

Population growth 'must be tackled'



Politicians have been called on to tackle population growth

A leading zoologist has urged British politicians to tackle the challenge of population growth, warning that mankind is becoming a "voracious monoculture".

Professor Aubrey Manning said the sheer number of humans on the planet was the greatest menace the world faced.

"Of the many million species on the planet, humans are among just a handful whose population is increasing. Human domination comes at a long term cost to ourselves," said Prof Manning.

He warned that by clearing land, draining wetlands, depleting fish stocks and warming the earth, mankind was destroying the species that were the "very foundation" of its own survival.

"Every day human population grows by more than 200,000 whereas other species are disappearing at more than 100 times the natural rate of extinction.

"Population growth is threatening mankind's long-term survival and it is time that governments woke up to that challenge. The earth is already grossly over-populated and without a whole change of attitude to population growth we are condemned for ever to struggle up a down escalator."

His warning came ahead of a new art show exploring population, which will open in London later this week.
