

# Act now to prevent an environmental catastrophe

In our complex, interdependent global ecosystem, life is dying, with species extinction accelerating. The climate crisis is worsening much faster than previously predicted. Every single day 200 species are becoming extinct. This desperate situation can't continue.

Political leaders worldwide are failing to address the environmental crisis. If global corporate capitalism continues to drive the international economy, global catastrophe is inevitable.

Complacency and inaction in Britain, the US, Australia, Brazil, across Africa and Asia—all illustrate diverse manifestations of political paralysis, abdicating humankind's grave responsibility for planetary stewardship.

International political organisations and national governments must foreground the climate-emergency issue immediately, urgently drawing up comprehensive policies to address it. Conventionally privileged nations must voluntarily fund comprehensive environment-protection policies in impoverished nations, to compensate the latter for foregoing unsustainable economic growth, and paying recompense for the planet-plundering imperialism of materially privileged nations.

With extreme weather already hitting food production, we demand that governments act now to avoid any risk of hunger, with emergency investment in agro-ecological extreme-weather-resistant food production. We also call for an urgent summit on saving the Arctic icecap, to slow weather disruption of our harvests.

We further call on concerned global citizens to rise up and organise against current complacency in their particular contexts, including indigenous people's rights advocacy, decolonisation and reparatory justice—so joining the global movement that's now rebelling against extinction (e.g. Extinction Rebellion in the UK).

We must collectively do whatever's necessary, non-violently, to persuade politicians and business leaders to relinquish their complacency and denial. Their "business as usual" is no longer an option. Global citizens will no longer put up with this failure of our planetary duty.

Every one of us, especially in the materially privileged world, must commit to accepting the need to live more lightly, consume far less, and to not only uphold human rights but also our stewardship responsibilities to the planet.

Dr Vandana Shiva. Delhi, India.

Naomi Klein. Author.

Noam Chomsky. Laureate professor, University of Arizona, Institute professor (emeritus) MIT, USA.

Professor AC Grayling. Master of the New College of the Humanities, London, UK.

Philip Pullman. UK.

Dr Rowan Williams. UK.

Bill McKibben. Founder, 350.org, Brooklyn, New York, US.

Tiokasin Ghosthorse (Lakota Nation). New York, US.

Esther Stanford-Xosei. Convenor-General, Stop the Maangamizi: We Charge Genocide/Ecocide Campaign (SMWeCGEC), London, UK.

Sir Jonathon Porritt. Signing in a personal capacity, UK.

Dr Alison Green. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Arden University, National Director (UK) <http://www.scientistswarning.org/>, UK.

Lily Cole. Model, entrepreneur and patron for the Environmental Justice Foundation.

Chris Packham. English naturalist and TV presenter, UK.

Dr Susie Orbach. Consultant psychoanalyst, The Balint Consultancy, UK.  
Professor Joy Carter CBE. Vice Chancellor, University of Winchester, UK.  
Professor Jayati Ghosh Jawaharlal. Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

## Others by nation

### United Kingdom

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Kooj Chuhan. Director, Virtual Migrants, Manchester, UK.  
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