



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



THE STATE OF THE PLANET

S E R I E S

THE STATE OF THE PLANET is a joint project between EL PAÍS and FAO aimed at addressing the challenges that humankind will have to face over the coming decades. These include climate change, nutrition and the conservation of our oceans and forests, all of which directly impact the planet we live on.

This series of books is based on the most up-to-date information available from leading experts at FAO and other United Nations agencies, unpacking often highly complex issues that affect us all.

The books are aimed at a broad audience, both young and old. It is only by working together across generations that we can decide the way we want to live in the future and shape the kind of planet we wish to leave for the generations to come.



The major challenges

Is there still time to save our planet?

The series opens with an assessment of the current state of our planet, where we stand at the moment, the challenges we face to reverse the present situation and the 2030 Agenda road map that must be followed before it's too late. We have a set plan and some very clear goals that must be achieved over the coming years.



Climate change

Is it already irreversible?
What can we do?

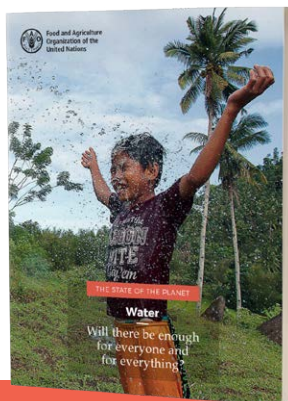
This book provides an easy to understand explanation of what climate change is, its impacts on the planet and why it is so important to keep the increase in average global temperature below 2°C. Some solutions are also proposed for mitigating and adapting to climate change with particular emphasis on agriculture, a sector that, although part of the problem, could also be part of the solution.



Biodiversity

Are we verging on the sixth mass extinction?

More than 80% of our diet comes from plants, and just five cereal crops account for 60% of all calories consumed. This book discusses the importance of maintaining biodiversity from the point of view of food security and nutrition. Global food production depends on a vital network of ecosystems. If these are damaged, humankind will not be able to deal with other challenges such as population growth and climate change.



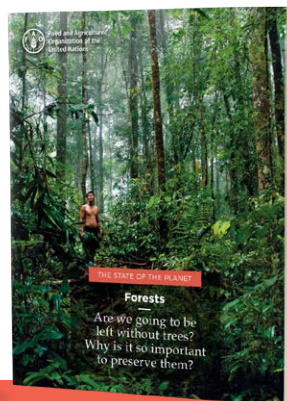
Water

Will there be enough for everyone and for everything?



Nutrition

Is obesity the plague of the 21st century?



Forests

Are we going to be left without trees? Why is it so important to preserve them?



Oceans

Are our oceans in danger?

Population growth, rapid development, climate change and mismanagement are placing unprecedented pressure on the planet's main life source. If we also take into account how diets have changed (we are consuming more animal protein, which can require up to ten times more water to produce than cereals and vegetables), there can only be one outcome: drought. How can we ensure that there is enough water for everyone and everything? This book tries to find the answer.

In today's world, there are more than twice as many overweight people than those going hungry. This confirms the need to tackle the issue of nutrition from a different perspective. We must all eat but we must all eat well, in a complex global context that is battling paradoxes such as this.

A forest is more than just a group of trees: they regulate the climate, clean our water, protect the soil and provide shelter and sustenance for millions of people who live among them. The bad news is that over the last 25 years we have lost a total forest area equivalent to the size of South Africa, due to deforestation and forest degradation. This book stresses the huge importance of conserving them.

It is obvious that oceans play a fundamental role in the welfare of humankind and in the economic and social development of the whole world. However, it is predicted that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans. Meanwhile unsustainable – and in many cases illegal – fishing is also squandering the resources they offer. This book indicates the path we must follow to clean up our oceans.



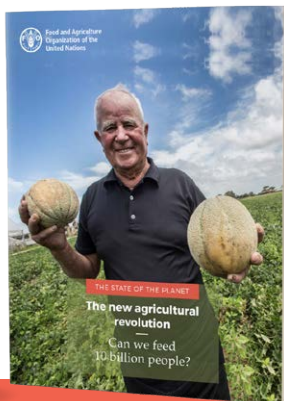
Population, cities and migration

Is there enough room on the planet for so many people?



Zero hunger

Will we finally be able to eliminate hunger?



The new agricultural revolution

How can we feed 10 billion people?



Future challenges of the 21st century

What can you do?

We are experiencing the worst migration crisis since the Second World War. There are now more than 244 million migrants in the world, a figure that represents millions of stories that are so rarely told. But that's not all: our planet must also deal with a population that will rise to almost 10 billion people by 2050, nearly two-thirds of whom will be living in sprawling megacities. Hunger, conflict and climate change are just some of the causes behind the migration phenomenon. But what are the solutions?

More than 815 million people around the world are currently suffering from hunger. This figure is both horrifying and paradoxical, given that the planet produces enough food to feed everyone. This book explains why hunger persists, analysing country case studies and setting out the path that FAO is pursuing to achieve its ultimate goal: to eliminate hunger by 2030.

Agriculture is the basis for our society and has allowed us, as a civilization, to become what we are. What would we eat if not the fruit of the land or sea? Although agriculture may not feature in our daily lives, we could not live without it. This book asks not only whether the Earth will be able to feed 10 billion inhabitants by 2050, but also how we will do this.

Once the challenges facing humankind have been set forth, it's time to start thinking on the individual level. In other words, what small gestures can we as ordinary citizens make that will combine to bring about a significant change to the situation? In addition to individual challenges, this book summarizes some of the key maps and infographics from this unique series, the State of the Planet.

THE STATE OF THE PLANET SERIES



LAUNCH DATE
22 April (SPANISH)
WITH **EL PAÍS** EVERY SUNDAY