

SIXTY HARVESTS LEFT

HOW TO REACH A NATURE-FRIENDLY FUTURE



KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



GLOBAL

- 60 Harvests Left—In 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN predicted there were only 60 harvests left due to loss of topsoil. ¹
- 37% of greenhouse gas emissions globally are caused by our food and the way we produce it. ²
- Since 1990, 25% of bee species have disappeared from records. ³
- According to the United Nations ‘95% of our food is directly or indirectly produced on our soils’ ⁴
- Three-quarters of all human diseases originated from animals. ⁵
- The world has seen an average 68% drop in mammals, birds, fish, reptile and amphibian populations. ⁶
- Bees are essential for the pollination of 75% of all our food crops worldwide. ⁷
- The demise of antibiotics could lead to 10 million deaths globally annually. ⁸
- 36% of all the edible crop harvest, enough calories to sustain 4 billion people, is used for animal feed’. ⁹
- UN estimates suggest that the amount of meat wasted every year is equivalent to 15 billion animals being reared, slaughtered and binned. ¹⁰

UK

- British agriculture is responsible for 10% of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions. ¹¹
- More than 40% of species in Britain have declined since 1970, while one in every seven of its wildlife species faces extinction. ¹²
- In the UK, where 55% of cropland is used to grow animal feed, a third of that land could provide 62 million adults a year with their five daily recommended portions of fruit and vegetables. ¹³
- From just a few of sites about 50 years ago, more than 200 fish farms now operate in Scotland, producing more than 200,000 tonnes of salmon worth over a billion pounds a year. ¹⁴
- New research reveals US-style mega-farm numbers have risen to nearly 1,100, including 745 poultry mega-farms in England and 59 in Wales, bringing into question the country’s claim to be a nation of animal lovers. ¹⁵
- This UK mega-farm total is almost certainly an underestimate as official data for pig and poultry units in Scotland were unavailable due to cyberattack. ¹⁵
- Industrial-scale farms have attracted attention because of local residents’ concerns over smell, noise and the potential for pollution or disease breaks. There is also concern that mega-farms push smaller farmers out of business, leading to the takeover of the countryside by large agribusinesses and the loss of family-run units. ¹⁵

¹ Reuters, 5 December 2014, Only 60 years of farming left if soil degradation continues | Reuters

² NewScientist, 13 September 2021, Food production emissions make up more than a third of global total | New Scientist

³ O Martin, The Science Times, 26 January 2021, About 25% of All Bee Species ‘Unseen’ Since 1990 | Science Times

⁴ United Nations Food and Agriculture Association, 2015, Healthy soils are the basis for healthy food production (fao.org)

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, July 2021, Zoonotic Diseases | One Health | CDC

⁶ World Wildlife Fund, Living Planet report 2020, A warning sign: where biodiversity loss is happening around the world | Magazine Articles | WWF (worldwildlife.org)

⁷ World Economic Forum 2019, Bees and other pollinators are key to biodiversity, agriculture and food production | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)

⁸ M de Kraker, A Stewardson, S Harbarth, National Library of Medicine, 2016, Will 10 Million People Die a Year due to Antimicrobial Resistance by 2050? - PMC (nih.gov)

⁹ Emily S Cassidy, Paul C West, James S Gerber and Jonathan A Foley, Redefining agricultural yields: from tonnes to people nourished per hectare Environ. Res. Lett. 8 (2013) 034015 (8pp) doi:10.1088/1748-9326/8/3/034015

¹⁰ V Hird, The Guardian, 19 March 2014, The meat we eat ... or don't eat | Live Better | The Guardian

¹¹ R Harrabin, BBC, 10 September 2019, UK farms plan for going ‘carbon neutral’ - BBC News

¹² Claire Marshall, 3 October 2019, More than a quarter of UK mammals face extinction, BBC, Science and Environment, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-49892209>

¹³ H Harwatt and M Hayek, Animal Law and Policy Program, Harvard Law School, 11 April 2019, Eating-Away-at-Climate-Change-with-Negative-Emissions—Harwatt-Hayek.pdf (harvard.edu)

¹⁴ Kevin Keane, 28 January, 2019, Scotland’s first ‘enclosed’ salmon farm to open on Loch Long, BBC, Glasgow and West, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-60156103> The Fish Site, 19 October 2020, Scotland’s record salmon harvest, <https://thefishsite.com/articles/scotlands-record-salmon-harvest> The Fish Site, 29 April 2019), <https://thefishsite.com/articles/salmon-farming-worth-2-billion-to-scottish-economy>

¹⁵ Ecostorm, 2021. Research commissioned by Compassion in World Farming

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TESTIMONIALS



“The chilling title is the red flag; the contents, however, lay out all the remedies to save the planet and its species, including ours, and make for absorbing and sometimes terrifying reading. Minutely researched, and written for laymen as well as experts, *Sixty Harvests Left* reads like a thriller. It deserves to be read worldwide and acted upon immediately. I cannot recommend it highly enough.”

