

Primary production and processing in such sectors as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, oil and gas exploration and utilities cost the world economy \$7.3 trillion a year in damage to the environment, health and other vital benefits for humankind, a new United Nations-backed report warned today, calling for stricter ecological sustainability.

High impact business sectors in fact make an economic loss when such environmental costs as the negative impact on natural resources, pollution and greenhouse gasses are accounted for, according to the study, 'Natural Capital at Risk – The Top 100 Externalities of Business,' released at a Business for the Environment summit in New Delhi.

"The current business model creates significant environmental externalities," the report stressed, using the term for by-product costs such as greenhouse gas emissions, loss of natural resources, loss of nature-based services such as carbon storage by forests, climate change and air pollution-related health expenditure. (...)

The article:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44654&Cr=sustainable+development&Cr1=#.UW1c3sqGdKU>

The report:

<http://www.unep.org/climatechange/News/PressRelease/tabid/416/language/en-US/Default.aspx?DocumentId=2713&ArticleId=9468>

The Summit:

<http://www.b4esummit.com/>