

The Environmental Funders Network

London Funders Lunch & Learn:

The Environment Sector and COVID-19

Agenda

- 1) Overview of environment sector
- 2) COVID-19: impacts on environment sector and responses
- 3) Connections between COVID-19, the environment, and social issues
- 4) Building back better – the environmental dimension

The Environmental Funders Network

EFN aims to:

**Improve the effectiveness of
environmental philanthropy**

(‘better environmental funding’)

**Increase the amounts of support going to
environmental causes**

(‘more environmental funding’)



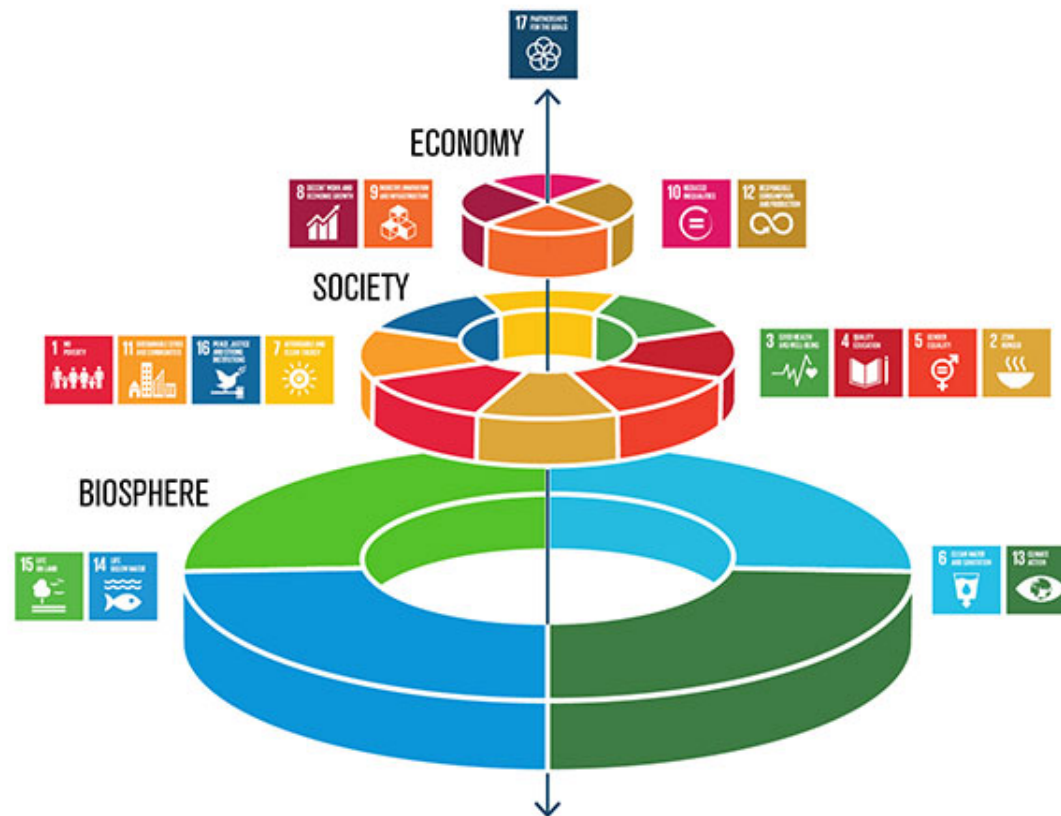
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Overview of sector



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Economy, society and the environment



What is 'the environment'?



