

## **Biodiversity Loss in 2020:**

In the past 50 years, the earth has seen the human population increase at a rapid pace. As a result of this, the levels of human consumption, global trade and urbanisation has rocketed upwards at an exponential rate.

The World Wildlife Fund recently stated that the population masses of mammals, amphibians, fish, birds and reptiles have suffered a regression of an average of 68% between 1970 and 2016. These numbers are staggering, but unfortunately this statistic isn't even the worst of it. According to the Living Planet Report 2020, population sizes in Latin America and the Caribbean have bore the biggest loss of biodiversity, at 94%. Supplementary to this, freshwater species have too seen an enormous deterioration, decreasing 84% on average.

According to this report, the extreme decline shows a "fundamentally broken relationship between humans and the natural world."

WWF-US CEO and President, Carter Robert, says "This report reminds us that we destroy the planet at our peril, because it is our home. As humanity's footprint expands into once-wild places, we're devastating species populations." He then went on to state, "We cannot shield humanity from the impacts of environmental destruction."

This report is heavy reading. We as humans, myself included, take the world for granted and overlook the fact that every single day, we are adding to the destruction of our planet, in ways we often don't think twice about.

However, even with all the terrible statistics, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. There are several simple things we can do in our every day lives to aid the environment. These include shopping locally and organically and keeping our gardens chemical free. We can make these changes today and assist our world leaders in the fight against climate change!

By Joshua Byrne.