

WG II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC

Joint Statement by IUCN Commissions

March 9th, 2022

The new UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [report](#)¹ synthesizes the latest science on the impacts on and vulnerability of natural and socio-economic systems to climate change, and challenges and options for adaptation.

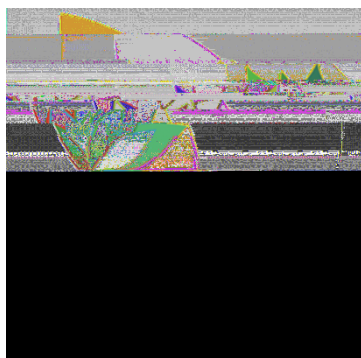
A key message from the IPCC report is that “Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.” All approaches are needed, including “safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems” and protecting “approximately 30% to 50% of the Earth’s land, freshwater and ocean areas, including near-natural ecosystems.”

Human-induced climate change and extreme weather events have substantially damaged ecosystems, and led to increases in the risk of extinction of more than 10,000 species, including the extinct [Bramble Cay melomys](#). Such events simultaneously result in serious implications for human well-being by impacting on food and water security, and higher incidence of associated diseases.

The Paris Agreement target of pursuing efforts to limit average global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels recognized that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. A key pathway to attaining that target requires enhancing ecosystem resilience

Diversity to conserve at least 30% of the planet with effective and equitable protected and conserved areas.

We must not miss the narrowing window of opportunity to stop and reverse biodiversity loss trends. We underscore the urgent need to take effective and concerted action addressing drivers of biodiversity loss, and build lasting partnerships, to secure intact natural ecosystems, restore degraded ecosystems and prevent further loss and degradation. These actions will not only contribute to climate mitigation but also build resilience and improve human well-being, especially among those communities most vulnerable to climate change.



References

- 1 Pörtner, H.-O. *et al.* WGII Contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Climate change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: Summary for Policymakers. (Switzerland, 2022).
- 2 Garnett, S. T. *et al.* A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous lands for conservation. *Nature Sustainability* 1, 369, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0100-6> (2018).
- 3 Dinerstein, E. *et al.* A Global Deal For Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets. *Science Advances* 5, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aaw2869> (2019).
- 4 Diaz, S. *et al.* Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. (Bonn, Germany, 2019).

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