Agriculture and food



Biodiversity and species preservation



Climate and atmosphere



Coastal and marine ecosystems



Consumption and waste



Energy



Fresh water



Multi issue work



Sustainable communities



Toxics and pollution



Terrestrial ecosystems and land use



Trade and finance

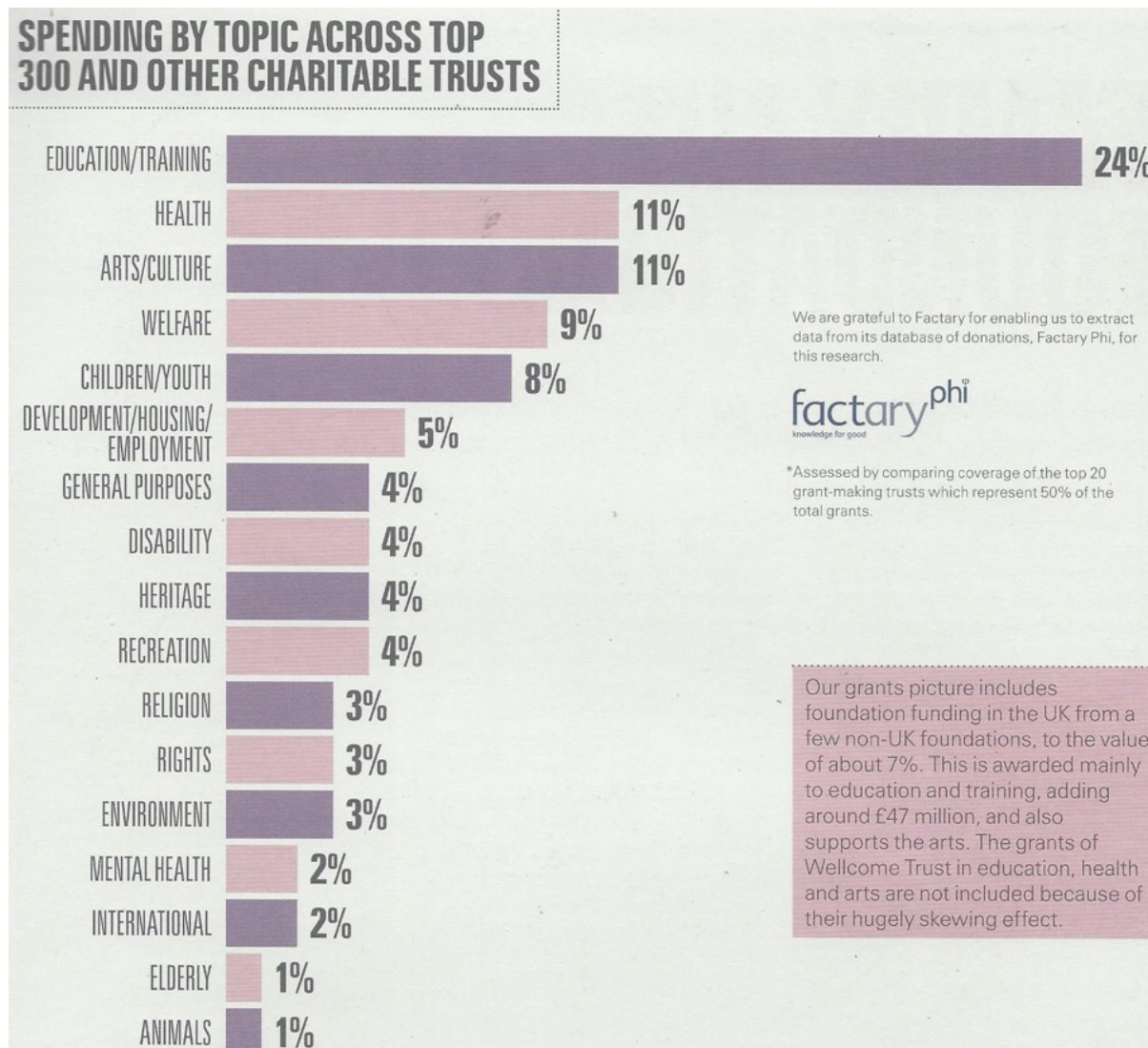


Transport



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The environment sector



The environment sector

- Amount of grant funding from UK trusts & foundations: 3-4% of total giving, around £105 million per year
- Number of foundations funding environment: approx. 200 (though growing)
- Number of environmental charities: > 4,000

COVID-19: impacts on and responses of the environment sector



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Impact on the environment sector

For a New Deal for Nature and People

Best wishes for a happy and successful 2020,
the SUPER YEAR for the environment and sustainability,
one where we can deliver ambitious outcomes for the ocean, climate and biodiversity
in support of a healthy planet, society and economy.



Marco Lambertini
Director General, WWF International

Conservation organisation survey results

- 27% at high risk of becoming financially unviable in the coming months or have less than 4 months' worth of financial reserves
- Postponement or cancelling of planned events or projects, affecting 98% of eNGOs
- Half already finding their funding affected

Impact on the environment sector

CHART 2: 2016 INCOME SOURCES

(No. of CSOs in brackets)



From: *What the Green Groups Said* (EFN 2017)



EFN conversations with eNGOs

- Limited ability to work towards their mission
- Concern about asking for money
- Misconception of 'positive' effect of pandemic on environment
- Opportunity to build back better – but limited window

Impact on the environment sector

Blog

Posts from a range of voices on fostering an effective environmental movement.



Pat Venditti, Greenpeace UK COVID-19: The view from Greenpeace

Posted on 12 Jun 2020

The need to act on the pandemic has meant new challenges for much of Greenpeace's core work. Our volunteers aren't out on the streets talking to people about environmental issues; politicians and companies are less open to meetings with our campaigners as they struggle with immediate priorities; many events that would usually be crucial to our fundraising have been cancelled or postponed. Meanwhile, governments are injecting trillions into the global economy to keep it afloat. With this unprecedented amount of money available it is our job to ensure that, rather than propping up old industries that are fuelling the climate and nature crisis, governments direct that money towards a greener, more resilient economy that puts people and the planet first.

Keywords: [advocacy](#), [climate change](#), [collaboration](#), [COVID-19](#), [fundraising](#)



Elizabeth Salter Green, CHEM Trust COVID-19: The view from CHEM Trust

Posted on 8 Jun 2020

Hormone disrupting chemicals can undermine the immune system, so the COVID-19 pandemic has really emphasised the need for CHEM Trust's work. Though we have not all been tested, the accepted science acknowledges that the vast majority of us have hormone-disrupting chemicals in our bodies. CHEM Trust is a classic modern online organisation; we have 11 people working remotely in four countries, so our daily *modus operandi*, though impacted by social distancing, is not totally disrupted. The pandemic has not slowed our work down, but has shown it's more important than ever before.

