

## A Perfect Planet: Humans

Life flourishes on planet Earth thanks to powerful natural forces. However, it is a fragile system. There is one force so powerful it threatens the future of life on Earth.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p08xc32c/a-perfect-planet-series-1-5-humans>

We will lose \_\_\_\_\_ the species of animals on Earth over the next eight decades. The last time we had an extinction event of this magnitude was \_\_\_\_\_ million years ago.

## Global Warming

- Through burning **fossil fuels**, we now release \_\_\_\_\_ times more  $CO^2$  into the atmosphere than all Earth's volcanoes combined.
- Warming our planet by just \_\_\_\_\_ degrees means that the atmosphere is sucking up 7% more water and causing more **extreme weather events**, making it increasingly difficult for animals to survive.
- It is not just affecting wildlife though. For every 1 degree rise in global temperatures a \_\_\_\_\_ people will be pushed into **extreme unlivable conditions** and this will trigger one of the greatest human migrations in history. Climate refugees will move north into \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is hope. The **Sahara Desert** is advancing southwards so 1 billion drought resistant trees are being planted to stop top soil from blowing away. It will stretch 5,000 miles across Africa and is called \_\_\_\_\_.

## Tropical Rainforests

- The **Amazon** stores as much as \_\_\_\_\_ years' worth of emissions as all of the cars in the world
- Urban expansion, cattle ranching and mining means that forest is being lost at a frightening rate. Every minute an area the size of \_\_\_\_\_ football pitches is destroyed by humans.
- There is hope. A new jungle of \_\_\_\_\_ million trees is being **planted** in the Amazon. Using the knowledge of indigenous people, this seed network scatters \_\_\_\_\_ tonnes of seeds over degraded land and after 6 years, restores an area the size of \_\_\_\_\_ football fields. It is the largest tropical forest restoration project in the world.

## Oceans

- The oceans produce up to \_\_\_\_\_% of the **oxygen** we breathe and **feed** over \_\_\_\_\_ billion people.

- Since the start of the **Industrial Revolution** the oceans have absorbed almost \_\_\_\_\_ our  $CO^2$  emissions. Warm, acidic waters are destroying coral reefs and decimating \_\_\_\_\_, the basis of survival for everything else in the oceans.
- Oceans are being damaged in another way. **Overfishing** has removed as much as \_\_\_\_% of all large predatory fish. Fewer fish means a marine system that stores less carbon.
- There is hope. Around 5% of the oceans are currently **protected**. A global campaign to increase this to \_\_\_\_% will help many of the planets most vulnerable species to recover and a healthier ocean can absorb more  $CO^2$ .

## Renewable Energy

- We can reduce  $CO^2$  emission by **consuming less** or **reusing** some of our resources. But, the biggest saving we could make would be to \_\_\_\_\_.
- We can power the whole world with just a fraction of the **solar and wind energy** that we get every year. **Volcanic heat**: so far we've only tapped \_\_\_\_% of its global potential. The wind in our skies could provide \_\_\_\_% of our energy by 2050.
- Is this transition to a **low carbon society** happening fast enough? In 2015, 195 of the world's nations pledged to reduce their  $CO^2$  emissions. To avoid planetary disaster, the goal was to limit the warming of the Earth to well below \_\_\_\_ degrees.
- The news is \_\_\_\_\_. This year,  $CO^2$  levels in the atmosphere went up again. Hitting another **world record high**. We are in a crisis right now.

## Frozen Zoos

- Species are becoming **extinct** at around \_\_\_\_\_ times faster than the normal rate.
- There is hope. Zoos around the world are taking drastic action, collecting \_\_\_\_\_ from endangered species to build a genetic store of life before they become extinct.