

EXTINCTION AND LIVESTOCK

moving to a flourishing food system
for wildlife, farm animals and us

Press release

Wednesday 4th October 2017

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1EZ, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 521 950 Fax: +44 (0) 1483 861 639
Email: compassion@ciwf.org.uk

**Extinction and Livestock Conference: 5 and 6 October 2017
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
@Extinction_17 #extinction17**

For immediate release

World experts gather for landmark conference to save the future of life on Earth

Some of the world's greatest thinkers on food, farming, the environment, animals and conservation will gather in London tomorrow for the start of the world's first ever conference to tackle the impact of livestock production on the future of life on Earth.

The Extinction & Livestock Conference – taking place at the QEII Conference Centre, London, tomorrow and Friday – will bring together diverse interests from around the world to explore the impacts of livestock production on animals, people and the planet with the aim of developing practical and policy solutions to fix our broken food systems.

Food production is driving two-thirds of wildlife loss worldwide. Livestock production is causing massive deforestation in countries such as Argentina and Brazil, using up the world's precious resources, polluting our waterways and creating ocean 'dead zones' where nothing can live, creating the perfect breeding ground for superbugs and contributing to antibiotic resistance in humans. This is in addition to the suffering and misery caused to billions of farm animals around the world.

The driving force behind the conference is Philip Lymbery, CEO of Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and author of two books about this issue, 'Farmageddon' and

Organised by Compassion in World Farming in partnership with WWF, with supporting partners:





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‘Dead ‘Zone: Where the Wild Things Were’. He said: “We must stop this needless destruction before it’s too late. Tomorrow morning I will welcome experts, campaigners and policy-makers from 30 different countries to the Extinction and Livestock Conference where we will hear about the catastrophic consequences of current livestock production and start the vital process of finding practical solutions to fix our broken global food systems and save our Earth.”

The conference has been organised by CIWF in partnership with WWF, and with the support of Birdlife Europe, the European Environmental Bureau, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, and the University of Winchester.

It has attracted a world-class line-up of speakers including: Professor Katherine Richardson of the Sustainability Science Centre in Copenhagen; Professor Frank Hu of Harvard University; academic and food activist Professor Raj Patel; award-winning author and academic Professor Carl Safina; Cheryl Queen, of Compass Group US; ecological egg farmer Ruud Zanders; Ignacio Blanco, Senior Director, Global Sustainable Sourcing, at McDonald’s Corporation; Tony Juniper, Senior Advisor, The Prince of Wales’s International Sustainability Unit; and bee expert, Professor Dave Goulson of the University of Sussex. There will also be video contributions from world renowned conservationist Dr Jane Goodall CBE and best-selling author of ‘Sapiens’, Yuval Noah Harari.

In addition, there will be a food innovation event at Church House tomorrow evening (5th Oct) where delegates, including the actress Joanna Lumley, will be among the first in the UK to taste the Beyond Burger – a plant-based burger which ‘bleeds’ and ‘sizzles’ like real meat – as well as other innovative foods from Tofurky and Quorn. Joanna will be speaking alongside Derek Sarno, Director of Plant-based Foods at Tesco.

For further information about the conference go to
www.extinctionconference.com

Statements from conference partner and supporting organisations follow...



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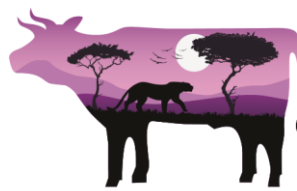


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Glynn Davies, WWF's Executive Director of Global Programmes, says: "To feed the world's 7 billion people, using current farming methods, requires more than one planet. Keeping up with this growing demand is not only unsustainable, it is having dire effects – leading to widespread loss of habitats, species and the ecosystems that we all depend on. It is critical that we act now to halt this decline, which is why the Extinction & Livestock Conference is so important. By bringing together the leaders in government, business, conservation, farming and food, we hope to find ways of farming sustainably to support both people and the planet."

Mr Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of EU Policy, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia says: "Extensive grazing can be vital to conservation of grasslands biodiversity and a sustainable way of producing food. But we must start to face up to the massive negative impacts generated by the current livestock farming system. Any sustainable future will require rethinking both consumption and production."

Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Jeremy Wates, said: "Industrial farming is having a devastating impact on the welfare of farm animals and it has exacerbated wildlife loss in rural landscapes – not to mention its impact on ecosystems and farmers' livelihoods, as well as on the quality of the food we eat and the air we breathe. It is time for a farming model that works in harmony with the environment and not against it – and protecting animal welfare must be at the heart of any sustainable farming policy. This conference should wake up political leaders in Europe to the reality of the sixth mass extinction event that is already under way. At the EU level this must start with bold proposals on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy that lead to a truly sustainable farming policy – one that protects wildlife and farmers, and provides us all with healthy food today and tomorrow."

Martin Palmer, ARC Secretary General says: "Our current food system is not about a healthy, sustainable world of food but about excess, greed and foolishness disguised as 'market forces'. It treats the natural world as not something we are part of and therefore should treasure, but a larder we can raid and somehow hope it gets filled again. But the truth is, it won't! As a result of this conference I would hope that all the key players – including the great faiths – would find a place at the table and together, each in their own distinctive way, will be able to inspire and guide us towards a better, fairer world."



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Dr Steven McCulloch, Acting Director of the University of Winchester Centre for Animal Welfare, said: “The University of Winchester is a values–driven institution with a progressive and compassionate outlook on humans, sentient non–humans and the living environment. The University’s Centre for Animal Welfare, which was established in 2016 to undertake research, teaching and public engagement in the field of animal welfare, is one of the ways in which we are putting our values into action. The University is delighted to support the CIWF/WWF Extinction & Livestock Conference. Livestock farming has significant deleterious impacts on the living environment and wildlife species and our staff and students attending the conference are looking forward to hearing the high profile international speakers discuss this key issue of the relation between livestock farming and the environment.”

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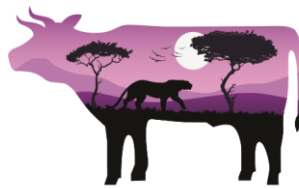
Media contact – for further information or to interview a spokesperson please contact the Compassion in World Farming media team on 01483 521618 – mediateam@ciwf.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. Compassion in World Farming was founded in 1967 by a British dairy farmer who became horrified at the development of intensive factory farming. Today Compassion is the leading farm animal welfare organisation dedicated to ending factory farming and achieving humane and sustainable food. With headquarters in the UK, we have offices across Europe in the US, China and South Africa.
2. Any media wishing to request a media pass to attend the Extinction conference should email extinction17@minervacomms.net
3. Relevant photographs are available via the following links to the CIWF and WWF photo libraries;

CIWF: <https://ciwf.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-ciwf/images/assetbox/b21238dc-ff68-4f28-9413-3d6b7b4730c8/assetbox.html>

WWF: <https://hive.panda.org/Share/y64t4d2o15w3oigcgi8oa86jk60l5v3d>



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4. Footage of Philip Lymbery's Dead Zone investigations are available via https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-7iZXkicZxdv5eDb-7Ezv6q_XyVvO9hi