



This project is co-founded by
the European Union



Making Peace With Nature:

*A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and
pollution emergencies*

THE 'SYNTHESIS REPORT'

The Global Assessments Synthesis Report

Background and Mandate

The report translates the current state of scientific knowledge into crisp, clear and digestible facts-based messages that the world can relate to and follow up on.

The mandate is from [UNEA4 resolution 23](#) requesting a science-policy input to UNEP@50 and the Stockholm +50 commemorations. Agreed as first step by the [Ad-hoc Global Assessments Dialogue](#) members.

The report has been approved as a first step to underpin the preparations for the commemorations and serve as an input to major meetings, including UNEA5.



Report Team

44 of the world's most renowned scientists make up the Authors and Advisors Teams



Report Leads



Ivar Baste is the co-Chair for the Future of GEO process Steering Committee and senior advisor at the Norwegian Environment Agency. He has served as member of the IPBES Bureau, director of the Environment Management Group, chief of scientific assessments in UNEP, and deputy director general in the Norwegian Ministry of Environment.



Sir Robert Watson is one of the most influential environmental scientists worldwide. In addition to chairing or co-chairing numerous national and international assessments, he has been a senior scientific advisor in the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House, World Bank and UK Defra. He has received many awards for his contributions to science, including the Asahi Glass Blue Planet Prize and the UN Champion of the World for Science and Innovation.

Report Team

19 Authors



The Authors team is made up of 20 experts from over ten major assessments, including IPCC, IPBES, IRP, GSDR, GEO among others

The team has also been working closely with a **science communication editor**, Stephen Graham, and the **designers**, Joseph Schmidt-Klingenberg and Sebastian Obermeyer, to illustrate and make the report accessible to all audiences

Left to right, top to bottom: **Lead Authors:** Kate A. Brauman, Kai Chan, Paul L. Lucas, Stephen Polasky, Robert J. Scholes; Nebojsa Nakicenovic; **Contributing Authors:** Ricardo Barra, Caradee Y. Wright, Eduardo Brondizio, Chris Walzer, Yacob Mulugetta, Shobhakar Dhakal, Belinda Reyers, Bianca Wernecke, Detlef van Vuuren, Rebecca M. Garland, Cristián Samper, Paul A. Newman; Sonia I. Seneviratne, Rachel Warren



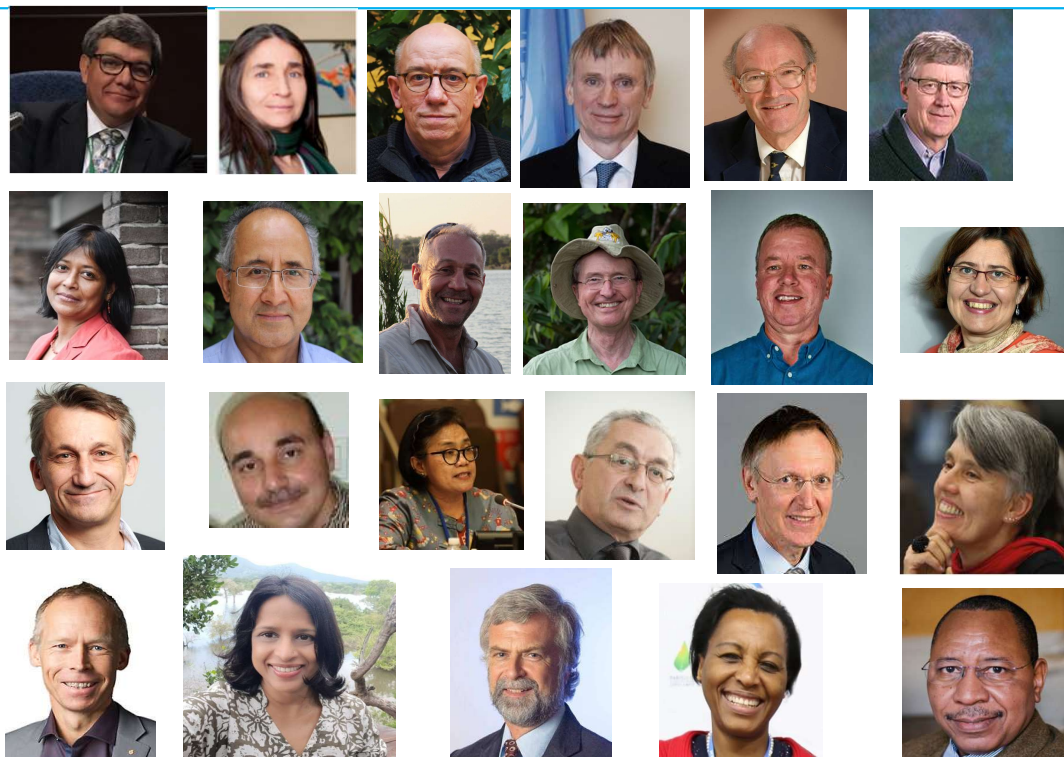
Report Team

23 Scientific Advisory Group Members



The SAG includes co-chairs of major assessments and experts from the European Environment Agency (EEA), University College London (UCL), the Netherland's Environment Agency (PBL), Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Left to right, top to bottom: Hesiquio Benitez-Diaz, Julia Carabias, John M. Christensen, David Cooper, Paul Ekins, David W. Fahey, Joyeeta Gupta, Madhav Karki, Nicholas King, Thomas Lovejoy, Jock Martin, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Peter Messerli, Shantanu Mukherjee, Endah Murniningtyas, Bruno Oberle, Janez Potočnik, Debra Roberts, Johan Rockström, Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Cyrie Sendashonga, Jim Skea, Youba Sokona



