



February 1st, 2021

Subject: Green Planet Augmented Reality App and 5G – What are the Environmental Costs? An Open Letter to Sir David Attenborough.

Dear Sir David Attenborough,

Your work to celebrate and protect the natural world has helped awaken humanity to the awe that surrounds us while also revealing the devastating changes our planet is undergoing — and most importantly, what each of us can do to help. You speak eloquently of “re-wilding the world” and putting nature at the heart of our decisions. This is the core of our work at Stop 5G International — specifically, we address the importance for advances in technology to be in the service of nature.

Of current and urgent concern is 5G (fifth generation) wireless technology, which powers the augmented reality (AR) app accompanying the upcoming BBC series *Green Planet*.

We are reaching out to you to share why we believe a worldwide deployment of 5G will bring more harm to our environment than benefit.

Although 5G is labelled as “smart” technology, many are calling for *wise* technology, as adverse impacts on health and the environment are becoming increasingly evident.

Do the benefits of 5G outweigh the harms? We invite you to go directly to the following [Open Letter](#) and bibliography by [Dr. Devra Davis](#), world-renowned for her work in raising awareness about the impacts of wireless radiation on health, the environment, and climate change. <https://ehtrust.org/dr-devra-davis-and-environmental-health-trust-open-letter-on-5g/>

For a briefer overview of some of the harms, please read on.

What is 5G?

5G refers to the “5th generation” wireless technology. Its intended purpose is to provide the backbone infrastructure for the Internet of Things (IoT), an initiative to connect every “thing”, “event”, and place on the planet to the internet. Nowhere will be passed over — nature preserves, national parks, even the Amazon Rainforest will be served with 5G.

Yet no environmental impact assessment has ever been conducted on 5G.

Scientists, public health officials, and medical professionals have been warning of harms from wireless technology for over two decades and are calling urgently for a moratorium on 5G. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] The call to halt 5G unless proven safe is mounting around the world. Over [600 cities in Italy](#) as well as [Trafford, UK](#), [Lille, France](#), [Ormideia, Cyprus](#), and [Balchik, Bulgaria](#) have all passed resolutions to halt 5G. Commissions are being established to study the impacts of 5G, and other measures as well are being taken around the world to better protect the public.

Although 5G is being promoted for applications such as tracking endangered species and measuring and monitoring pollution levels, the harm it will do to wildlife, and the pollution it will generate, will far outweigh its usefulness. The manufacture, use, and disposal of trillions of “things”, devices, sensors and cameras, along with the accompanying infrastructure of tens of thousands of satellites, and millions of wireless antennas, will result in a very significant increase in [pollution](#), [radiation](#), and [GHG emissions](#), not to mention untold [human rights violations](#).

Effects of Radiation on Wildlife

The [effects of radio frequency radiation on wildlife](#) , [flora](#) and [fauna](#), have been found everywhere scientists have looked. [Trees, birds, bees, other insects](#) and [wildlife](#) will be affected by the high frequency radiation the newest technologies emit which [interferes with navigation](#) and [orientation](#). Scientists warn that electromagnetic frequencies — and the modulations and pulses from the data they carry — are [disrupting the magnetic compass](#) on which living creatures depend. Because of their small size, insects are particularly affected by the millimeter wave frequencies associated with 5G.

Other Effects on the Planet

The full toll of the 5G/IoT rollout has yet to be calculated but goes well beyond the effects of radiation on wildlife. Other harms include the mega [increase in energy consumption](#) (largely obtained from burning fossil fuels) to manufacture and support an internet-connected world. Moreover, to connect everything wirelessly consumes a lot more energy than connecting by wires. There is also [e-waste and fallout of hazardous chemicals](#) from the [manufacture and disposal](#) of all these IoT “things,” devices, and infrastructure.

Satellites bring a host of problems of their own: [depletion of the ozone layer](#); [pollution from rocket launches](#) and from “dead” satellites burning up in the atmosphere; [satellite collisions](#), and the resultant cascading space debris which in turn will cause yet more collisions ([Kessler Effect](#)); effects on wildlife from [rocket launches](#); [permanent compromise of the night sky](#); interference with [astronomical research](#) and [weather prediction](#); [radiation levels](#) that will exceed even the [antiquated “safety” limits of ICNIRP](#) and [the FCC](#); impacts on the electromagnetic field of the Earth itself upon which all life forms depend — for we are all [“electrical beings”](#).

Wired technologies such as fiber or coaxial cable are [far superior to wireless](#) as they are faster, more reliable, resilient, and energy efficient. Above all, wired connections are significantly less hazardous to our health and to other life forms with whom we share this planet.

This AR app-driven “unique immersive experience”, as *Green Planet* marketing materials pitch it, is in fact everything but. The smart phone and app are a gross interference in what might otherwise be a *truly* immersive experience in nature — imbibing the scents, frequencies, and subtle murmurings of the forest; feeling the caress of the wind on our skin and the cool earth beneath our feet reminding us we too are part of nature. A lost opportunity for immersion indeed, stolen by the teamwork of a “smart” phone, a lame attempt at finding a use purpose for 5G, and a marketing gimmick.

Technology offers enormous benefits to society, but we must proceed with balance, mimicking and emulating nature’s inherent wisdom of using only that which we need, and at all times respecting nature’s limits, and replenishing her offerings.

We are aware of the challenges we all face when questioning official narratives, yet we believe that a fuller examination of both 5G and an all-things-connected world is essential for our future and is in service to the very values you stand for as an environmental steward of this planet.

You are revered and trusted by millions. We therefore invite you to reconsider your participation in promoting 5G wireless technology and the virtual reality app which is due to accompany the upcoming BBC series *Green Planet*.’

With Deepest Respect for Your Work and Care for Earth.

Stop 5G International

www.stop5ginternational.org