

OCT 16, 2022

# Report Reveals Massive Loss of Wildlife

This is The Weekly Letter for October 16, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

## Big Story

The wildlife population of amphibians, birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles fell by 69% between 1970 and 2018, according to the [Living Planet Report 2022](#) by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Just four years ago, an earlier report identified a 60% drop in the global wildlife population. The latest report found that the largest population decline, of 94%, was in Latin America and the Caribbean—Tanya Steele of WWF-UK noted the destruction of wildlife caused by deforestation in the Amazon rainforest.

Agriculture is a key culprit. Mike Barrett, also of WWF-UK, said, "At a global level, primarily the declines we are seeing are driven by the loss and fragmentation of habitat driven by the global agricultural system..."

The report comes ahead of the COP15 UN Biodiversity Conference in December. "The report's 89 authors are urging world leaders to reach an ambitious agreement at the... [conference] and to slash carbon emissions to limit global heating to below 1.5C this decade to halt the rampant destruction of nature." Robin Freeman of the ZSL said, "In order to see any bending of the curve of biodiversity loss ... it's not just about conservation it's about changing production and consumption – and the only way that we are going to be able to legislate or call for that is to have these clear measurable targets that ask for recovery of abundance, reduction of extinction risk and the ceasing of extinctions at Cop15 in December."

(Source: [The Guardian](#))

## Opinion

**Adam Tooze:** [Interest rate hikes](#) will cause economic pain, and that pain won't be felt equally. (NY Times, 10/4)

**Bruce Daisley:** Gen Z is right to reject excessive [stress at work](#). (The Guardian, 10/12)

**Paulo Pinheiro, Lynn Welchman, and Hanny Megally:** UN member states should support the creation of a new mechanism to determine the fate and whereabouts of [Syria's missing or disappeared](#). (Al Jazeera, 10/8)

**Timothy Shenk:** Bayard Rustin, a young Barack Obama, and the elusive [March on Washington coalition](#).

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