Many of the planet's ecosystems simply don't make the grade, according to the largest earth science analysis ever.

The report begins by noting that nearly two-thirds of earth's life-sustaining ecosystems, including clean water, clean air and stable climate, have been degraded by unsustainable use over the past half century.

Large numbers of mammal, bird and amphibian species are facing extinction.

Deforestation and other fundamental ecosystem changes can also promote disease, changes in water systems can increase the frequency and severity of devastating floods, and areas facing environmental degradation are among the poorest in the world.

The report then calls for change, a radical change in the way nature is treated at all levels of decision-making, and new ways of working together between government, business and civil society to cherish all our precious natural and human resources and build a sustainable future.