DAME JOANNA LUMLEY

“In this beautifully written book Philip Lymbery describes how intensive agriculture harms the environment and inflicts suffering on sentient animals. But after visiting with and talking to those on the front line – scientists, farmers and food providers, he is able to show that there are sustainable alternatives. And that they are working. There is indeed hope for the future of our planet, and each one of us can play a part. I urge you to read ‘*Sixty Harvests Left*.’”

DR JANE GOODALL DBE

Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

“Philip Lymbery pulls no punches in cataloguing the calamitous mistakes we’ve made in our food system, but he has bold and inspiring solutions to offer too. It’s time for Big Food, and governments everywhere, to act on them.”

HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL

“Powerful, purposeful and persuasive, read Philip Lymbery’s book and we know what has to be done. It’s simple really, look after the land, farm it sensitively, tread softly on

this earth and all can still be well. We need to transform ourselves rapidly. This book is transformative. We must read, mark and learn, fast.”

SIR MICHAEL MORPURGO

“Beautifully crafted. A compelling, excoriating account of industrial farming – how it is driving the climate and biodiversity emergencies, while also undermining our health. Full of insights and encounters with pioneers of new ways of farming, *Sixty Harvests Left* is a call to action – to change our world from the ground up. A vitally necessary book.”

ISABELLA TREE

“Philip Lymbery is one of the few who really understand the connections between farming and nature. I believe he is the most important thinker writing about these crucial issues—and the way forward.”

CARL SAFINA

Author of *Becoming Wild* and *Beyond Words*.

“The true horror story of our current dependence on factory farming and intensive agriculture gets clearer by the day. Philip Lymbery pulls no punches in painting that grim picture. This dependence will bring down our civilisation as surely as our dependence on fossil fuels. But that is not our destiny, and you need to read ‘*Sixty Harvests Left*’ more for its utterly convincing alternative vision of farming and food production available to us in the near future – all based on the three Rs: regenerative farming, reduction of animal protein, and rewilding the soil. I’d be very

surprised if you don’t end up appreciating this book as much as I did.”

JONATHON PORRITT

“At the end of the day, it’s not politicians or businesses, it’ll be ordinary people that change the world, and the way to enable that is to help them think differently and think more. If we do only one thing, I’d say fix soil.”

This quote from Philip Lymbery’s remarkable third book ‘*Sixty Harvests Left*’..completing the trilogy starting with ‘*Farmageddon*’ followed by ‘*Dead Zone*’ does precisely this. ‘

‘*Sixty Harvests Left*’ is not only beautifully written it is jam packed with the evidence we need to change our lives in order to save our planet.

Philip has that remarkable gift of intimacy.. you feel that he is talking to you personally. His style is both personal and informative whilst never lecturing. He draws us in, in a lyrical and seductive manner whilst imparting vital and life changing information.

Only we can save our planet ‘*Sixty Harvests Left*’ shows us how. Make sure you read it before it’s too late. I promise you..you won’t regret it.”

PETER EGAN

“Philip Lymbery’s great service, through beautiful prose and deep research, is to amplify the siren call from our planet and the web of life. Through him, change becomes not only necessary and desirable, but irresistible.”

RAJ PATEL

“It is hard to think of anything more essential to our survival, and yet less appreciated, than dirt. Good quality soil nourishes plants, animals, and the ecosystems on which life depends – including our own lives. And yet, through intensive farming and pollution, we’re engaged in a widespread and destructive war upon the very Earth that sustains us all. The need for change is urgent – we have barely one human lifetime, to turn things around. Such news could make for grim reading – yet *Sixty Harvests Left* is a highly engaging, uplifting story of the author’s own experiences with farming and nature, interwoven with detailed research and thorough expertise. Crucially, it ends with hope, recounting the solutions being developed by innovators working to regenerate our soils, and to restore the landscapes dependent on them. This profoundly important book should be read by all who would like humanity to survive beyond one more human lifetime, and the solutions it proposes should be implemented as if our futures depend on it – which they do.”

PROF. ANDREW KNIGHT

“*Sixty Harvests Left* is excellent – personal and engaging. Lymbery’s life experiences make it very readable, allowing him to speak with authority and honesty ... An important challenge to the vested interests that make our life on earth unsustainable.”

REBECCA NESBIT

“An urgent, evidence-based, visionary approach to the most challenging decisions facing humanity. This is a brave, fascinating, game-changing book.”

SOPHIE PAVELLE