinction of wildlife.

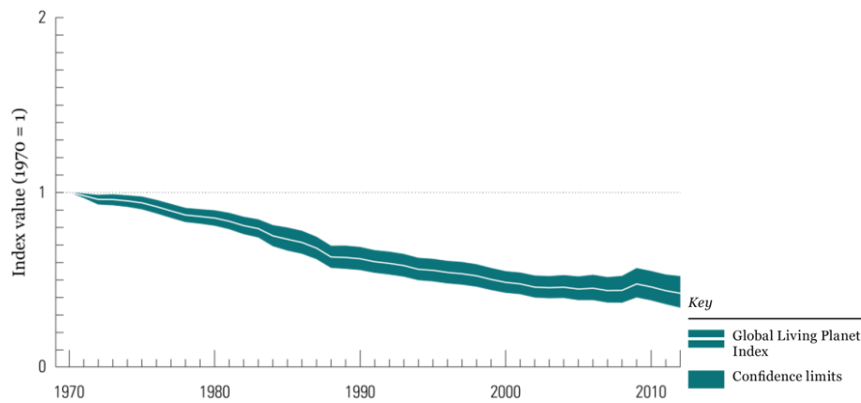
WELCOME TO THE ANTHROPOCENE

Humans rather than natural forces are now the primary cause of planetary change. This year, international scientists suggested that humanity's impact on the Earth is now so profound that a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene – should be declared.

WHAT INDICATORS ARE USED

To monitor the impact on species the report utilises the Living Planet Index (LPI), managed by the Zoological Society of London in collaboration with WWF. It measures biodiversity trends by gathering population data of a large number of vertebrate species and calculating an average change in abundance over time.

The report reveals a persistent downward trend in the Living Planet Index. On average, populations declined by 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012.



The report also uses indicators measuring Ecological Footprint and assesses the health of ecosystems through Planetary Boundaries.

Planetary Boundaries act as safe thresholds for nine critical system processes that maintain life on Earth. These include boundaries for freshwater use, pollution, ozone depletion and other systems that directly impact our society's ability to develop and thrive.

Current analysis suggests that we have already pushed four of these systems beyond safe limits.

CAN BUSINESS THRIVE WITH NATURE IN DECLINE? WHAT CAN GOVERNMENTS DO?

Business decisions have a critical impact on the health of ecosystems, wildlife populations and sustainable human development. Only the smartest, most sustainable companies who value nature will continue to thrive in the future. This requires fundamental changes in our energy and food systems. To do so, businesses must make the shift to an economy in which resources are kept in use for as long as possible, and products and materials are recovered and regenerated at the end of their life.


The 21st century presents humanity with a dual challenge: to maintain nature in all of its many forms and functions and to create an equitable home for people on a finite planet. To sustain human society through the Anthropocene, we need to face a basic fact: we have only one planet and its resources are finite. This knowledge must inform development strategies, economic models, business models and lifestyle choices, including commitments, targets and actions defined under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. To tackle poverty and improve health, we must protect the foundation of our wellbeing – nature.

WHAT ARE WWF DOING?

We are engaging the public in a campaign to raise awareness of the state of the planet, and we ask them to take an active part in engaging with the Government in the development of its policies for environmental protection as it plans and executes our departure from the EU.

We are working with businesses to implement the solutions we have, and we are exploring their opportunities to engage with government on the policies that can incentivise their investment in sustainability.

We will continue to work closely with the Government and look to extend our relationship with new and existing departments.

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. wwf.org.uk</p>
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