

Humanity Must End 'Senseless and Suicidal War on Nature'



By [Brett Wilkins](#) | [The Defender](#)

As the UN on Thursday released a report on the triple emergency of the [climate crisis](#), the [destruction](#) of wildlife and habitats, and [deadly pollution](#), the head of the world body sounded the alarm on what he called humanity's "senseless and suicidal war on nature."

The UN's Environment Program (UNEP) [report](#), "Making Peace With Nature: A Scientific Blueprint to Tackle the Climate, Biodiversity, and Pollution Emergencies," was [introduced](#) by Secretary-General António Guterres at UN headquarters in New York.

"I want to be clear. Without nature's help, we will not thrive

or even survive,” said Guterres. “For too long, we have been waging a senseless and suicidal war on nature. The result is three interlinked environmental crises – climate disruption, biodiversity loss, and pollution – that threaten our viability as a species.”

“They are caused by unsustainable production and consumption,” he added. “Human well-being lies in protecting the health of the planet. It’s time to reevaluate and reset our relationship with nature. This report can help us do so.”

☐☐ *Humanity is waging a senseless war on nature.*

This trio of crises: [#ClimateChange](#), biodiversity loss & pollution must be addressed together.

It’s time to make [#PeaceWithNature](#)

*Our scientific blueprint to tackle the ☐☐ ☐ emergencies:
<https://t.co/oFwij6I1iY#UNEA5> <pic.twitter.com/2IEthr0Lc5>*

– UN Environment Programme (@UNEP) [February 18, 2021](#)

Among the report’s recommendations are carbon taxes; a redirection in the nearly \$5 trillion in annual worldwide subsidies to sectors including fossil fuels, mining, industrial agriculture, and fishing “toward alternative livelihoods and new business models;” and reenvisioning indicators of economic performance so that the value of mitigating the climate emergency, preserving ecosystems, and reducing pollution count – not just GDP.

Additionally, the report asserts that “changes in patterns of consumption are critical to transforming food, water, and energy systems and can be achieved through altered norms in business and cultural practices.”

“Changing the dietary habits of consumers, particularly in

developed countries, where consumption of energy- and water-intensive meat and dairy products are high, would reduce pressure on biodiversity and the climate system,” the report states. “These habits are a function of individual choices but are also influenced by advertising, food and agricultural subsidies, and excess availability of cheap food that provides poor nutrition.”

Robert Watson, the report’s lead author, [told](#) Al Jazeera that “vested interests” were thwarting many of the policies and actions needed to make peace with nature.

“We have subsidies for agriculture, for energy, for fossil fuels that are perverse,” said Watson. “They encourage the use of fossil fuels. They encourage the use of bad agricultural practices.”

“If we can get the business community to work with governments around the world, I’m optimistic we can start to move in the right direction,” he added.

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