Environment Ireland Conference

October 15th 2020

Reversing Extinction





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World wildlife in human induced catastrophic decline - report

Updated / Thursday, 10 Sep 2020 20:03



The New York Times Magazine



What does it mean for the rest of life on Earth?

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Humanity's calling card is the destruction of our planet

Species are vanishing under our watch thanks to demand for energy, land and water

ANJANA AHUJA (+ Add to myFT



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND EARTH'S SYSTEMS

The Great Acceleration, and the rapid and immense social, economic and ecological changes it has spurred, show us that we are in a period of great upheaval. Some of these changes have been positive, some negative, and all of them are interconnected. What is increasingly clear is that human development and wellbeing are reliant on healthy natural systems, and we cannot continue to enjoy the former without the latter.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS

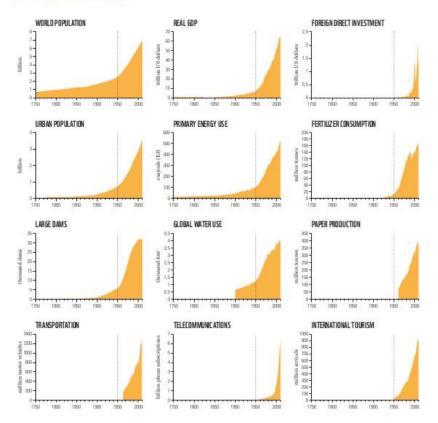
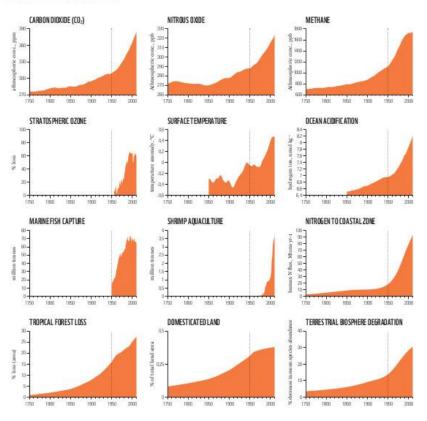


Figure 3: The Great Acceleration

The increasing rates of change in human activity since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The 1950s marks an explosion in growth. After this time, human activities (left panels) begin to interfere significantly with Earth's life support system (right panels) (these graphs are from Steffen et al., 2015³⁹ and all the references to the datasets behind them are in the original paper).

EARTH SYSTEM TRENDS



WWF Living Planet Report 2018 page 24

Chapter 1: Why biodiversity matters page 25

85% of high value habitats in poor or bad condition One third of bees face extinction 20 'pristine' water bodies remaining (575 in the 1980s) Only 2 fish species known to be commercially exploited at sustainable levels Extent of active raised bog remaining 0.6% c.120 species extinct since arrival of humans c. one third of all species threated or near threatened with extinction <2% - extent of native woodland in Ireland





c. Irish Seal Sanctuary





Forests – Ocean protection – Farming - Peatlands