

Educator Factsheet: What is the IPBES?

IPBES stands for **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** and brings together the world's best knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services (over 150 scientists from over 50 countries, with contributions from hundreds of others) to evaluate the changes and trends in biodiversity and the implications for economies, livelihoods, food security and quality of life.

What are the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (2019) key messages?

- Nature and its vital contributions to people, which together embody biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are deteriorating worldwide.
- Direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss have accelerated over the last 50 years
- Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability can only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.
- Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while other global societal goals are simultaneously met through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change.

Key pressures on biodiversity:

- **Changing use of sea and land:** biodiversity loss because of the way people use land and sea (for food growth, harvesting materials such as wood and minerals, and building towns and cities)
- **Direct exploitation of organisms:** biodiversity loss because of actions including logging, hunting and fishing
- **Climate change:** as a result of changing air temperature, weather patterns and sea levels, some species are dying out, whilst others are moving habitats.
- **Pollution:** from microplastics in the ocean, to nitrogen and ammonia caused by agriculture practices, pollution is having a far-reaching impact on ecosystems.
- **Invasive non-native species:** Species that arrive where they historically did not occur often out-compete local biodiversity, causing native species to die out, e.g. Japanese knotweed which has spread across the UK.

What is the key message to learners?

The IPBES report has identified that the key to tackling these issues is to support nature connection and supporting people to recognise the value and importance of nature, two key principles of the Nature Park programme.



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