Synthesis Report - Timeline

January-February 2020

UNEP team organized.
Authors and Scientific Advisory Group established and invited by UNEP ED
Funding mobilized
Over 15 meetings with Authors, Advisors, editors and designers

March-April 2020

- Weeklong virtual writing meetings
- Over 40 meetings with authors, advisors and colleagues

May-June 2020

First review period

- Meeting with Report Leads and UNEP ED
- SAG Meeting
- UNEP briefing with over 90 colleagues

July-August 2020

- Second review period
- SAG Meeting
- Research fellows convened to support development of the draft

September-October 2020

- Bob Watson's presentation at UN Nature and Biodiversity Summit
- Bob Watson and Johan Rockström participate in High Level Session at Global Landscapes Forum
 - Communications piece, "Question and Answers" document is produced.
 - Third review period
 - SAG Meeting

November 2020-February 2021

- Launch in February
- Report Leads meet with UNEP ED
- Text is approved by authors and SAG
- Layout, design and figures are finalized
- Key Messages and Executive Summary are translated
- Communications assets produced

Preliminary Outreach events

Generating 'anticipation' for the report launch

September: Robert Watson spoke during the UN Nature and Biodiversity Summit at the Nature for Life Hub (below)

Session 2 – Creating a Nature-Based Planetary Safety Net

Interprétation Française disponible | Interpretación al Español disponible



*The views expressed in this recording are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.

28 September 2020, 11:00-12:30 PM (EDT)

AGENDA

28 October 2020 14:00-14:45

Talking global science, policy and innovation: UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Why now? What's next?

ADD TO CALENDAR

Share:



October: Robert Watson (Report Lead) and Johan Rockström (SAG Member) reached 4,500 people from 50 countries during the Global Landscapes Forum High Level session (above)

GLF Forum: <https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/biodiversity-2020/28-october-2020/talking-global-policy-agendas-strengthening-the-post-2020-agenda-for-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-restoration>
Nature for Life Hub: <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/topic/session-2-creating-a-nature-based-planetary-safety-net/>

▶▶ ANTONIO GUTERRES

United Nations Secretary-General



“
Making peace
with **nature** is the
defining task of
the 21st century.”

The UN Secretary-General speaks on the state of the planet

On 2 December at Columbia University, the UN Secretary-General delivered a landmark speech on the state of the planet, setting the stage for dramatically scaled-up ambition on climate change over the coming year. See excerpts below, or [download](#) or [watch](#) the speech. [More information here](#) »



In **December**, the Report served as an input, with key findings from UNEP’s products, to the “*making peace with nature*” speech. Key statements explain the biodiversity, climate and pollution emergencies, and argue for hope:

“Biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction.

We are at 1.2 degrees of warming and witnessing unprecedented climate extremes.

Air and water pollution are killing 9 million people annually

Everything is interlinked – the global commons and global well-being.

An inclusive world will help ensure that people can enjoy better health and the full respect of their human rights and live with dignity on a healthy planet.”

