



## **Environment Digest 13**

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Climate change projections indicate that unless carbon emissions are drastically reduced, the climate crisis will get substantially worse. Amongst many other things, the effects will contribute to massive biodiversity loss, with detrimental implications for natural ecosystems including human life. As we have come to learn from the COVID-19 outbreak, and the response thereto, it is becoming more evident that governments are not adequately prepared to deal with the environmental tragedies that the human species is largely responsible for causing.

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-pandemics-biodiversity-loss-no-country-is-sufficiently-prepared-123466>

Default interventions such as national lockdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19 have provided short-term environmental relief, during which exploitative human activity was curtailed. The impact of such responses is not sufficient to avert environmental destruction, but they have provided an opportunity for people to pause and learn while nature was afforded a little breathing space.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/30/lockdown-yields-first-global-sound-map-spring-dawn-chorus-birds>

<https://m.engineeringnews.co.za/article/researchers-report-decrease-in-south-african-air-pollution-during-lockdown-2020-05-07>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/29/cut-air-pollution-avoid-second-coronavirus-peak-mps-urge>

For discussion forums such as the Conference of the Parties (cop) climate talks, the delay in convening as a result of restrictions might present enough time and motivation to accelerate effective adaptations and interventions, especially by developed countries.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/28/cop26-climate-talks-in-glasgow-will-be-delayed-by-a-year-un-confirms>

This crisis has presented opportunities that force people to consciously consider and reflect on their relationship with the world around them. Hopefully, this will yield desirable system changes with regard to energy production; food production and distribution; waste management; natural resources use and regulation; and economic growth models.

<https://m.engineeringnews.co.za/article/greencape-highlights-green-economy-growth-opportunities-2020-05-14>

<https://theconversation.com/what-is-the-wildlife-trade-and-what-are-the-answers-to-managing-it-136337>

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