

**DUE TO THE GROWING
DEMAND FOR ENERGY,
WATER AND SOIL WE ARE
LOSING OUR PLANET'S
BIODIVERSITY**



SOURCE: LIVING PLANET REPORT, WWF



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WHAT IS MEANT BY BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OR BIODIVERSITY?

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity defines it as **"the variability of living organisms of all origins,** including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes of which they are part; it includes diversity within each species, between species and of ecosystems".



SOURCE: CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY UN

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WHAT IS THE STATE OF BIODIVERSITY?

In 2020, the **WWF** published the **Living Planet Report**, which records the state of **global biodiversity** and emphasizes that **nature** and **biodiversity** are gradually **disappearing**, due to the growing demand for energy, water and soil. To monitor this state, the WWF has identified the **Living Planet Index**, a global indicator that therefore signals the **state of health** of our planet.



SOURCE: LIVING PLANET REPORT, WWF

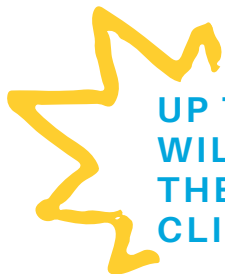
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KEY THREATS

Today biodiversity is threatened by the **loss of diversity above the soil**, by **pollution** and excess **nutrients**, by **overgrazing**, by **intensive agriculture**, by **fire**, by **soil erosion**, by **desertification** and by **climate change**.



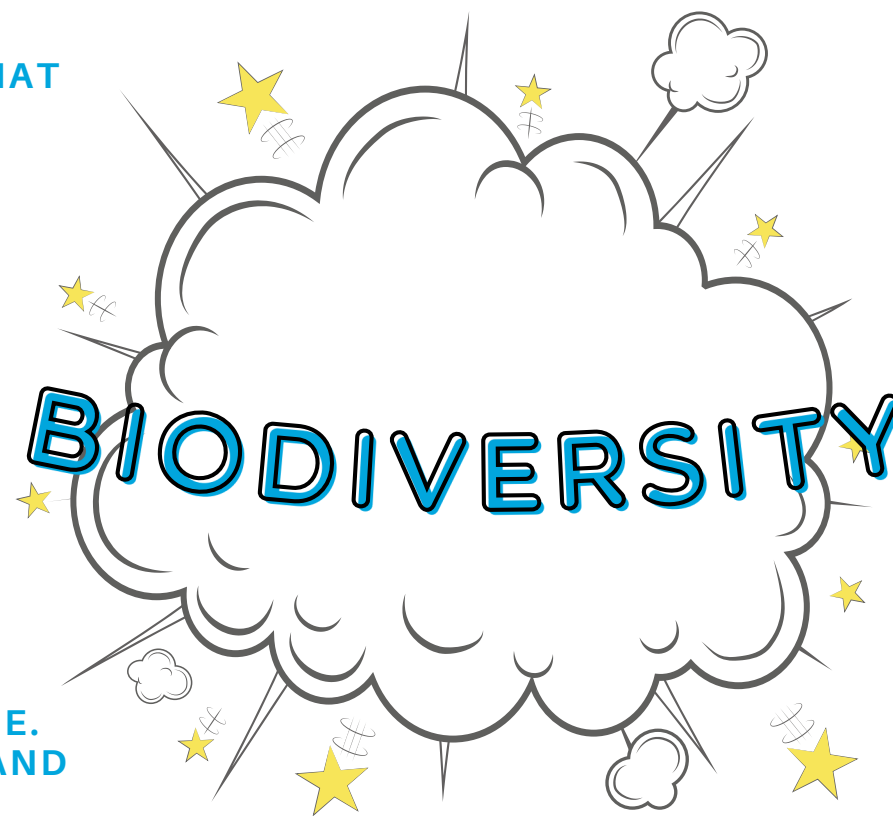
BIODIVERSITY IN FRESHWATER IS SHRINKING MUCH FASTER THAN THAT OF OUR OCEANS OR FORESTS.



UP TO ONE FIFTH OF WILD SPECIES WILL BE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION BY THE END OF THE CENTURY DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ALONE



PLANT DIVERSITY IS IN SERIOUS DECLINE. AND IT THREATENS NOT ONLY PLANTS AND THEIR ECOSYSTEMS, BUT ALSO THE INVALUABLE RANGE OF SERVICES THAT PLANTS PROVIDE TO PEOPLE AND TO THE PLANET



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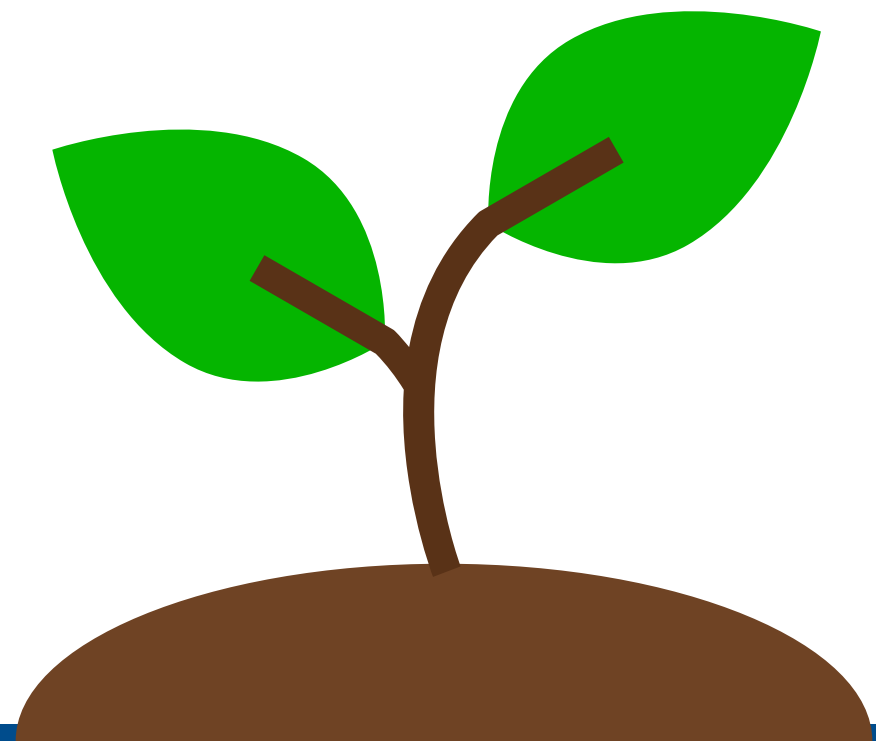


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THE DEGRADATION OF SOILS

The most important direct **factor** of the **loss of biodiversity** in terrestrial systems during the last decades was precisely the change in **land use**.

As highlighted by the **Mission Soil Health and Food**, **60-70%** of all soils in Europe **are not healthy**, due to current management practices, pollution, urbanisation and the effects of climate change. Instead, we must **take care of soils** because they are the basis for **nutritious and safe food** and provide **vital and interconnected ecosystem functions**, such as water regulation, the protection and maintenance of biodiversity, nutrient cycle, climate mitigation and adaptation.



SOURCE: MISSION SOIL HEALTH AND FOOD

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WHAT CAN WE DO?

Radical cultural and systemic change, is urgently needed. We need to **rebalance** our **relationship with the planet** to preserve the diversity of life on Earth. Also starting from the analysis contained in the reports, such as the Living Planet Report, a document that aims to raise public awareness and reverse the trend of biodiversity loss, we need to outline a transformative change in the global approach of those **human activities** that have impacts on **ecosystems, biodiversity** and **habitats**.



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