



It's Planetary Emergency: it's a warning, a call for urgent actions

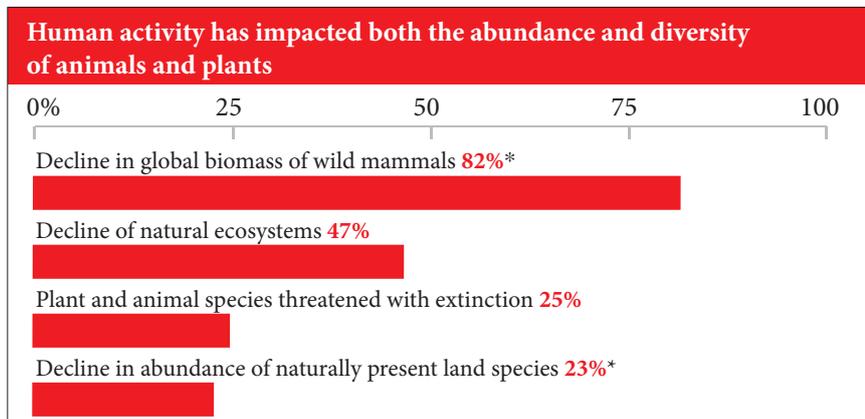
S M Saify Iqbal describes the context of Planetary Emergency and emphasizes undertaking immediate actions to avoid existential threat to the human civilization

The 'Planetary Emergency' is a cautionary call on the looming collapse of the Earth's Support Systems e.g., biosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. The disappearance of Amazonas rainforest, loss of Great Barrier coral reefs in Australia, reduction of Arctic sea ice, melting of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, thawing of permafrost, and a slowdown of ocean circulation- all the scary situation indicate that the wounds to the Earth's natural systems have crossed the threshold of its natural healing. The 'mantra' of widespread capitalism and 'must-have- must-buy' market economy stimulate human's 'greed' that put every individual, every nation-state in the race of being 'great' with 'goods.' The very mantra dramatically expanded the 'want' of humankind on the nature, while grossly undermined Earth's bio-capacity for meeting the want.

The irony is that the Earth's Support Systems those since the prehistoric time, have helped the human civilization to sustain and evolve as a super creature on the Earth are now on jeopardy. And this has risked the existence of human civilization. The enormous wealth gained through exploitation of Earth's finite resources and damaging Earths' support systems is constantly failing to guarantee peoples' life, livelihoods, food security, health security, water security, and quality of life worldwide. According to the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, the nature is being destroyed at a rate tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10m years. Figure 1 presensts impacts of the human activities on biodiversity since prehistory; Source: (The Guardian, 2019)

For the first time in human history, our planet faces a series of converging crises, all on the same timeline - global warming, disasters, extreme weather events, bio-diversity loss, acidification of oceans, water stress, food insecurity, planetary overshoot. A perfect storm is brewing and we must act now before it's too late

Saber Hossain Chowdhury
Member of the Parliament, who led the Motion on the declaration of Planetary Emergency adopted by the Paliamentary of Bangladesh



Guardian graphic. Source: IPBES. *Since prehistory

The Government of Bangladesh Declares Planetary Emergency Motion on the Declaration adopted by Bangladesh Parliament on 13th November 2019

That is House declares a Planetary Emergency on account of existential crisis of climate change, devastating impact of disasters and increase in extreme weather events, irreparable loss of bio-diversity, looming food insecurity, rising water stress, unprecedented pressure on oceans and unsustainable use of resources;

The global community must act urgently, decisively and with considerably higher ambition in achieving net zero emissions well before 2050, capping temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius and transitioning swiftly to low carbon economies as overarching priorities;

Despite being least responsible, Bangladesh and many other countries in developing world, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are the most impacted and vulnerable; All commitment at global level including Paris Agreement must be implemented in full and in shortest possible time; Planetary justice and climate equity demands that these vulnerable countries are assisted with requisite finance and technology to meet their development aspirations;

This House therefore, calls on Parliaments, Governments, the United Nations and all stakeholders to work on a war footing, as custodians and as one team, to protect and fortify our Planet-the only Home we have.

Already, a large number of the world's poorest nations are experiencing disastrous scenarios due to extreme weather events and ecosystem breakdown (Norton, 2019). A group of scientists defined this situation as Planetary Emergency and called for urgent action to avoid 'an existential threat to civilization' primarily by limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius and also restoring and conserving critical aquatic and terrestrial biomes. The state of Planetary Emergency also demands a new economic, social, and financial systems to foster human and ecological well-being and to regenerate natural capital as well (World Economic Forum, 2020).

Meanwhile, in September 2019, the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (a platform of the political leaders, scientists, and bureaucrats) has launched a comprehensive plan called 'The Planetary Emergency Plan' (The Club of Rome, 2019), which delineates a roadmap for the governments to bring intrinsic benefits for all living species, leaving no one behind through well planned development. The Plan also suggests immediate actions to protect the global commons, such as the atmosphere, rainforest, oceans, and ice sheets, and advocate an equitable transformation of the global economic system for securing a stable planet (Wellbeing Economy Alliance, 2020).

In November 2019, the government of Bangladesh declared the 'planetary emergency' and adopted a motion in the Parliament. Bangladesh acknowledges the planetary justice and climate equity demands for the vulnerable countries and calls on the world to work together to tackle the planetary emergency and reduce its impacts.

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