

God created our beautiful planet Earth to be our home.

God loves all created things, including plants, animals, insects, fungi, bacteria and the soil which nourishes everything.

At least 130 fruit and vegetable crops depend on insects for pollination, including almonds, apples, aubergines, beans, blueberries, broccoli, carrot, cauliflower, celery, cherry, cucumber, kiwifruit, pears, peppers, pumpkin, tomatoes.



The United Nations estimates that **three quarters of our land and two thirds of our oceans** have been severely altered by human activity. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, including variation within species. Genetic diversity enables species to survive in adversity, such as disease, drought and climate change.

Ecology is the study of living things, together with their environment and how they interrelate. All life on Earth is part of the same ecosystem. What happens to one species affects many others.

The last male Northern White Rhino died in 2018. But the mother and baby Southern White Rhino on the front cover of this leaflet are a conservation success story in Ziwa Sanctuary, Uganda with numbers rising from about 100 in early 1900's to over 20,000 today.

Green Christian

About: We are a community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by our faith, we work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. We walk alongside those of faith and no faith.

We welcome new members. Join us!
greenchristian.org.uk/connect/join-us/

Events: Conferences, courses, retreats and workshops – online and in person.

Campaigns/Projects including: Borrowed Time; Joy In Enough on transforming our economy; Way of Life Community; Rainforest Fund Project; LOAF.

Resources: annual **Storm of Hope** pamphlet; twice yearly **Magazine**; monthly **Prayer Guide**; free **Email Newsletter** for all; **Members' email discussion group**. **Leaflets** for use in Churches: 7Rs on reducing consumption; *Use Your LOAF*; *Nine Ways of Living Gently*; *Eco Check Up for Churches*.

Resources on Biodiversity
greenchristian.org.uk/biodiversity

Green Christian's "Rainforest Fund Project" suggests fund raising for rainforest charities, supporting World Land Trust, Cool Earth or A Rocha Ghana. Could your Church raise £100? greenchristian.org.uk/100churches

Conservation is no longer enough. To protect wildlife we also need to transform our economy. Green Christian's Joy in Enough project explores how to do just that:
joyinenough.org

Contact: Information Officer.

T: 0345 459 8460

E: info@greenchristian.org.uk

Green Christian, 48 Morrab Road, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4EX



Green Christian is a registered trading name of Christian Ecology Link.
Charity No. 328744 Company No. 2445198. © 2022 Green Christian

Biodiversity Protecting Wildlife



Jesus gave us two clear commandments: to love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Our neighbours may be understood as living everywhere on Earth, both now and in the future: humans, animals, birds, insects, sea creatures and plants. What does this mean for the wildlife with which we share our home?

Let's act in hope, courage and wisdom for the love of our fellow creatures and for the future of the planet.

 **GreenChristian**
Responding to the Cry of the Earth

The Bible says...

God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the Earth across the expanse of the sky" (Genesis 1:20).

"For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine" (Psalm 50:10-11).

"Praise the Lord from the Earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the Earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on Earth" (Psalm 148:7-12).

Solomon spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 4:33-34).

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God (Luke 12:6).

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in him, and through Him to reconcile to God all things, whether things on Earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:19-20).

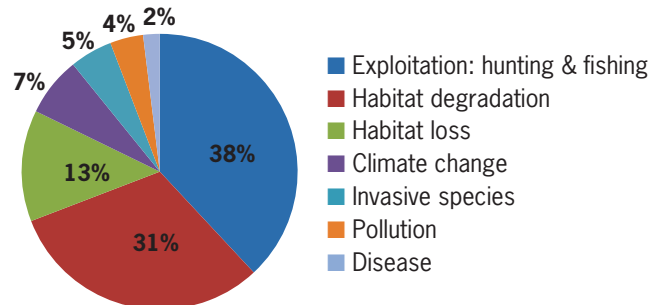


Science says...

- At least 680 vertebrate species (animals, birds and fish) have been driven to extinction by humans since the 16th century. **One million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction**, many within decades. And the rate of species extinctions is accelerating. *
- Wildlife populations have plummeted by 68% since 1970.** **
- Around a third of the Earth's forested area has been lost** since the start of the industrial revolution. Forests are home to millions of species.



Other causes of extinction



Causes of wildlife decline globally

The climate crisis, with weather systems breaking down, will cause extinction rates to rise more quickly. Even a small temperature rise causes habitats to change and species to be under stress or to die. Other causes of extinction are over-exploitation of natural resources – fishing, farming, forests – and pollution in water, air and land.



* Global Assessment Study, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services, May 2019.

** See WWF's Living Planet Index for the latest figures on global biological diversity.

Making a Difference ...

...at home and at church. Tick any actions you will try.

- Pray for Creation, and for the children and adults who courageously protect it from people in power when they cause harm. Choose hymns and write sermons that include Creation.
- Campaign, write to MPs or supermarkets, sign petitions and join marches. Follow "green" groups on social media. Support conservation charities.
- Ensure your savings, and those of your Church, are ethically invested and are not destroying wildlife.
- Make your garden and churchyard wildlife-friendly:
 - Garden organically; use peat-free compost
 - Create a pond – even a small wet area helps
 - Leave wild areas e.g. log piles and meadows
 - Allow plants to set seed for birds.
- Help people of all ages enjoy the health benefits of outdoor spaces. For example, take Sunday School children on a nature trail; hold an outdoor Church service; go for walks in all seasons; learn to identify local wildlife and plants.
- Buy less and buy ethically: look for recycled paper and sustainably produced/recycled wood products; use less plastic and fewer household chemicals; eat less meat and more plant-based food.

Conservation efforts can and do work: the extinction rate of birds, mammals and amphibians would have been at least 20% greater without conservation action in recent decades.

Some other Christian environmental organisations:

- caringforgodsacre.org.uk
- A Rocha arocha.org.uk
- Christian Rural Environmental Studies: cres.org.uk/

Gardening for wildlife

- RSPB: rspb.org.uk
- The Wildlife Trusts: wildlifetrusts.org/actions
- soilassociation.org

