Educator Factsheet: What is The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review (2021)?

The Dasgupta Review, an independent global review on the economics of biodiversity, was led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta and was commissioned in 2019 by HM Treasury. It was supported by an Advisory Panel drawn from public policy, science, economics, finance and business to provide a road map towards the restoration of our planet's biodiversity.

What are key points?

- Our economies, livelihoods and wellbeing all depend on our most precious asset: Nature.

- We have collectively failed to engage with Nature sustainably, to the extent that our demands far exceed its capacity to supply us with the goods and services we all rely on.

- Our unsustainable engagement with Nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations.

- At the heart of the problem lies deep-rooted, widespread institutional failure.

- The solution starts with understanding and accepting a simple truth: our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it.

- We need to change how we think, act and measure success in three ways:

a. Ensure that our demands on Nature do not exceed its supply, and that we increase Nature's supply relative to its current level.

b. Change our measures of economic success to guide us on a more sustainable path.

c. Transform our institutions and systems – in particular our finance and education systems – to enable these changes and sustain them for future generations.

- Transformative change is possible – we and our descendants deserve nothing less.

What are the key messages for learners?

Forwarded by Sir David Attenborough, the review highlights the urgent need to bring together economics and ecology in order to protect biodiversity, and see nature as an asset: 'if we care about our common future, and the common future of our descendants, we should all, in part, be naturalists'.

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