# [***Disease linked to climate change, biodiversity loss***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YN8-6781-JDJN-63FB-00000-00&context=1516831)

Iran Daily

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**Body**

Even though other things have contributed to the rise in disease outbreaks, the links to climate change and ***biodiversity*** are the most striking, she said, agriland.ie reported.

"Our destruction of nature, deforestation and removal of habitat has brought humans and wild animals into closer contact, resulting in zoonotic diseases, those that can be transmitted from other animals to humans, or those that normally exist in other animals, but can infect humans, like this novel coronavirus," said Stout.

The bottom line, she contended, is that if we continue to destroy nature, we destroy our life support system and our ability to cope with what nature throws at us.

"Research has shown that high ***biodiversity*** reduces the risk of animal-vectored diseases in human populations.

"A global assessment of ***biodiversity*** found that three-quarters of the earth's land surface and 66 percent of the marine is significantly altered by human activity, habitats are destroyed and degraded, and one million species are at risk of extinction.

People are starting to 'get' that not only do we have a climate crisis, but we have a ***biodiversity*** crisis too, and that the two are not only linked with each other, but both are linked with humanity's health and well-being.

The World Economic Forum this year recognized that the linked climate change and ***biodiversity*** ***loss*** are some of the biggest risks, with the greatest potential impacts on world economies, Stout said. It also recognized infectious diseases as a top 10 risk.

"As part of the global assessment of ***biodiversity***, a range of policy scenarios were tested to address negative trends in nature. The report concluded that these negative trends will continue to 2050 under all these policy scenarios, except transformative change.

"The world needs transformative change to address the ***biodiversity*** and climate crises," Stout said.

"This transformative change includes: Stronger international cooperation; correcting perverse incentive structures like incentivizing the destruction of nature or extraction of fossil fuels for profit; applying a more holistic approach to decision-making; and strengthening implementation of laws and policies for improved human health and well-being," she said.

"You could say that this pandemic has created transformative change: Unplanned but transformative all the same. This year was supposed to be super year for nature and ***biodiversity***, with global conventions for climate and ***biodiversity***-making targets to lead us into the next decades and centuries.

The decisions we make now about climate and ***biodiversity*** could potentially affect the future of humanity – we are at a point beyond which we won't be able to make the necessary changes.

"Society can change and the way we live and work can change. People don't have to be travelling all the time; there's more remote working and more connection with nature in our free time, Prof. Stout said.

"COVID-19 also showed us that we don't have the infrastructure to cope when we want to enjoy nature — national parks and urban green spaces quickly became overcrowded. So we need investment in nature, both for the sake of nature, and for what it gives to us, and for ourselves and our mental and physical well-being."

The pandemic also showed that governments can implement socially unpopular policies in the interest of the public good, and at the detriment to the economy, Stout said.

"The speed at which everything changed to protect human health has been remarkable, showing that we can respond to a crisis when we need to.

Climate change and ***biodiversity*** ***loss*** are global crises that also threaten human health. We know they are happening. They also need urgent action, but we haven't seen action happen yet.

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Disease linked to climate change, ***biodiversity*** ***loss***

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