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Study: Circular economy can protect nature

A report from the Ellen Macarthur Foundation (EMF) has concluded that a circular economy can help halt and reverse biodiversity loss and support conservation efforts.

According to a report on EnvironmentalAnalyst.com quoting 'The Nature Imperative', the findings indicate that by eliminating waste and pollution, circulating products and materials, and regenerating nature, a circular economy would help "bend the curve towards a nature-positive future".

EnvironmentalAnalyst is a UK-based NGO. Its study explores the role of four sectors - food, the built environment, plastics and fashion - and sets out ways in which

businesses and policymakers could accelerate the shift towards the circular economy and a nature-positive system.

Businesses, it says, should use the circular economy framework to meet their biodiversity ambitions, while public policy interventions will also be crucial to enable the transformation.

The report provides examples of cases in which circular economy solutions are already being used to meet biodiversity and climate ambitions, and reminds that an economic transformation will be required if nature is to be properly regenerated.

"Our extractive, wasteful, and polluting linear economy is

increasingly recognised as one of the main underlying causes of this crisis. Today, more than 90% of biodiversity loss is due to the extraction and processing of natural resources," says the study. "Conservation and restoration efforts alone – crucial though they are – will not be enough."

The circular economy, concludes the report, offers a framework for such a transformation.

The EMF has also undertaken an in-depth study of how food systems can be redesigned according to circular economy principles. Its findings are reported in a further report, 'The big food redesign'.