

The Nexus Report

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The Nexus Report: Assessing Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food, Health, and Climate Change

Context :

The **Nexus Report**, officially titled the *Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food, Health, and Climate Change*, has been released by the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**.

- It provides a comprehensive scientific evaluation of the connections between five "nexus elements" and identifies **over 60 response options** to maximize co-benefits.

About IPBES

1. Overview

- IPBES, similar to the **IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)** for climate studies, consolidates and evaluates existing knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Established in **2012**, it supports key international agreements like:
 - **UN Convention on Biological Diversity**
 - **Ramsar Convention**
 - **Cartagena Protocol**

2. Function

- IPBES does not produce new research but synthesizes existing knowledge into actionable insights.

3. Landmark Reports

- **First Report (2019):**
 - Warned that **1 million species** face extinction due to human-driven ecosystem changes.
 - Highlighted that **75% of land, 66% of marine areas, and 85% of wetlands** had been significantly altered or lost.
 - **Impact:**
 - Basis for the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)** with targets to:

- Protect **30% of land, freshwater, and oceans**.
 - Restore **30% of degraded ecosystems** by 2030.
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Key Highlights of the Nexus Report

1. Interconnections Between Global Challenges

- Strong links between **climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger, water scarcity, and health risks**.
 - Tackling these challenges in isolation is counterproductive due to their interconnected nature.
 - Current economic activities harm these elements, with **unaccounted costs estimated at \$10-25 trillion annually**.
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2. Risks of Isolated Approaches

- **Food Production:** Scaling up to address hunger can strain land, water, and biodiversity.
 - **Climate Change Focus:** Single-focus efforts can harm food security and biodiversity.
 - **Conservation:** Protecting ecosystems may limit options for food security and climate change mitigation.
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3. Call for Synergistic Approaches

The report identifies **70+ integrated response options**, including:

- Restoring **carbon-rich ecosystems** (e.g., forests, mangroves).
 - Managing biodiversity to mitigate **zoonotic diseases**.
 - Promoting **sustainable diets**.
 - Implementing **nature-based solutions** for combined benefits.
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4. Sustainable Production and Consumption

- Actions must balance:
 - **Ecosystem conservation**
 - **Pollution reduction**
 - **Climate change mitigation**
 - Ensuring long-term, sustainable benefits.
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5. Economic Impact of Biodiversity Loss

- Over **50% of global GDP (~\$58 trillion/year)** relies on nature.
- **Biodiversity degradation** reduces productivity and economic growth.

- Economic systems currently incentivize harmful activities, driving biodiversity decline by **2-6% per decade**.
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6. Principles of Transformative Change

The report proposes four guiding principles:

1. **Equity and Justice:** Fair resource distribution and opportunities.
 2. **Pluralism and Inclusion:** Embracing diverse perspectives.
 3. **Respectful Human-Nature Relationships:** Sustainable, reciprocal interactions.
 4. **Adaptive Learning and Action:** Evolving strategies based on feedback and experience.
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7. Urgency and Benefits of Immediate Action

- Delaying conservation efforts could **double costs** within a decade.
 - Immediate implementation of **nature-positive models** could generate:
 - **\$10 trillion in business opportunities**.
 - **400 million jobs by 2030**.
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Conclusion

The **Nexus Report** emphasizes the urgent need for **integrated solutions** to address interconnected global challenges. By adopting synergistic approaches, governments and stakeholders can mitigate risks, unlock economic opportunities, and ensure sustainable benefits across biodiversity, water, food, health, and climate change.

