

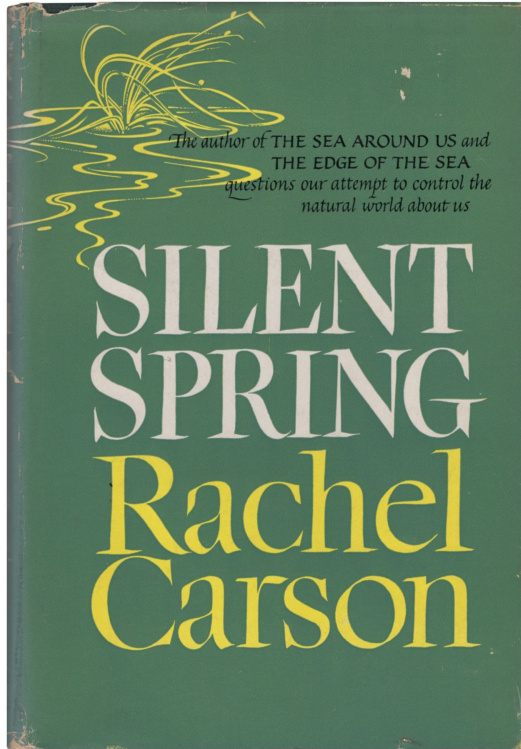
Biodiversity is Politics

Debating a controversial issue

Thomas Tari, Sciences Po, Reims Campus, 25 August 2021
Centre for the exploration of controversies and médialab

How is Biodiversity 'Politics'?

Scientific pioneers and whistleblowers



- *Silent Spring* from Rachel Carson (1962)
- *Biodiversity* from Edward O. Wilson (1988, editor)

'Silent Spring' Is Now Noisy Summer

Pesticides Industry Up in Arms Over a New Book

By JOHN M. LEE

The \$300,000,000 pesticides industry has been highly irritated by a quiet woman author whose previous works on science have been praised for the beauty and precision of the writing.

The author is Rachel Carson, whose "The Sea Around Us" and "The Edge of the Sea" were best sellers in 1951 and

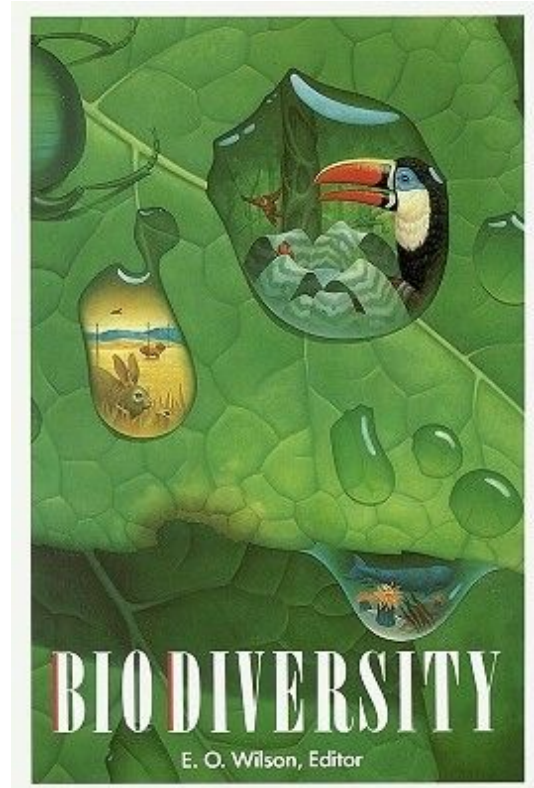


Rachel Carson Stirs Conflict—Producers Are Crying 'Foul'

fending the use of their products. Meetings have been held in Washington and New York. Statements are being drafted and counter-attacks plotted.

A drowsy midsummer has suddenly been enlivened by the greatest uproar in the pesticides industry since the cranberry scare of 1959.

Miss Carson's new book is entitled "Silent Spring." The



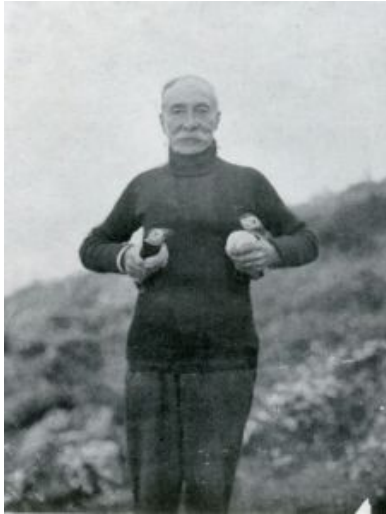
From citizen mobilisation to international initiatives



