

# EMERGENCY & CRISIS

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# Emergency and Crisis

- The Climate Emergency
- The IPBES Report
- Extinction rebellion
- Greta Thunberg
- Biological Recording
- Story Telling

# Causes of Climate Change

- Fossil Fuels
- Land Use and Change
  - Agriculture
  - Forestry
  - Peatland drainage
  - Coastal degradation
- Negative feedback
  - Melting permafrost
  - Fire
  - Sea-level rise/ ocean acidification

# The Climate Emergency

- There is a global climate emergency. The evidence is irrefutable. The science is clear. And people have been clear: they expect action. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued a stark warning: the world must act now. By 2030 it will be too late to limit warming to 1.5 degrees.

# The Climate Emergency

- requires transformative change
- must do so quickly and decisively
- we all have a part to play
- place climate change at the heart of everything we do
- work .. to bring on board those who are less convinced about the need for action
- ...redefine what .. leadership means..

# Biodiversity Crisis: The IPBES Report

- another UN body, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, issued a warning about the damage human beings are causing to the planet. It finds that the drivers of damage have accelerated over the past 50 years. Biodiversity is decreasing and ecosystem services are weakening.

# IPBES Drivers of change

- Drivers of Change
  - changes in land and sea use;
  - direct exploitation of organisms;
  - climate change;
  - pollution;
  - invasion of alien species.

# Extinction rebellion







# Greta Thunberg.....



- Greta has arguably done much more than bringing the climate emergency to the fore. She and colleagues are compelling us to think about far wider and deeper perspectives. They are questioning the power relations that allow changes to happen. Their emphasis on questions about governance is central to the IPBES Report recommendations on transformative change

- First, we need to ensure that science, engineering and technology can respond to meet the Net Zero targets. Second, we need **radical changes** in how we manage the land, water and seas. And third, we need a **momentous shift** in political and societal attitudes which in turn will change our individual behaviour and attitudes to the environment and nature.

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- Degraded nature is a liability. Examples include: seas lacking in kelp forests and seagrass meadows; fragmented and poor condition saltmarshes; uplands dominated by eroding peat and heavily grazed with unstable slopes; woods lacking in species and structural diversity; and widespread impoverished soils. Never mind the release of greenhouse gases and exacerbated flood risks, such landscapes just don't do it for our psyche

# (#Wilderness and Plenty)

1

The most natural places and the rare – away from where most of us live – are the most important. They should be protected.

The greatest threat is from direct development and local land use.

We need people not to think what nature does for them, but to think what they can do for nature.. “do a little, save a lot”; “think global; act local.”

2

The most important is the near landscape: it is where we bring up our children and win the benefits of nature: It should be cherished.

The greatest threats are from systemic things like intensive agricultural practice and diffuse pollution.

We need people to think not what they should do for nature but rather to learn and understand what nature does for them. We need them to drive change – more than make change.

# A Transformative Change

1. Policy Change MUCH more important than personal change
2. Personal change helps drive policy change
3. New Leadership
4. Talk Truth To Power
5. Listen To The Experts

# Transformative Change

- A room full of experts
- If not you – then who?
- The Call !
- The Response?

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- A nature-rich future is the best insurance against our climate emergency. Nature has an essential role to play in how we reduce emissions, and how we adapt to changes into which we are already locked. By working with nature we can help moderate the changing climate – and through a more stable climate, we can sustain a far healthier and more resilient environment.
- If we achieve all of this and more, we will be an even greater international leader for the environment. If we do what we've always done, we'll just get what we've always got. We simply cannot afford to do that.



# A Nature Rich Future

- Low carbon – a good start
- Imagine a nature rich agriculture and forestry
- Imagine nature rich towns and cities
- Imagine a nature rich resilience to climate change
  
- What needs to change?
- What is our role in leading these changes?

# Telling Stories

- From Evidence to the compelling story – Blue Planet and plastics
- Threats and Successes
  - Impacts of invasives and diseases
  - Evidence of success – nightingales/turtle doves and rewilding
  - Peatland: the threat of damaged peatlands; the promise of peatland restoration
- Biological recording – its stories, our stories
- Evidence that we can make a difference is crucial

# Summary

- Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss are the defining issues of our time
- Transformational Change and New Leadership are needed
- There is an urgent need to talk truth to power and for the experts to be listened to
- Our expertise has a role to play
- The Call has gone out: If not you: then who?