

Help wildlife

N	P	Y	P	A	L	M	O	I	L
B	E	E	F	N	D	D	R	G	E
A	O	K	T	A	O	G	A	O	O
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H	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	N
T	U	N	L	I	Z	A	R	B	A
P	M	A	H	O	G	A	N	Y	P

1	Elephant	9	Fruit	17	Amazon
2	Brazil nut	10	Dodo	18	Pet
3	Leopard	11	Honey	19	Beef
4	Orang-utan	12	Moth	20	Soya
5	Bongo	13	Ginger	21	Goat
6	Monkey	14	Frog	22	Palm Oil
7	Bat	15	Ant	23	Logging
8	Mahogany	16	Ape	24	Zoo

JOIN GREEN CHRISTIAN

Send £30 standard (low income £12), £40 family/corporate to GC Membership Secretary, Flat 1, 31 St James Terrace, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6HS. Cheques payable to Green Christian. For information contact: GC, 10 Kiln Gardens, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire RG27 8RG, UK.

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Visit: greenchristian.org.uk

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10 Top Steps for Saving Wildlife

Circle, or tick any you might plan to do

1. Encourage prayers & Church services to include God's Earth and people struggling to protect bio-diversity e.g. farmers, politicians, lawyers.
2. Encourage your Church to have a fund-raising event for a habitat conservation charity in GC's 100 Churches Rainforest Fund Project. Raise £100 to save one acre of habitat under threat or buy one acre of rainforest – thus showing that respect for Creation is part of Godly living. Visit: greenchristian.org.uk/100churches.
3. Support conservation charities local, national and international.
4. Actively support their campaigns.
5. Ensure your savings are ethically invested and not invested in firms that destroy wildlife, e.g. land grabs to buy and destroy forest.
6. Manage your churchyard to benefit wildlife. Plan a Nature Trail. Carry out a GC Church Wildlife Survey.
7. Garden organically, use peat-free compost, dig a pond; leave wildlife habitats. Remove slabs of concrete. Allow plants to seed in the autumn for birds to feed. Tidy up later! Compost. Grow vegetables. Grow old, rare fruit varieties from Brogdale.
8. Play nature games at Sunday School and Messy Church. Enable old people in care to go on trips in the outdoors. Walk outdoors yourself each day.
9. Learn to identify and appreciate local wildlife.
10. Buy food that is "Wildlife friendly". Go more vegan.



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Saving Wildlife and biodiversity: part 1

“Let the Heavens rejoice, let the Earth be glad; Let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy” (Psalm 96: 11-13) yet:

Earth has lost half its wildlife in the past 40 years...

More specifically: “in less than two human generations, population sizes of vertebrate species have dropped by half” *The Living Planet Report 2014 World Wildlife Fund*. And by the 2016 Report this figure had increased to a 58% loss.

... how can we help?



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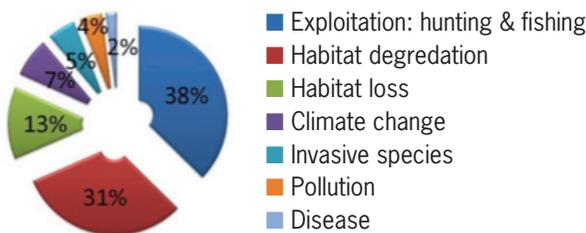
► **What is Biodiversity?**

Bio-diversity simply means the variety of life on Earth. Bio-diversity means our Life-Support Systems. For example, without bees, there would be little pollination and therefore few fruit.

Populations of wild animals are falling because of the following: (from WWF Living Planet report 2014).

Causes of wildlife decline globally

based on analysis of 3,430 populations



► **What causes species extinctions?**

(as opposed to just decrease in population size):
a) Habitat loss, b) Invasive species, c) Pollution.

► **How many species exist in the world?**

Low estimate: 12 million, but many species have not yet been discovered. Humans, other animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms all depend on each other.

► **How many species are threatened?**

Over 18,000 species are threatened with extinction (IUCN 2010): 1 in 3 amphibians, half of all freshwater turtles, 1 in 8 birds, 1 in 4 mammals, 1 in 5 plants. Extinction means the final, irrevocable disappearance of a species from the Earth. It is possible that we are facing a major extinction event.



► **What is the UK habitat loss in the last 70 years?**

Lowland peat bogs: down 95%

Lowland heathland: down 40%
Lowland wet grassland: down 60%
Species rich grassland hay meadows down 97%
Chalk downland: down 70%
Native pinewoods: down 70%

Local authorities have set up Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) to protect what is left of these habitats.



► **Plants**

Without plants, life on Earth would cease to exist. Biodiversity is not just about different species; it includes variation within species. This genetic diversity enables a species to survive in face of adversity, such as pests, disease, drought and climate change. Kew Gardens' Millennium Seed Bank Project is gathering and storing seeds from plants most at risk across the world.

Regulations restrict the sale of vegetable seeds to a few registered varieties. The Heritage Seed Library at Garden Organic exchanges UK seeds from 700 unregistered vegetables they are not allowed to sell. National fruit collections keep our genetic heritage safe: Brogdale in Kent grows 2,500 different apple varieties, plus pears, plums and soft fruit; Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate preserves the UK rhubarb collection.

► **Birds**

"The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees." (Ps. 104:16-17).

In the last 20 to 30 years the numbers of UK farmland birds have declined by 42% and woodland birds by 15%. House sparrows and starlings are in serious decline. The magpie, carrion crow and woodpigeon are on the increase.

Farmland bird loss was largely caused by: effects of pesticides on the insects eaten by birds
loss of mixed farms with their range of habitats
change to autumn-sown crops from spring-sown.

► **Other animals**

"The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers." (Ps. 104:18).

Examples of UK Extinctions since 1900:
Exploding bombardier beetle 1928;
Horned dung-beetle 1955;
Burbot (a fish) 1972;
Ivell's sea-anemone 1983 (now globally extinct);
Mouse-eared bat 1990;
Essex emerald moth 1991.

World Extinctions since 1900:

Passenger Pigeon 1914;
Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine) 1936;
Caribbean Monk Seal 1952;
Golden Toad 1966;
Javan Tiger c1980;
Tecopa Pupfish 1973;
Pyrenean Ibex 2000;
Baiji River Dolphin 2006;
Zanzibar Leopard 2012.



► **Sea Creatures**

"Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable." (Ps. 104:25).

We know more of the moon than we do of the deep mysterious oceans. Industrial fishing and fish farming are increasing. Fish stocks are plummeting, coral reefs are being destroyed by pollution, dynamite fishing, tourism and souvenir hunters. Non government organisations and campaigning groups have battled long and hard to protect large sea mammals.



► **See the 'Part 2' Leaflet for:**

(a) Examples of biblical quotes of interest
(b) Details of the Rainforest Fund.

Write here actions you plan to do to help wildlife/plants:-

1.
2.