AGIR pour la
BIODIVERSITÉ

1912 Ligue pour
la protection des
oiseaux / League for
the protection of
birds

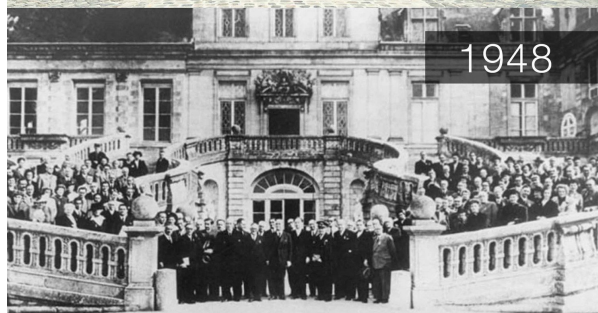
Louis Magaud
d'Aubusson and
Atlantic Puffins in
Brittany



BirdLife Intl 1922



Photo: Fabrice Millechou



1948

International Union
for Conservation of
Nature (IUCN), in
Fontainebleau



The institutionalisation of biodiversity issues

1992 Rio Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development)

A multilateral treaty is signed, the Convention on Biological Diversity, with 3 main goals:

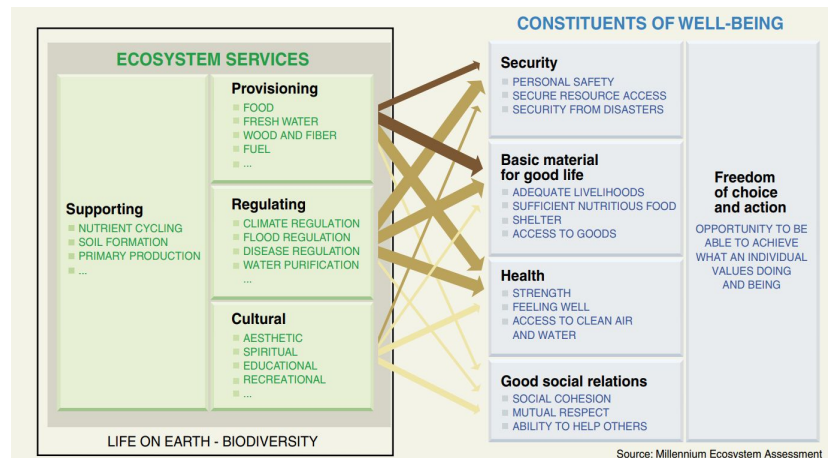
- the conservation of biological diversity;
- the sustainable use of its components;
- the fair and equitable sharing of benefits

