

PLANET IN PERIL: PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Not noble gesture, but absolute necessity

AFP, Paris

When the world's leading conservation congress kicks off Friday in the French port city of Marseille it will aim to deliver one key message: protecting wildlife must not be seen as a noble gesture but an absolute necessity -- for people and the planet.

Loss of biodiversity, climate change, pollution, diseases spreading from the wild have become existential threats that cannot be "understood or addressed in isolation," the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said ahead of the meeting in a vision statement endorsed by its 1,400 members.

Over nine days, government ministries, indigenous groups and NGOs -- backed by a network of 16,000 scientists -- will hammer out conservation proposals that could help set the agenda at critical upcoming UN summits on food systems, biodiversity and climate change.

Previous congresses paved the way for global treaties on biodiversity and the international trade in endangered species.

The World Economic Forum has put a hard number on our vulnerability: \$44 trillion of economic value generated every year -- half of global GDP -- largely dependent on services rendered by nature, from water for agriculture to healthy soil in which to grow our food.

The creatures with which we share the planet are at high risk too -- from us.

As the human population climbs toward nine billion by mid-century, many creatures are being crowded, eaten, snared, poisoned, poached, hawked and hunted out of existence.



Plastic threatens migratory species in Asia-Pacific: UN Nearly 28 percent of species currently at risk of extinction Habitat loss, overexploitation, illegal trade driving the loss

Craig Hilton-Taylor, head of the IUCN's Red List Unit, said that if species' destruction continues on its current trajectory, "we'll be facing a major crisis soon."

"I would certainly say that we're on the cusp of a sixth mass extinction event," he told AFP.

In each of the previous mass die-offs over the last half-billion years, at least three-quarters of all species were wiped out.

The IUCN has assessed nearly 135,000 species over the last half-century for its Red List of Threatened Species, the gold standard for measuring how close animal and plant life are to vanishing forever.

Nearly 28 percent are currently at risk of

extinction, with habitat loss, overexploitation and illegal trade driving the loss.

Big cats, for example, have lost more than 90 percent of their historic range and population, with only 20,000 lions, 7,000 cheetahs, 4,000 tigers and a few dozen Amur leopards left in the wild.

Invasive species are also taking a toll, especially in island ecosystems where unique species of birds have already fallen prey to rodents, snakes and disease-bearing mosquitos that hitched rides from explorers, cargo ships or passenger planes.

An update of the Red List on September 4 is likely to show a deepening crisis.

For the first time in the IUCN's seven-

decade history, indigenous peoples will share their deep knowledge on how best to heal the natural world as voting members.

One proposal calls for a global pact to protect 80 percent of Amazonia by 2025. Recent research has warned that unbridled deforestation and climate change are pushing the Amazon towards a disastrous "regime change" which would see tropical forests give way to savannah-like landscapes.

Other motions offer a lifeline to ailing oceans, including one calling for an end to plastic pollution by 2030.

Plastic debris causes the deaths of more than a million seabirds every year, as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals, from otters to whales.

Yesterday, a UN report on the Asia-Pacific region highlights two regions -- the Ganges and Mekong river basins -- which together contribute an estimated 200,000 tons of plastic pollution to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean every year.

It said freshwater dolphins drowned, elephants, and other migratory species are among the most vulnerable to plastic pollution, calling for greater action to cut waste.

Wildlife trafficking, a multi-billion-dollar business that has flourished in the internet era, will also be in the spotlight.

Current global spending of about \$80 billion a year needs to be increased 10-fold, said Sebastian Moncorps, director of France's IUCN committee.

"That's about one percent of global GDP, but when you realise that half of all economic activity depends on nature being healthy, that's a good return on investment."



Hurricane Ida ravages Louisiana Major disaster declared; 2 killed

AFP, New Orleans

Rescuers on Monday combed through the "catastrophic" damage Hurricane Ida inflicted on Louisiana, a day after the fierce storm killed at least two people, stranded others in rising floodwaters and sheared the roofs off homes.

New Orleans was still mostly without power more than 24 hours after Ida slammed into the Louisiana coast as a Category 4 storm, exactly 16 years to the day that Hurricane Katrina made landfall, wreaking deadly havoc.

The storm has been downgraded to a tropical depression. Two deaths have been confirmed as crews began fanning out in boats and off-road vehicles to search communities cut off by the hurricane. A man was also missing after apparently being killed by an alligator.

Images of people being plucked from flooded cars and pictures of destroyed homes surfaced on social media, while the damage in New Orleans itself remained limited.

New Orleans Airport said all incoming and outgoing flights slated for Tuesday were canceled, while airlines had scrapped 197 flights scheduled on Wednesday.

President Joe Biden declared a major disaster for Louisiana and Mississippi, which gives the states access to federal aid.

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd. ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 45001:2018 Certified (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1) Soydabad, Sirajganj Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.223 Date: 31/08/2021 e-Tender Notice The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

BRAZIL INDIGENOUS LAND Illegal mining up 500pc in decade AFP, Brasilia Illegal mining expanded by nearly 500 percent on protected indigenous reservations in Brazil in a decade, and by more than 300 percent on protected park lands, according to a study released Monday.

Sylhet City Corporation Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet www.scc.gov.bd Memo No. 46.07.0000.018.99.025.19.303 Date: 31/08/2021 e-Tender Notice-07/2021-22

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী কার্যালয়, সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, মাদারীপুর ফোন ও ফ্যাক্স-(০৬৬১)-৬১২৬৬ ই-মেইলঃ eemrdrhd@gmail.com সওজ, ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নে বর্ণিত ইজারা কোটেশন সীলমোহরকৃত খামে আবেদন করা যাইতেছে।

Wildfire forces evacuation of major US tourist spot AFP, South Lake Tahoe Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate Monday as a huge wildfire loomed over a major US tourist spot, filling the air with choking smoke.

দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি) ডি আর টাওয়ার (১৩তলা) বীর প্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর সড়ক (বঙ্গ কালভার্ট রোড) পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি