

Climate Catalyst Occasional Report

I watched a tv programme earlier in the week - David Attenborough was narrating it.

It explained how SARS, AIDS, SWINE FLU+ even COVID 19 originated. What happened, as he explained, was that all these diseases - and more - are viruses currently held by animals at present in the wild.

When mankind changes the balance of nature - for example by killing the apex predators - the smaller animals proliferate.. Then people destroy their habitat; invade it; introduce domestic livestock to that space, and those viruses transmit and transfer.

The cost of the current COVID pandemic, IMF sees in excess of US\$12.5 Trillion. The next pandemic will probably not be slow in evidencing, according to current models. And the one after that..... And the one after that....

So- the current pandemic, macro-wise, can be thought to be the result of the loss of bio-diversity. The Internet tells us that around 150-200 plant and animal species, on average, go extinct globally every day. Most due to deforestation. The current species count exceeds 30 million, we're reminded.

Is habitat and diversity being lost locally? Can it be reversed, or halted?

Can we make a difference? Re-introduce the wild whenever possible?

It's an Election year - what do our politicians feel about this?

Louise Cleghorn. 1st Aug 2023

Upper Hutt Housing trust

Upper Hutt Housing Trust was formed as a Christian response to homelessness and our board is made up from parishioners of Upper Hutt Churches.

Currently we lease 31 houses and own one and provide accommodation for over 110 people.

There are so many people we are unable to help. Last Friday alone four people were referred to us but our houses were all full.

The Trust would like to buy good quality aluminium thermal blankets and provide one for each of the people living rough in the bush or their cars. These cost \$80 each.

Would your parish consider donating \$80 to purchase one, or make a donation towards the cost of one?

The bank account number is available from the back of the church and hall after the service.

The Trust is also expanding into new areas and if you would like to consider becoming a board member then we would love to hear from you. The contact number for further information is on the bank contact details as well.