arising from genetic resources



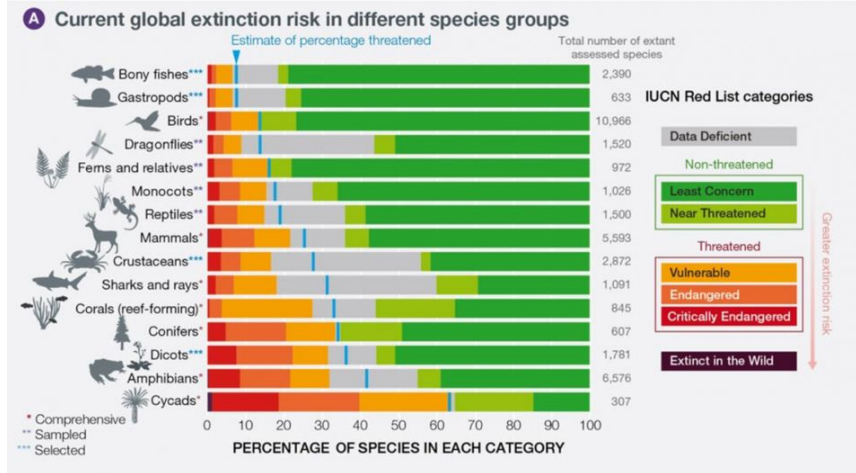
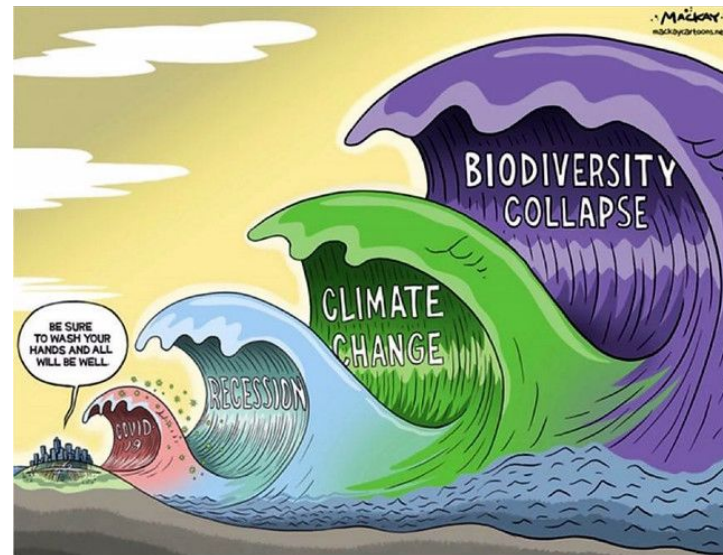
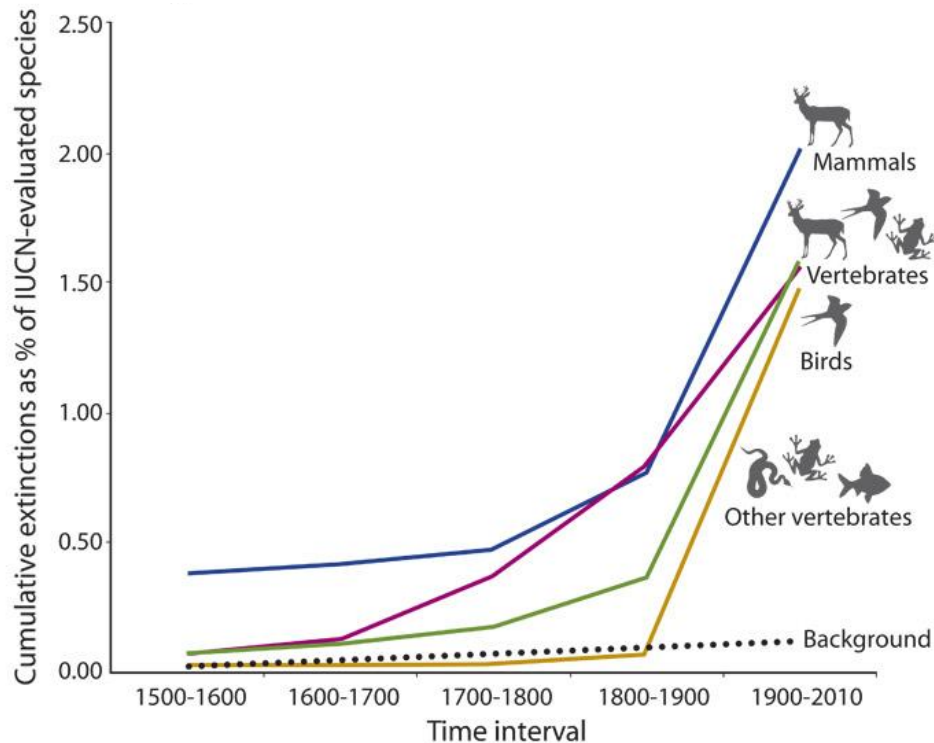
**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
launched by the United Nations (from 2000)

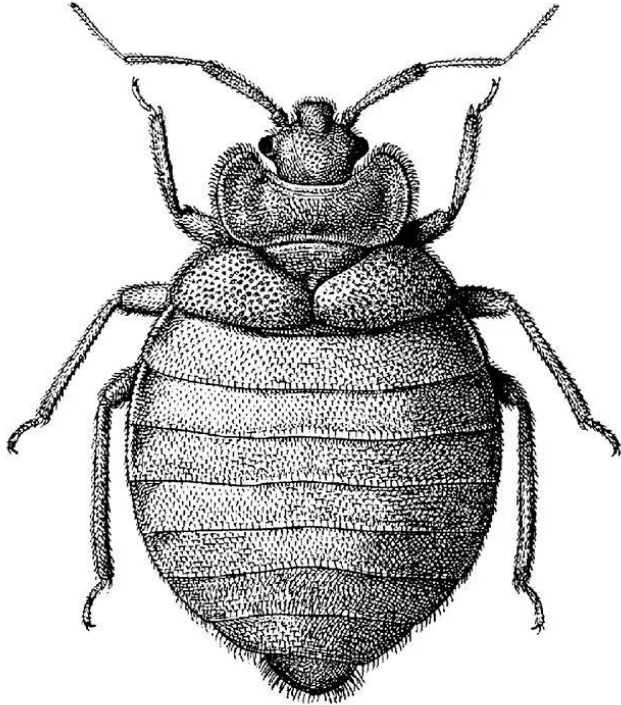


2012 Creation of the IPBES:
The Intergovernmental Science -
Policy Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services

