

# ADRIFT

## Losing Habitat



## PROBLEM

Human encroachment on the natural environment is the biggest threat to biodiversity. 30% of the decline in biodiversity is caused by land use change, 20% by overexploitation, followed by 14% caused by climate change and pollution.

## EVIDENCE *Our focus group participants said:*

*“When it comes to ... larger systems like nature, protected areas, or parks, I trust decision-makers a little bit less because they have shown themselves to be corruptible. Take the [Nova Scotia] Coastal Protection Act—that got shot down because a lot of decision-makers are either landlords or they’re friends with developers. But what’s more important, coastal protection or developing a golf course on the coast? That’s corruptibility. You’re choosing money and capital gain over an ecosystem.” (NS)*

*One of the areas that we haven’t touched on a lot here has been on that environmental piece. I think that we’ve really been stymied in terms of moving forward with changes in climate change within public health policy. A lot of it has to do with an unwillingness of the politicians to make decisions that would be unpopular for their re-election. (BC)*

See also: Rigolon et al, “Green Space and Health Equity: A Systematic Review on the Potential of Green Space to Reduce Health Disparities” (2021) 18:5 Int J Environ Res Pub Health 2563; Myers & Samuel, “Planetary health: protecting human health on a rapidly changing planet” (2017) Lancet 390:10114; Royal Society, *Biodiversity – evidence for Action* (2023).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Protecting the health of future generations requires a radical shift away from current government and disciplinary silos. Climate change must be addressed to protect and sustain planetary health and wellbeing. Rights to traditional lands are crucial for Indigenous peoples. Urban planners, parks and natural resource managers, and Indigenous peoples all play important roles.



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