

## **We need an international agenda that prioritizes biodiversity loss and climate crisis**

Our planet harbours enough resources to sustain not only thriving and biodiverse ecosystems, but also healthy and prosperous human societies. An astonishing diversity of organisms, including ourselves, have coexisted in the world for millennia. While nature is in constant change, it consistently achieves a balance that allows for species to persist together. However, due to humanity's current consumption patterns and the resulting accelerated exploitation of the Earth's resources, such as land and fossil fuels, we have now entered the era of a massive extinction event on a planetary scale. As an example, according to recent estimates, we are losing global insect biomass at a drastic rate of up to 2.5% per year, with direct consequences for the stability of the ecosystems, and ultimately for food security. In addition, global mean temperatures are rising at a rapid pace, fastly approaching the 'safe' guardrails set down in the Paris Agreement. The consequences are obvious, with major climatic catastrophes hitting all continents and many biodiversity-supported functions, such as insect pollination or water regulation, already being disrupted.

As scientists working at Estacion Biologica de Doñana (EBD), a public research institute in Sevilla belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), we have been documenting the tremendous loss of biodiversity in the Doñana National Park and many other locations around the world. Acting as the sad bookkeepers of species loss, ecosystem degradation, and ultimately also human suffering, makes us raise our voice, at a time when the world looks at Sevilla as the host of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) from the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.

The FfD4 conference is intended to address the urgent need to fully implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and support reform of the international financial architecture. While the goals may seem potentially on track with a more sustainable world, the ambition shown so far is definitely too low and disconnected from the reality of the urgency. The idea that continuous economic growth can be sustainable has been discarded by evidence-based research, and experts urge us to rethink our disproportionate use of resources, particularly in the Global North. A more biodiverse, just, and equitable future is unlikely if we keep giving priority to finances benefiting a small fraction of the world's population. In fact, accountability and financial resource allocation to support the required transformations should be proportional to the responsibilities behind the drivers of the current biodiversity and climate crises.

We urge political leaders to place biodiversity loss and climate change at the top of the priority list for real and act accordingly. This is in the interest of the whole world population, as our health, our well-being, and our future rely on healthy and resilient ecosystems. Humanity can not afford the consequences of a hotter, less biodiverse world. We must summon all our courage to face this existential crisis of humanity. As scientists, we offer our curious minds and all our collective knowledge, upon which solutions for the transition to a sustainable world can hopefully be built. We urge world leaders to keep listening to researchers around the world and to take bold actions in accordance with the science.