

LIVING PLANET REPORT 2026: WHAT BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW



Nature loss is disrupting supply chains, increasing costs and weakening financial resilience. Yet recovery is possible: around half of monitored wildlife populations are stable or increasing, and the renewable energy transition demonstrates that system change is possible – with the right conditions.

[The WWF Living Planet Report \(LPR\)](#) and the Living Planet Index (LPI) can be seen as a health tracker of biodiversity and the natural systems that underpin our economies, supply chains and societies.

HEADLINES FOR BUSINESS

- The Living Planet Report 2026 shows the average size of monitored global vertebrate wildlife populations has declined by 73% since 1970ⁱ
- Nature loss is already causing disruption and financial losses – with the UK Government's own National Security Assessment warning that ecosystem collapse risks our national security and economic prosperity.
- Growing resource pressure: Resource demand is predicted to rise by 60 per cent by 2060ⁱⁱ
- Escalating climate impacts: ~\$224-288B losses and 55 major disasters in 2025^{iiiiv}
- There is evidence of a 'positive tipping point' being reached in the energy system, with greater demand for renewable energy and electric vehicles

We need nature. The food we grow depends on pollinators and the soil microbes that keep cropland productive. Drinking water depends on intact watersheds. Most medicines in our pharmacies originated in molecules first identified in plants, fungi or microorganisms. The climate we depend on is regulated by forests, oceans, peatlands and grasslands. And the economy itself rests on these services: The World Economic Forum estimates that over half of global GDP depends on nature, giving it an economic value of \$44 trillion^v.

Yet those very systems we rely on for healthy people, planet and businesses are being degraded at an unprecedented rate. This summer the impacts of nature loss and climate change for business globally have demonstrated this in startling effect:

- In 2026 alone more than 460,000 hectares burned across the European Union, well above historical averages. Recent studies have demonstrated that climate change made the extreme fire weather that fuelled these wildfires at least twice as likely in France and at least 20 times more likely in Spain^{vi}.
- The heatwaves of 2026 are likely to have cost €180 billion and are predicted to reduce EU GDP by 1 per cent, virtually wiping out economic growth for the year^{vii}
- Meanwhile degraded soils and drained wetlands increase the risk of flash flooding following drought. In England one in five properties are already at risk of flooding, rising to one in five by 2050. British businesses currently face £670 million in flood damage a year - also predicted to rise^{viii}.

A CAUSE FOR HOPE

System change can feel impossible, but complex systems often shift slowly before reaching a tipping point where progress accelerates. The energy transition shows this: after decades of policy support and persistence, renewables are now becoming cheaper, growing faster and increasingly displacing fossil fuels.

Positive tipping points can work for nature too. Food and finance are earlier in the transition, but the key levers are clear: nature-positive production, sustainable diets, reduced waste, regulatory certainty, recognition of nature and climate risks, and shifting finance away from activities that harm nature.

The opportunity is significant: hundreds of billions still support damaging agricultural subsidies and trillions support fossil fuels. Redirecting even part of this finance would help shift the economics of transformation and accelerate progress towards a nature-positive economy.

ACTIONS FOR BUSINESS FROM THE LIVING PLANET REPORT

- 1 Assess and disclose climate and nature risks and dependencies
- 2 Set science-based targets and plans to reduce impacts
- 3 Invest in nature-positive solutions and resilient landscapes
- 4 Advocate for policies that enable nature recovery

Business takeaway: Nature loss is both an environmental and strategic challenge. Companies that understand their exposure and contribute to collective solutions can strengthen long-term resilience while accelerating the transition to a nature-positive economy.

For more resources to help you assess the nature risks to your business visit

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/natures-invoice>

WWF works with companies to help them restore the resources and key ecosystems on which they depend and to advocate for action on climate and nature.

Get in touch: business@wwf.org.uk.

ⁱ *Based on monitored vertebrate populations measured through the Living Planet Index*

ⁱⁱ (OECD). (2019). Global material resources outlook to 2060: Economic drivers and environmental consequences. OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264307452-en>

ⁱⁱⁱ Munich Re. (2026). NatCatSERVICE: Natural disaster losses in 2025. Munich Re.

^{iv} Swiss Re Institute. (2026). Sigma: Natural catastrophes in 2025. Swiss Re Institute.

^v <https://www.weforum.org/stories/nature-and-biodiversity/an-ecosystems-economic-value-can-now-be-measured-heres-how/>

^{vi} World Weather Attribution (WWA): <https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/climate-change-increases-likelihood-of-compounding-drivers-of-severe-wildfire-conditions-in-france-and-spain/>

^{vii} <https://www.triodos.co.uk/articles/2026/is-the-hot-weather-cooking-our-economy>

^{viii} <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-assessment-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-in-england-2024/national-assessment-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-in-england-2024>

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