



THE SURVIVAL REVOLUTION

For over four decades, Sanctuary has been working with organisations such as the WILD Foundation – focused on wilderness, wildlife and people – plus Forest Departments, conservation leaders and grassroots activists. Together, we have been pooling our strengths to safeguard our planet. And never before have we needed to merge strengths more than today, when we are faced with an existential crisis that has brought the entire world to a stand-still. While the 11th World Wilderness Congress that was to convene in Jaipur, India in March 2020 has been indefinitely postponed, its mission is stronger than ever.

"We have nature-based solutions," suggests Vance Martin, President, WILD Foundation, the force behind the World Wilderness Congress. We share here his message to Sanctuary readers, WILD11 delegates and concerned citizens.

The 11th World Wilderness Congress, WILD11, is facing the global uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 in the best way possible. The decision to indefinitely postpone WILD11 was not taken lightly. The safety of our delegates and the larger community was our prevailing concern as COVID-19 began to emerge as a pandemic. The WILD11 global team worked with the Indian partners and co-hosts to make the decision, just days before the global impact was verified. While this was the unambiguously right decision to make, it still involved potential missed opportunities. **Which is why we still need**

you to engage, with the ideas and actions we had planned for WILD11.

As we know, COVID-19 was born out of an unhealthy, irresponsible, and exploitative relationship with the natural world, as have so many other recent novel viruses. We are encouraged by the new commitment from China and Vietnam to halt the legal trade of wildlife and 'wet markets' that abuse wild nature and spawn novel diseases that jeopardise global human health.

But the dilemma of our broken relationship with nature is much larger than wet markets and the legal and illegal trafficking of wild animals. Even as the United Nations prepares to gather later this year to set ambitious and urgently needed Protected Area targets for the next decade, other sectors of society continue to accelerate the destruction of Earth's life-giving landscapes. **In the next 30 years, our species is set to double urban square footage and lay 25 million km. of roads – enough to encircle Earth 600 times.**

WILD11 was to unify the dual emergencies of climate breakdown and mass extinction with a single solution: protecting wild nature. It was planned to challenge world leaders with the following questions:

- How much nature do we need to survive?
- When is it more feasible to protect nature – now, when it is still relatively intact or in 30 years, when it is even more fragmented and requires restoration on an unimaginable scale?

This year, 2020, is rich in unprecedented opportunities to change course on a

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. As the Earth rapidly approaches global tipping points, we still have time to set aside HALF the planet's land and seas and avert ecological collapse. The Survival Revolution is a common-sense plan to protect wilderness on a global scale. Setting aside 50 per cent of the Earth for nature is the most efficient way to fight climate change.

Join the #SurvivalRevolution. The Wild Foundation is recruiting ambassadors and influencers for the Survival Revolution.

To sign up, go to:

<https://natureneedshalf.org/ambassador/>
Details of how you can help influence the coming United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will also be available soon.

planetary scale and work toward a more stable future.

And that is why we still need you to engage with the ideas to come out of the process leading up to WILD11, particularly the Survival Revolution (see box above).

The biodiversity crisis underlies the climate emergency and is the greatest threat to life on Earth, but many leaders around the world still do not understand the fundamental role of wild nature in human survival. The Survival Revolution is poised to change that by expanding public awareness and demanding immediate action around the world, especially in five cornerstone countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS).

Additionally, we urge you to embark upon your own journey with these other outcomes to emerge from the WILD11 process:

- Climate change action – In partnership with the Tata Trusts Indian Climate Collaborative, the Echo Network, and others, the WILD11 process will initiate the very first national-scale climate emergency capacity building workshops for Indian state-level officials.
- Restoring and rewilding – *A Global Charter for Rewilding*, developed by world-class conservation experts, is ready to launch and feed directly into the United Nations 'Decade of Restoration' to be launched as a result of the process leading up to WILD11.
- A global movement – A new and much-needed Survival Revolution, a public outreach network geared to inform our leadership to assure the survival of all life on earth.

Finally, we ask that you stay tuned in the coming months for news about next steps, new plans, and upcoming gatherings to build powerful communities for the protection of our planet. 🌱