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## U.N. biodiversity report: Assessing global ecosystem degradation

Ecosystems and biodiversity are in serious, accelerating decline, according to a recent report by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. As humans continue to place increasing pressure on the world's natural resources, a million species have come under threat of extinction as habitats continue to deteriorate or vanish.

### Proportions causing alarm



### Rates of change

**10X**

Increase in plastic pollution since 1980

**3X**

Increase in crop production since 1970

**3X**

Rate of wetland destruction compared with forest destruction

**2X**

Increase in greenhouse gas emissions since 1980

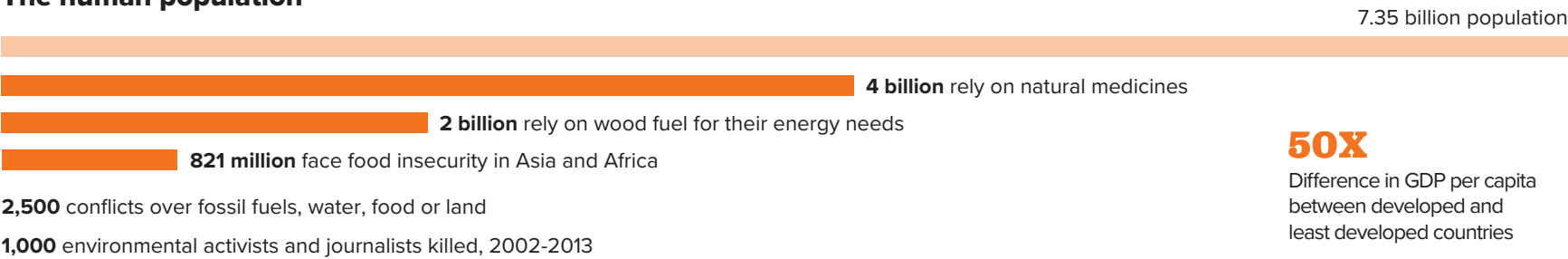
**2X**

Growth in human population since 1970

**2X**

Growth in urban areas since 1992

### The human population



### Resources, money and waste

**60 billion tons**

Resources extracted every year — twice that of 1980

**\$345 billion**

Global subsidies for fossil fuels

**\$5 trillion**

Global environmental costs resulting from fossil fuel subsidies

**\$235-577 billion**

Annual food value at risk because of pollinator loss

**300-400 million tons**

Heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge and other industrial waste dumped into waters every year

Source: IPBES

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