



October 20, 2020

Dear Friends, Family and Eagle's NEST Supporters,

Back in the Fall of 2014 the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) completed the most extensive survey of wildlife populations ever conducted – titled, The Living Planet Report. That extensive and massive report studied the populations of over 4,000 wildlife species, throughout all the world's continents, over a 40 year period - from 1970 to 2010. What they found was absolutely astonishing. The Living Planet Report concluded that over that blip of time in our worlds history, the overall populations of our planets wildlife (fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles) declined by over 50%! In just 40 years!

In 2014, Eagle's NEST US had just launched the year before as a non-profit with a mission of Providing Quality Creation Education Leading to Better Environmental Integrity and Conservation. Soon after the Living Planet Report was released I was reviewing and studying the report in my office, I vividly recall my daughter Shawna, who was a young adult at the time, came into my office. "Shawna, listen to this!" I exclaimed as she walked in. Over the course of the next several minutes, I proceeded to share the WWF findings, concluding with, "Shawna, this is only 40 years! This is within my lifetime!" Her response was biting, "I know, way to go Dad!"

Of course, Shawna was correct, and this was within my lifetime (and within many of yours reading this letter).

With the Eagle's NEST mission in mind, that report was very concerning to me. I assumed at that time, that a scientific study showing a 50% drop in wildlife over only four decades would concern everyone, especially those whose faith required of them to care for the Creation. Yet, at that time, after reading many news articles and watching news shows that reported on the WWF findings, I waited. And waited. And waited. I waited for a response from the general public (and specifically from the faith communities). Knowing that the Psalmist wrote (Psalm 24:1), "The Earth is the Lords, and ***everything*** in it..." (bold and italics, mine). So, I waited longer. I waited to hear the appropriate amount of remorse, repentance and an outcry for action. Sadly, instead, I heard... well...basically... I heard... silence. Silence as if a collective yawn. If you have ever observed people when they yawn, it's almost always silent and people tend to cover their mouths when they yawn out of embarrassment because, typically, yawns exhibit a lack of activity and a lack of interest.

Now, in the Fall of 2020, The World Wildlife Fund has issued a new 83 page Living Planet Report 2020. This report updates the 2014 report and studies 4,400 species around the globe. The 2020 report shares that humanity's expansion, consumption and transformation of land and sea have caused wildlife population numbers to plunge even more over the past decade. According to the WWF report, in the past five decades, the wildlife populations have dropped a staggering 68%! So, in other words, in a fifty year period, the world's wildlife populations have dropped by two-thirds! According to the latest report, those losses are driven by primarily habit loss, along with pollution, invasive species, overhunting, overfishing and increasingly, climate change. The average decline of those species is 4% each year since 1970. WWF Chief Scientist, Rebecca Shaw, states, "You begin to see a picture of an unraveling of nature. That is alarming, even alarming by our own

measures of alarming.” The Director General of WWF International, Marco Lambertini, puts it even more starkly, “We cannot ignore the evidence – these serious declines in wildlife species populations are an indicator that nature is unraveling and our planet is flashing red warning signs of systems failure.”

So, certainly now, this new report has led to an urgent call to action, after all, this news had been reported by almost every major media organization in the immediate aftermath. Have you observed the urgent call to action to protect God’s Creation? Or, have you, like me continued to observe yawns? Again, this troubling and appalling plunge of species population is within my lifetime. I wonder, as I write this letter, if our generation(s) understand and care that “The Earth is the Lords and **everything** in it...?”

68%! In only a blip of historical time... on our watch. I also wonder as I write this letter, if maybe humanity needs a little bit of etiquette advice. We, as humans alive in the past half a century, might want to cover our mouths when we yawn, because, unfortunately, future generations are watching us.

We, at Eagle’s NEST US, could use your help as we continue getting the word out about protecting God’s Creation, please share these WWF Living Planet Report 2020 findings with others within your sphere of influence (family, friends, neighbors, church leaders, etc.). We also ask that you keep Eagle’s NEST in your prayers as we spread the message. Importantly, we continue to seek financial support. If you can, please send a donation check to Eagle’s NEST US – PO Box 322, Visalia, CA 93279 or make an online donation at [www.eaglesnestus.org](http://www.eaglesnestus.org)

I pray that we all – our generation(s) – will soon finish our 50 year yawn, these vulnerable species can use a little interest and action. It’s as if their lives depend on it.

Sources:

World Wildlife Fund – Living Planet Report 2020

The World Lost Two-Thirds Of Its Wildlife in 50 Years. We Are To Blame. – Nathan Rott – NPR – 9/10/2020

Humans Are Decimating Wildlife – Karen Brulliard – The Washington Post – 9/10/2020

Humans Wipeout Two-Thirds of world’s Wildlife in 50 Years – Nora McGreedy – Smithsonian Magazine – 9/16/2020

Joy and Peace!

Todd Slinde, President & CEO

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