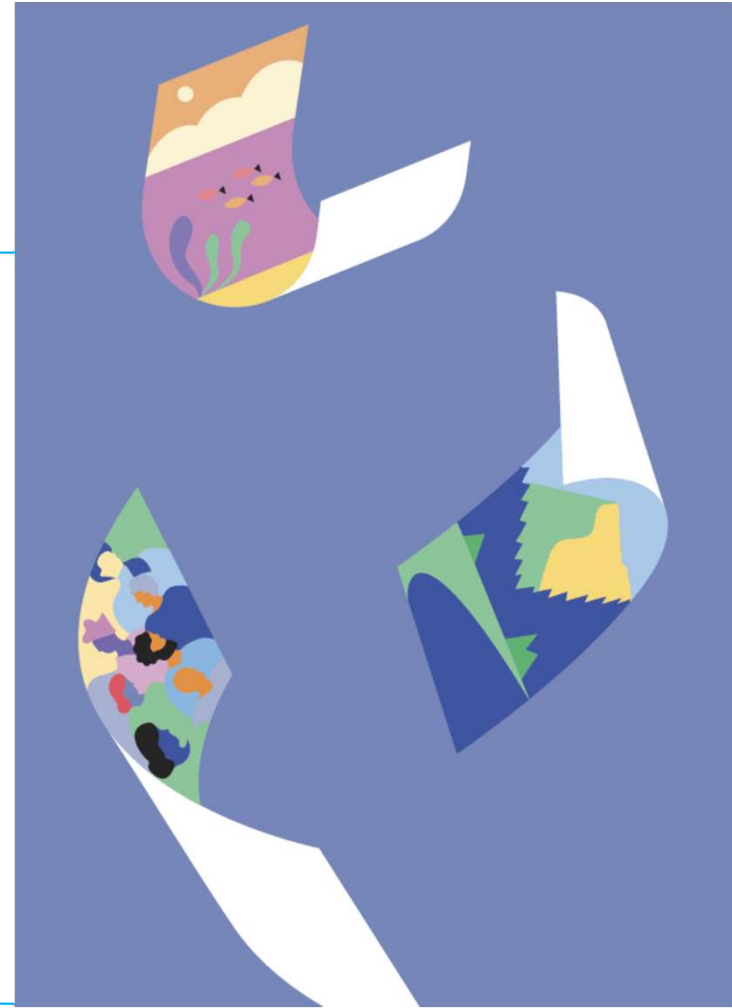
Link for the speech: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-secretary-general-speaks-state-planet>

Report's launch

Currently planned for **February 2021** there will be a press conference, with the potential of a co-launch between UNEP's Executive Director and the UN Secretary-General

Various communications asset under development including:

- Several videos, op-eds,
- multi-lingual media packages (French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian),
- FAQ on report for media,
- social media promotion,
- stories and written content,
- interactive web story,
- google search optimization





GLF
Biodiversity
Digital
Conference

If we fail to act now, future generations will ask:
"Why did we not act to save the earth, given all of the scientific evidence that we have?"

”

Sir Robert Watson
Head of the scientific advisory group for the
UNEP Global Assessments Synthesis Report



One
World
One
Health
28.29
OCTOBER
2020

Overview of assessments in the report

IPCC
Special Report on Managing the Extreme Events and Disaster to Advance Climate Change adaptation
Climate Change 2014
Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C
Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse gas fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems
Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

IPBES
The assessment report of the IPBES on pollinators, pollination and food production
The IPBES regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa
The IPBES regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for the Americas
The IPBES regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Asia and the Pacific
The IPBES regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Europe and Central Asia
Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the IPBES
The IPBES Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration

UNCCD
The Global Land Outlook
GSDR
GSDR 2019
IRP
The Weight of Cities: Resource Requirements of Future
Global Resources Outlook 2019
CBD
Global Biodiversity Outlook 4
Global Biodiversity Outlook 5
UNEP
Inclusive wealth report 2012/4/8
GEO-6
Global Mercury Assessment
Emissions Gap Report 2019
Global Chemicals Outlook II

Structure of the report

Key
Messages

Executive
Summary

Main Text

A person's hands are shown holding a globe of the Earth. The background is a bright, hazy sunset over a field. The globe is the central focus, with various geographical labels visible. The text boxes are overlaid on the image, with lines connecting them to form a flowchart structure.

PART I.
TRANSFORMING NATURE PUTS
HUMAN WELL-BEING AT RISK

The current mode of development degrades the Earth's finite capacity to sustain human well-being.

Society is failing to meet most of its commitments to limit environmental damage.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is threatened by an array of escalating and mutually reinforcing environmental risks.

There is an urgent need for a clear break with current trends of environmental decline and the coming decade is crucial.

PART II.

TRANSFORMING HUMANKIND'S RELATION WITH NATURE IS THE KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Human knowledge, ingenuity, technology and cooperation can transform societies and economies and secure a sustainable future

Earth's environmental emergencies should be addressed together to achieve sustainability

Economic and financial systems can and should be transformed to lead and power the shift to sustainability

The food, water and energy systems can and should be transformed to meet growing human needs in an equitable, resilient and environmentally friendly manner

Keeping the planet healthy is key to providing health and well-being for all

Everyone has a part to play in transforming social and economic systems for a sustainable future

Role of actors in the public and private sphere

A: Governments at all levels hold a leading role

B: Intergovernmental Organizations facilitate joint efforts

G: Scientific and Educational Organization develops knowledge and understanding

1. Economy and Finance
2. Environment (Climate Change, Air Quality, Conservation/ Landscape)
3. Food/ Agriculture/ Fisheries/ Forests
4. Energy
5. Water (quantity and quality)
6. Health
7. Chemicals and Waste
8. Cities

C: Financial Organizations direct investments

F: Public, Community and Youth Groups, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) put theory into practice

D: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) conceive ideas and raise awareness

E: Private sector innovates and implements

Transforming our world for people and planet:

A scientific synthesis of opportunities to tackle the interlinked climate, biodiversity and pollution crises

For the latest information on this report:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-assessments-synthesis-report-path-to-sustainable-future>

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programme



This project is co-funded by the European Union

