## Biodiversity

A Masterclass prepared for the Natural History Museum





## Baseline scenario: habitat and species remaining





## Land-use history, 850-2015, from LUH2



https://luh.umd.edu/

## Estimated Biodiversity Intactness Index in 2015



Hill et al., in review



# What is causing this Biodiversity Loss?



### **Enhanced Greenhouse Effect**





#### CARBON DIOXIDE OVER 800,000 YEARS

## Enhanced greenhouse affect leads to .....

- global mean temperature increase,
- melting of ice caps,
- sea level rise,
- sea temperature rise,
- ocean acidification and coral bleaching,
- salination of inland coastal waters,
- extreme fires, floods, more frequent and severe hurricanes and tornadoes.

## Forest Fires Australia 2019-2020



- 1 billion animals killed
- 18 million hectares burnt
- 195 million tones of CO2 released

## Floods Australia 2020-2021



- "Worse flooding in 60 years" Renju Jose
- 24 inches of rain falling in a 7-day period
- Insurance costs of 500 million Australian dollars.



## Sea Level Rise in Shanghai

■ Land underwater at high tide ■ Populated area

#### Old projection for 2050



#### New projection for 2050







https://www.crisis-response.com/Articles/594346/Climate\_change\_could.aspx



• Coral cover across the Great Barrier Reef is as low as 20-30%, a significant drop compared to the 1960s



## Over-fishing



- 40% of oceans needs to be protected by a "no take" policy
- Only 2.8% of the world's oceans are completely protected.
- Over 50 percent of the world's coral reefs have died in the last 30 years.

## Deforestation



- In 2019, enough rainforests were destroyed every minute to fill 30 football pitches.
- They capture 7.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide which is about 25% of human emissions.

## **Zoonotic Diseases**





#### H. Plecher, 2021







- 100 million tonnes of plastic in the oceans
- 1 million marine animals killed each year
- 450- 2,000 years to decompose

# Why is it urgent we take action?

- The rights to nature
- The extinction of species
- Our dependency on biodiversity and nature







## Purvis's Three Scenarios



A. Purvis, 2021

## Increasing Cost of Land Conversions



# What Kinds of Actions can we take?



















## DONATE







Source: En-ROADS

## Why is Natural Capital Important?

Natural capital and economic activity are highly linked. . .



... if we extract too much from nature or cause environmental damage, we degrade our natural capital and put our economy at risk





Worldwide Forests: US\$250bn Asset Value: At least \$10 trillion



Worldwide Pollinators: US\$217bn Asset Value: At least \$9 trillion

