

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted peoples' interactions with nature?

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The COVID-19 pandemic and the global response to it have changed many of the interactions that humans have with nature, according to a new article published in *People and Nature*. Credit: Dr. Soga

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global response to it have changed

many of the interactions that humans have with nature, in both positive and negative ways. A perspective article published in *People and Nature* considers these changes, discusses the potential long-term consequences, and provides recommendations for further research.

The authors of the article note that the pandemic constitutes a 'global [natural](#) experiment' in human-nature interactions that, without seeking to downplay or ignore its [tragic consequences](#), provides a rare opportunity to produce in-depth knowledge about these interactions and to help establish actions that can have positive effects for both humans and nature.

"Although undeniably tragic, the COVID-19 pandemic may offer an invaluable opportunity to explore an appropriate future relationship between people and nature," said lead author Masashi Soga, Ph.D., of the University of Tokyo.

More information: Masashi Soga et al, Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on human–nature interactions: Pathways, evidence and implications, *People and Nature* (2021). [DOI: 10.1002/pan3.10201](https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10201)

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