

# ESCOM Scotland Launch



29<sup>th</sup> April 18.30 -20.30

Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation

**Struan Stevenson MEP**

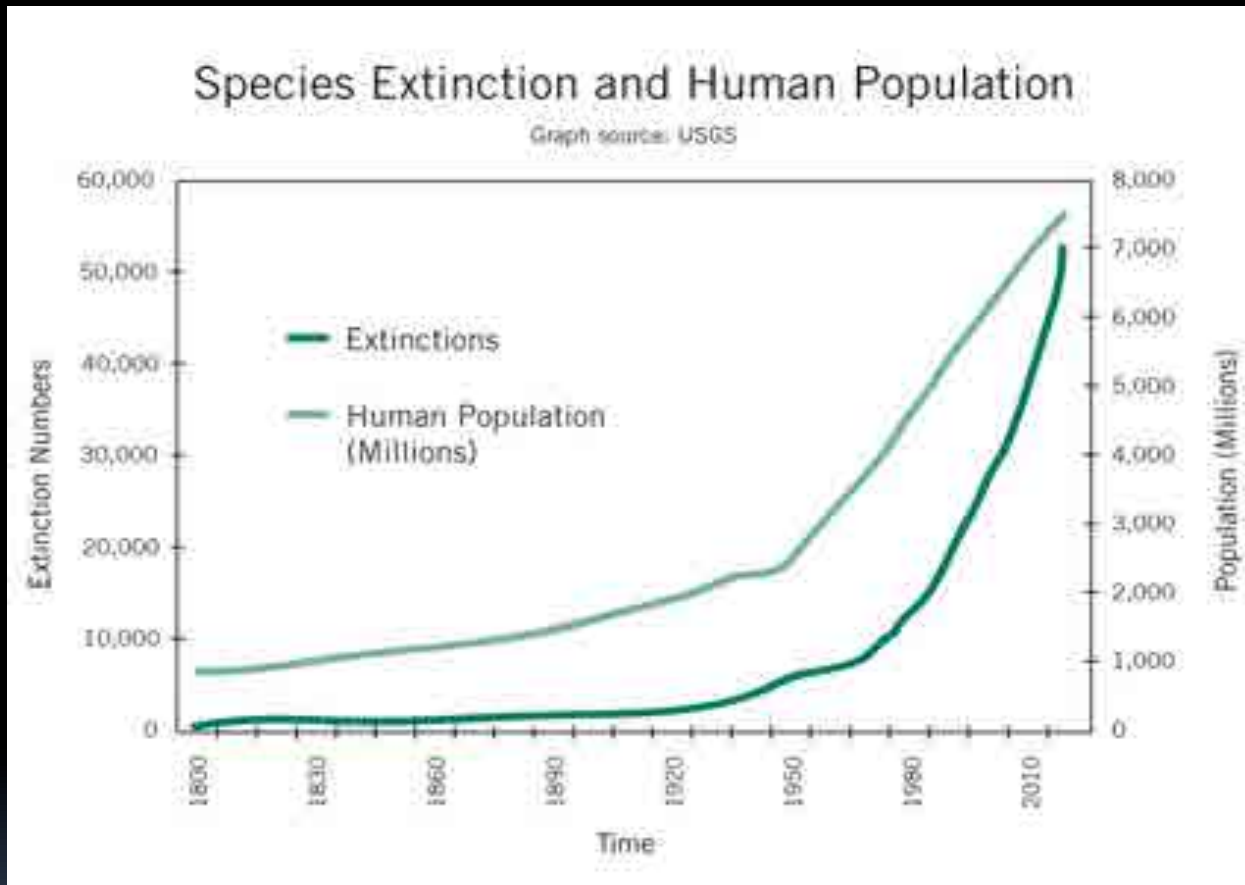
The proliferation of NGOs, lobby groups, science-bodies, politicians and individuals results in duplication of effort and limits real progress.



Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network  
supporting those who do not compromise in defence of Mother Earth



Between 150 and 200 species are lost every 24 hours.



