

How is biodiversity THREATENED?



Solvay has set out to reduce its pressure on biodiversity by **30 % before 2030**.
But what's the rush, you might ask?

1

The sixth mass extinction

Experts are unanimous: We are currently witnessing the sixth mass extinction of wildlife on Earth. Some compare its scale to that of the "great dying" 250 million years ago – when a massive asteroid wiped out about 95 % of species on Earth. Let's have a look at some key figures.

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Primary causes of biodiversity loss humans are largely responsible for. These cover habitat loss, invasive species, overexploitation, pollution, and climate change.

10.000 times higher

The rate at which species are becoming extinct now, compared to the "natural" rate.

1

million

known animal and plant species are threatened with extinction.

> 85%

of wetlands (so-called biological super systems) have been lost since 1700.

What are the consequences of these disappearances?

There are too many to count - here are just a few.

2

Trillions of US dollars lost due to lowered ecosystem productivity.

Increasingly narrow livestock population variety, leading to lower resistance to disease and climate change.

Increased contact with disease-carrying animals The species best adapted to survive fragmented habitats are also the most prolific carriers of disease

Lower species resistance to environmental disturbances

Loss of livelihoods, from farmers to fishers

3

How is it our fault?

Many of our ways have a negative impact on biodiversity.

Unchecked globalisation

If we can travel the globe in a matter of days or even hours, so can invasive species. They choke out native plants, compete with local animals and cause them to leave their natural habitats.

Air pollution

Industrial pollutants like sulfur and nitrogen reduce ecosystem services and deprive water bodies from oxygen.

Carbon emissions

Human activities release 33.1 billion metric tons of CO₂ in the atmosphere every year, causing fast global warming. Animals can no longer live in their natural habitats, while plant species don't have time to adapt.

Deforestation

The world has lost 178 million hectares of forest since 1990. That's the size of France. We lose arable land to desertification at about the same pace.

Overexploitation

We're squeezing the Earth dry. For instance, 90% of fish stocks are now fully exploited or overfished.

Why is it so urgent to act?

4



The point of no return?

Most environmental policies assume that every disturbance has a threshold after which things get out of hand. Some biodiversity experts say that we are dangerously close to the point of no return, while others claim the change is gradual and there is no such thing as a distinct breaking point. Either way, we need to act now..



Global commitment

Signed by 196 nations, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three goals: conserve biodiversity, use its components in a sustainable way and fairly share the benefits. In 2020, the CBD outlined a 10-year strategy to save at least 30% of the world's ecosystems. The plan will be discussed in October 2021 at the COP 15.

Coming together for NATURE

11- 16 October 2021

