

Word Search

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
T	N	N	D	D	P	I	N	R	P
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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	13	Ginger
2	Brazil nut	14	Frog
3	Leopard	15	Ant
4	Orangutan	16	Ape
5	Bongo	17	Amazon
6	Monkey	18	Congo
7	Bat	19	Beef
8	Mahogany	20	Soya
9	Fruit	21	Goat
10	Dodo	22	Palm Oil
11	Honey	23	Logging
12	Moth	24	Zoo



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 1/2 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 – WWF

.... how can we help?

.. read more

JOIN GREEN CHRISTIAN

Send £30 standard (low income £12), £40 family/corporate to GC Membership Secretary, Flat 1, 31 St James Terrace, Buxton SK17 6HS. Cheques payable to Green Christian.



For more information contact: GC, 97 Plumpton Avenue, London RM12 6BB, Tel: 0845 459 8460, infor@greenchristian.org.uk

You are welcome to photocopy this leaflet if you acknowledge GC. (November 2014).

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Write here actions you plan to do to help save wild animals and plants and their homes for future generations:

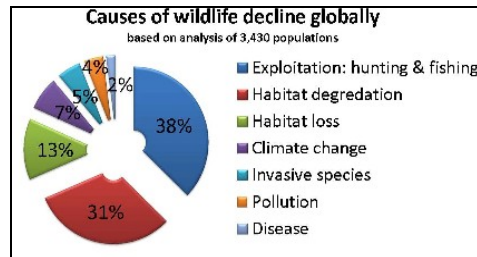
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See also 'Part 2 Leaflet – Why does saving wildlife matter to Christians?'



'Earth has lost half its wildlife in the past 40 years' says WWF in its Living Planet Report



• What is Biodiversity?

Bio-diversity simply means the **variety of life on earth**. Bio-diversity means our **Life-Support Systems**. e.g without bees, there would be little pollination and therefore few fruit.

• How many species exist in the world?

Low estimates suggest 12 million, but many have not yet been discovered. Humans and 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, ½ 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 are the main causes of species extinctions?

- Habitat loss and degradation,
- Invasive species and
- Pollution.

• What is the UK habitat loss in the last 60 years?

Lowland peat bogs: down 95%
Lowland wet grassland: down 60%
Chalk downland: down 70%
Lowland heathland: down 40%
Species rich hay meadows down 97%
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.

• 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. NGOs and campaigning groups have battled long and hard to protect large sea mammals.

• 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 20-30 years the numbers of UK farmland birds have declined by 42% and woodland birds by 15%. House sparrows and starlings are in serious decline. Others like the magpie, carrion crow and woodpigeon are on the increase. The loss of farmland birds 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)

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 Rover Dolphin 2006; Zanzibar Leopard 2012



See 'Part 2 Leaflet with more examples of biblical quotes

Ten Top Practical Steps: Circle, or tick any you might plan to do.

- Encourage prayers & church services to include God's earth, & people struggling to protect bio-diversity e.g farmers, politicians, lawyers .
- 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 1 acre of habitat under threat or buy 1 acre of rainforest. Thus you will be both helping Nature Conservation; and showing others that Christians care about conservation, that respect for Creation is part of Godly living www.greenchristian.org.uk/100churches
- Support conservation charities** local, national and international, and **actively support their campaigns**.
- Manage your churchyard** to benefit wildlife. Plan a Nature Trail in your churchyard. Take part in the GC Church Wildlife Survey
- Ensure any savings** are not invested in firms destroying wildlife, e.g. land grabs to buy and destroy forest.
- Grow old, rare fruit varieties** from Brogdale
- Garden organically**, use peat-free compost, dig a pond and leave wildlife habitats. Remove slabs or concrete and let life live. Allow plants to seed in the autumn so birds can feed on them. Tidy up later! Compost. Grow vegetables.
- Play nature games** with Sunday School & Messy Church. Enable old people in care to go on trips in the outdoors. Walk outdoors yourself each day.
- Learn to identify local wildlife**.
- Buy food** that is 'Wildlife friendly'. Go more vegan.