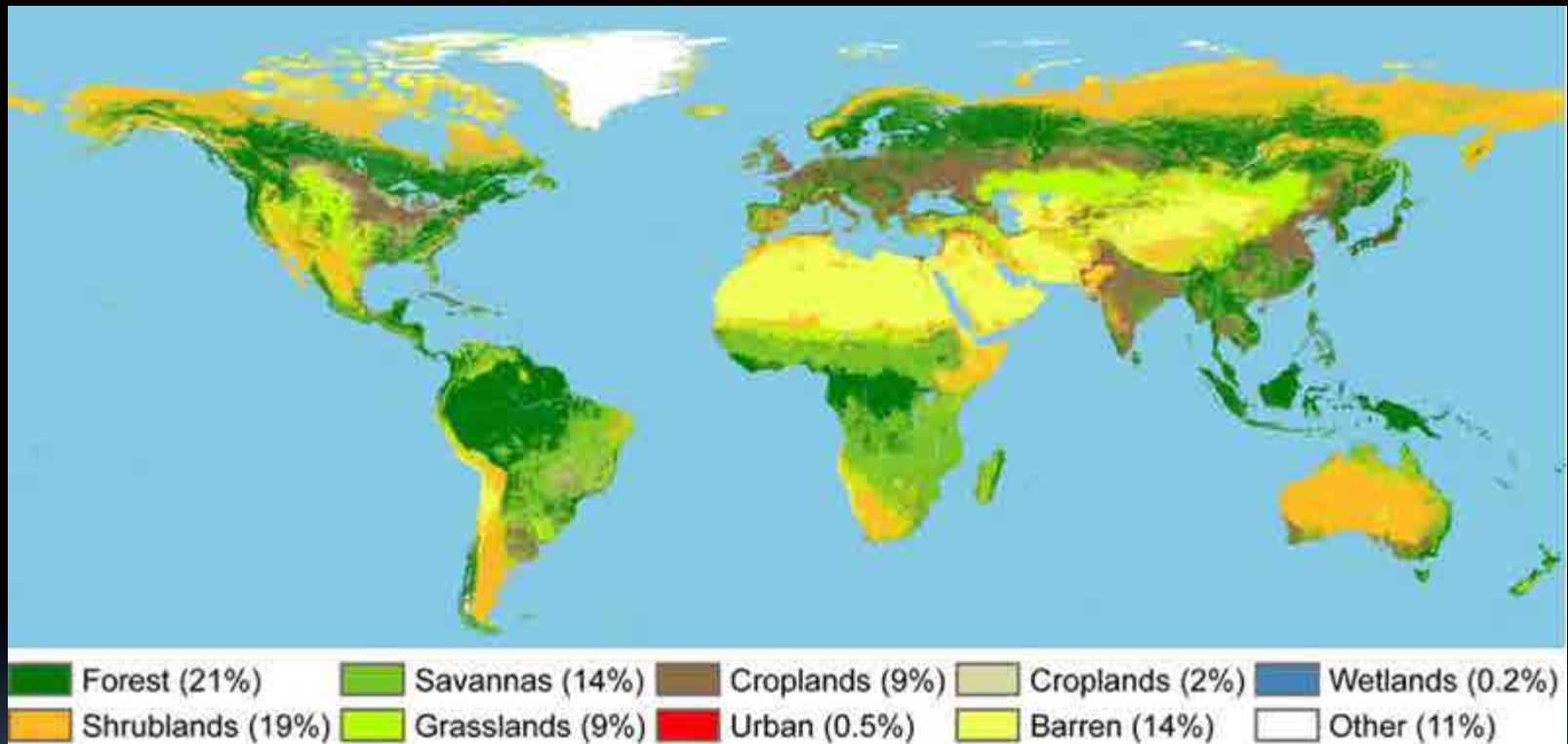
Deforestation is responsible for more greenhouse gas than all the world's cars, trucks, planes and boats combined.



The Indonesian rainforest is being torn up to make way for biofuel crops like palm oil to supply the EU market.



An extra 6 million people are born every month. By 2030 the world population will have expanded by such an extent that we will require a 50% increase in food production to meet anticipated demand.



**Figure 3.** Global distribution of land cover based on MODIS (1 km) satellite data using International Geosphere Biosphere Program land cover classes prepared by Boston University (Earth Observing System (EOS) Data Gateway, <http://edcimswww.cr.usgs.gov/pub/imswelcome/>). Cropland (2%) refers to cropland/natural vegetation mosaic.

# Renewable Energy



Peatlands form a crucial part of the world's air conditioning system – storing, on average, 10 times more carbon per hectare than other ecosystems

# Blue Carbon in Scotland



Eelgrass (*Zostera*) is a common type of seagrass found in UK waters

Seagrass meadows can be found in every continent except for Antarctica, usually in shallow coastal regions, as they need light to survive.

The optimal depth for growth is sub-tidal down to 15 metres. However, some can live down to 60 metres in clear waters.

Within North-West Europe, approximately 20% of seagrass beds are located in Scottish waters.

Destroying these habitats would release huge amounts of carbon dioxide (brown carbon) into the atmosphere and would only add to climate change.

We need a platform where science, policy and practice can come together.



***“An exciting new initiative that aims to support better management of Scotland’s natural resources is currently taking shape. ESCOM Scotland hopes to help establish a community of practice between individuals and groups involved in the science, policy and practice behind sustainable ecosystem management.”***





Thousands of species are teetering on the brink of extinction and climate change and/or demand for land could tip many of them over the edge.

Why can't ESCom Scotland act as a model for collaboration and joint understanding, not just in Scotland, but in the wider UK and across Europe too?



Thank You

Struan Stevenson MEP