Keywords: [COVID-19](#), [policy work](#)



Dr Lesley Dickie, Chief Executive Officer, Durrell COVID-19: The view from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Posted on 22 May 2020

How do you run a zoo and international conservation

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COVID-19: funder and sector responses

- Response so far
 - New emergency funds – but hardly any applicable
 - Funder flexibility/funding support/guidance
 - Funder advocacy
- ‘Building back better’ opportunity

eNGO requests of funders

- Provide unrestricted funding
- Be flexible on deadlines and outcomes from existing grants
- Fund collaboration around the Covid-19 response
- Support donor acquisition measures and improvements in digital skills
- Advocate for the sector where you can

eNGO requests of funders

If you want to keep all of this straight, everything boils down to two things:

- Provide unrestricted funding
- Provide more funding

Connections between environmental, health and socio-economic causes

Environmental issues and COVID-19

Environmental issues as causal factors

- Disturbed environments far more likely to release zoonotic diseases; our globalized society allows for their quick transfer → pandemics increasingly likely with more environmental degradation
- Air quality and other toxins (e.g. hormone-disrupting chemicals) affect our immune systems and can make us more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19

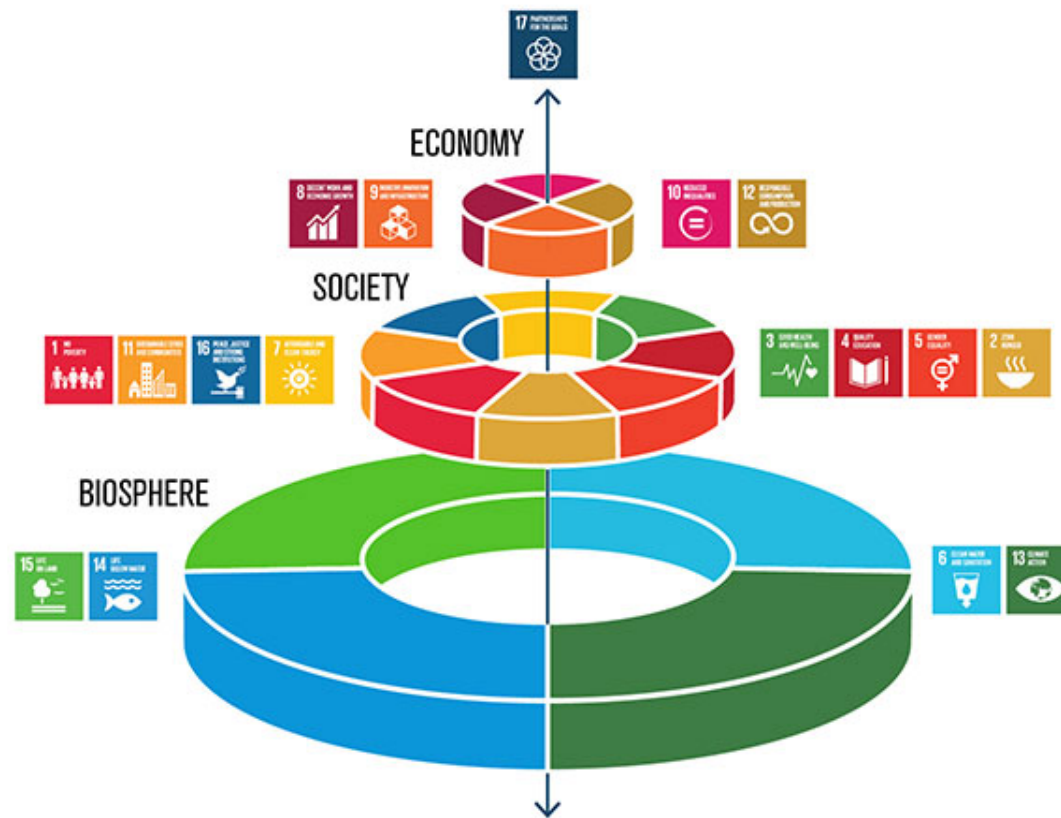


Environmental issues as connected factors

- 'Biophilia' – our innate and evolved need for nature – has become even more obvious during the lockdown. People are craving the outdoors and green spaces. Access to such places is a key social justice and mental health issue.



Environmental issues and social issues



Environmental issues and social issues



Building back better



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Opportunity to build back better - environment sector responses



Examples of initiatives from the environment sector

New Economics Foundation
The Climate Coalition
Green Alliance
Greenpeace
ClientEarth
Etc.

Resources

- [Funder Commitment on Climate Change](#)
- [Climate Change and Social Change guide](#)
- EFN's resources and blog: greenfunders.org



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Any questions?



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