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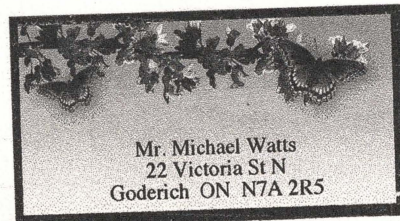
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NICOLE HAYES

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JAN 22 2019

DEAR DIRECTOR STEED

IT SURELY MUST HAVE PENETRATED  
EVEN WASHINGTON THAT WE ARE  
FACING PERHAPS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE  
EVER HUMAN KIND HAS EVER FACED.  
IF WE CONTINUE TO DESTROY  
OUR ENVIRONMENT WE WILL EVENTUALLY  
DESTROY OURSELVES — AND THE FUTURE  
OF GENERATIONS YET TO COME.  
HAVE WE NO CARE FOR OUR  
CHILDREN? — ON ALL THE LIFE ON  
THIS SMALL PLANET THAT WE DEPEND  
UPON?

PLEASE HELP STOP THE INSANITY  
(YES — I MEAN THAT LITERALLY) OF OUR  
SUICIDAL "LEADERS."

THANK YOU.

YOURS

FAITHFULLY

Jmwatts

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## Oppose Oil Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

THIS IS ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND SOCIAL INSANITY jmw



President Trump's Interior Department is moving ahead with plans to sell oil leases in the pristine, publicly-owned Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

If approved, a newly released Environmental Impact Statement will serve as a step-by-step guide for handing over cherished Refuge lands to Big Oil to start drilling very soon.

We can't allow the Trump administration to leave millions of acres of unspoiled, publicly-owned wilderness forever destroyed and risk the lives of iconic wildlife like polar bears and Porcupine caribou.

**Submit an official public comment opposing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife**

Your message will be sent to:

David Bernhardt, Acting Interior Secretary  
Brian Steed, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Nicole Hayes, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management

**Subject line:**

I oppose oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge

STRONGLY !!!  
(Consider adding your own thoughts — personalized messages are especially effective) jmw

Dear Acting Secretary Bernhardt,  
Director Steed, and Ms. Hayes:

I strongly oppose opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and call on you to reverse course immediately on efforts to allow oil and gas permitting in the Refuge.

One of the last completely unspoiled wild places on earth, the Arctic Refuge is irreplaceable. It's home to most of

**Your Information**

First name\*

jmw

THIS IS WHERE OUR (CONTINUED) ENVIRONMENTAL

The big story

DESTRUCTION

Biodiversity

An animal die-off is an existential threat to humanity. Why are we 'sleepwalking towards the edge of a cliff'?

By Damian Carrington and Jonathan Watts

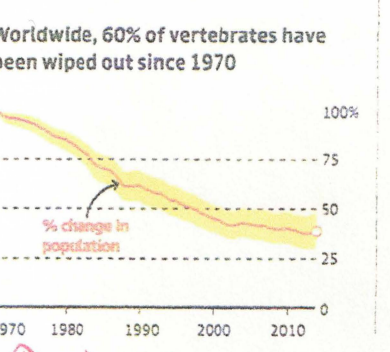
Humanity has wiped out 60% of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles since 1970, leading to experts issuing a warning that the annihilation of wildlife is an emergency that threatens civilisation.

The estimate of the massacre is made in a major report produced by WWF and involving 59 scientists from across the globe. It finds that the vast and growing consumption of food and resources is destroying the web of life, billions of years in the making, upon which human society ultimately depends for clean air, water and everything else.

"We are sleepwalking towards the edge of a cliff," said Mike Barrett, executive director of science and conservation at WWF. "If there was a 60% decline in the human population, that would be equivalent to emptying North America, South America, Africa, Europe, China and Oceania. That is the scale of what we have done."

"This is far more than just being about losing the wonders of nature, desperately sad though that is," he said. "This is actually now jeopardising the future of people. Nature is not a 'nice to have' - it is our life-support system."

"We are rapidly running out of time," said Prof Johan Rockström, a global sustainability expert at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. "Only by addressing both



↑ WELCOME TO OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE. ↑

Habitat loss  
An orangutan in Indonesia

WILL LEAD.

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ecosystems and climate do we stand a chance of safeguarding a stable planet for humanity's future on Earth."

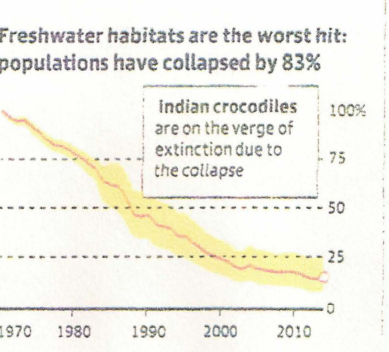
Many scientists believe the world has begun a sixth mass extinction, the first to be caused by a species - *Homo sapiens*. Other recent analyses have revealed that humankind has destroyed 83% of all mammals and half of plants since the dawn of civilisation and that, even if the destruction were to end now, it would take 5-7 million years for the natural world to recover.

The Living Planet Index, produced for WWF by the Zoological Society of London, uses data on 16,704 populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, representing more than 4,000 species, to track the decline of wildlife. Between 1970 and 2014, the latest data available, populations fell by an average of 60%. Four years ago, the decline was 52%. The "shocking truth", said Barrett, is that the wildlife crash is continuing unabated.

Wildlife and the ecosystems are vital to human life, said Prof Bob Watson, the current chair of an intergovernmental panel on biodiversity that said in March that the destruction of nature is as dangerous as climate change.

"Nature contributes to human well-being culturally and spiritually, as well as through the critical production of food, clean water and energy, and through regulating the Earth's climate, pollution, pollination and floods," he said. "The Living Planet report clearly demonstrates that human activities are destroying nature at an unacceptable rate, threatening the wellbeing of current and future generations."

The biggest cause of wildlife losses is the destruction of habitats, much of it to create farmland. Three-quarters of all land on Earth is now significantly affected by human activities. Killing for food is the next biggest cause - 300 mammal species are being eaten into extinction - while the oceans are hugely overfished.



The worst affected region is South and Central America, which has seen an 89% drop in vertebrate populations, largely driven by the felling of vast areas of wildlife-rich forest. In the tropical savannah called cerrado, an area the size of Greater London is cleared every two months, said Barrett.

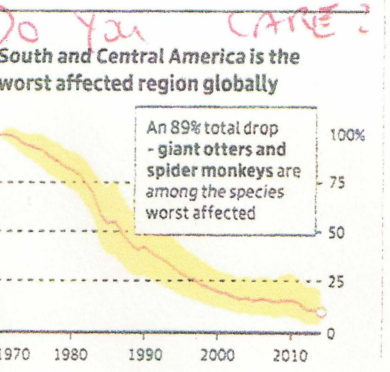
The habitats suffering the greatest damage are rivers and lakes, where wildlife populations have fallen 83%, due to the thirst of agriculture and the large number of dams. "Again there is this direct link between the food system and the depletion of wildlife," said Barrett. Eating less meat is an essential part of reversing losses, he said.

Meanwhile, ahead of an international conference to discuss the collapse of ecosystems, the UN's biodiversity chief warned that if a new deal for nature wasn't agreed in the next two years, humanity could be the first species to document our own extinction.

Cristiana Pasca Palmer said people in all countries need to put pressure on their governments to draw up ambitious global targets by 2020 to protect the flora and fauna that

Very important arthropod  
The horseshoe crab, page 12 →

Limpopo's lions  
The impact of poaching, page 14 →



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