

We're on the verge of wiping out 1 million species. And that could hurt our own survival chances, UN report says

Up to 1 million plant and animal species are on the verge of extinction, with alarming implications for human survival, according to a United Nations report released Monday [May 6].

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According to the report, more plants and animals are threatened with extinction now than any other period in human history. Nature's current rate of decline is unparalleled, it says, and the accelerating rate of extinctions "means grave impacts on people around the world are now likely."

In a prepared statement, Robert Watson, a British chemist who served as the panel's chairman, said the decline in biodiversity is eroding "the foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."

... The warming climate is a major driver that is exacerbating the effects of overfishing, widespread pesticide use, pollution and urban expansion into the natural world.

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"The most important thing isn't necessarily that we're losing . . . 1 million species — although that's important, don't misunderstand me," Watson said during a teleconference Sunday. "The bigger issue is the way it will affect human well-being, as we've said many times — food, water, energy, human health.

Read full, original post: [One million species face extinction, U.N. report says. And humans will suffer as a result.](#)