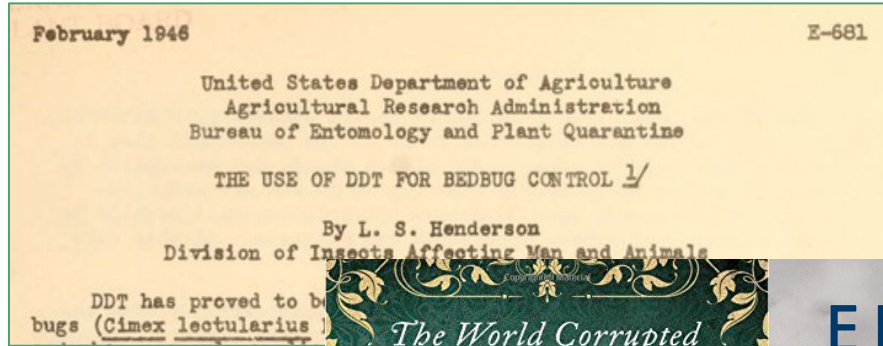
The sixth Mass Extinction (the Holocene or Anthropocene Extinction) / Collapse



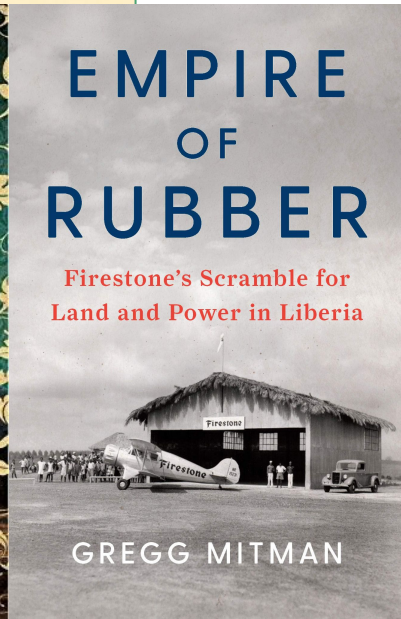
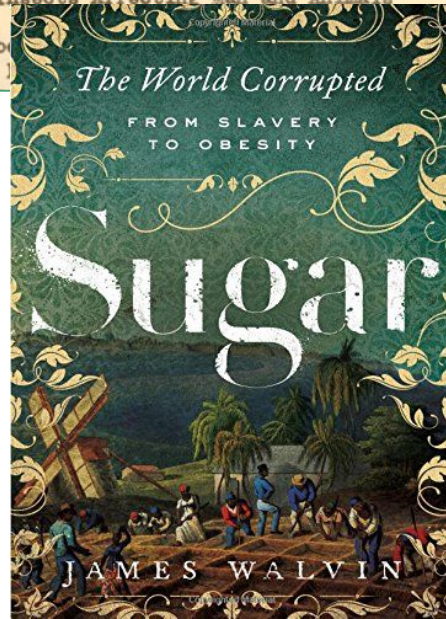
A common world, also a shared history and biology



Cimex lectularius (bed bug)



The notion of
plantationocene,
invasive and
native species...



A simulation of debates

A simulation of controversial issues

Inspired by the UN model, but not a simulation of negotiations! And you don't get to represent a State.

Conception of case studies based on the study of controversies with social sciences methods. Learning from an actor point of view.

For most groups : 2 students together will embody an actor / not only rhetorics, based on concrete knowledge!



Schedule of the workshops and simulations

Thursday 26 - Morning / Introduction of the arena, roles and their distribution

Groups 1 to 7: 8-9.30am // Groups 2 to 14: 9.45-11.15am // Groups 15 to 20 and BASc: 11.30am-1pm

Between your morning and your afternoon sessions, you will have to read the resources relative to your role, may look for others, and list your potential questions.

Thursday 26 - Afternoon / Workshop on your role guidelines and embodiment

Groups 1 to 7: 2-3.30pm // Groups 2 to 14: 3.45-5.15pm // Groups 15 to 20 and BASc: 5.30-7pm

This workshop (followed by some personal work) will help you embody your role (arguments, objectives and strategies, interactions with other actors).

Friday 27 - Morning / Simulation of the arena in class

Groups 1 to 7: 8-9.30am // Groups 2 to 14: 9.45-11.15am // Groups 15 to 20 and BASc: 11.30am-1pm

The actual simulation of debate, followed by some feedback.

Friday 27 - Afternoon / Cross talk about the issues at stake

Groups 1 to 14 : 2-3.30pm // Groups 15 to 20: 4-5.30pm

Two themes of debates

- Groups 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 on
EU agricultural practices and biodiversity.
- Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20 and BASc students on
Why do bees matter?

All the resources are on:

**[https://controverses.github.io
/biodiversityispolitics/](https://controverses.github.io/biodiversityispolitics/)**