



Care for Creation

GREEN TEAM

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

Pope Francis' Call for **BIODIVERSITY**

The sixth great extinction?

Monthly Meeting **May 19th**, 2022, **6:00pm - 7:00pm** [ZOOM-Link](#)

Dial in: 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) Meeting ID: 861 8157 4570

Loss of Biodiversity ([LS 32-42](#))

Pope Francis notes in **Laudato Si'** 32, that the “loss of forests and woodlands entails the loss of species which may constitute extremely important resources in the future, not only for food but also for curing disease and other uses”. Indeed, a critical issue to really appreciate the magnitude of the current extinction crisis is the understanding that the knowledge of the diversity of life on Earth is very limited. So, the call from Pope Francis to take care of Mother Earth could not be more opportune.

At the eve of [the International Endangered Species Day](#), celebrated the third Friday in May each year, with a focus on endangered species, we'll gather and talk and learn about Pope Francis' call for Biodiversity.

According to a recent [UN report](#), biodiversity is decreasing on Earth potentially hundreds of times faster than the average rate over the past 10 million years. And, of those sufficiently studied, more than 25% of living species on Earth today are either facing extinction now or at risk of facing extinction in the near future. That's one-in-four species that make up our world.

What Can We Do?

[Sign the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition](#)

Biodiversity Quiz



1 **Volunteer** with endangered species conservation organizations; for ideas visit the ESC Member Directory.

2 **Reduce** your carbon footprint: use less plastic. Walk, bike, bus. Eat less meat. Advocate for climate change education and carbon reduction policies.

3 **Protect** ecosystems and habitat: support laws creating open space, wildlife crossings and corridors, and other protections.

4 **Report** harassment and cruelty toward animals; threatened/endangered species are protected from these illegal actions.

5 **Garden** without pesticides and herbicides: toxic chemicals can accumulate, migrate up the food chain, harming and killing a range of species.

6 **Plant** native plant species: cultivate native, regionally appropriate plant species, creating habitat for pollinators and other species.

7 **Never** buy products made from or threatened/endangered animals or live animals and plants. Help end illegal species trade.

8 **Travel** compassionately: don't participate in activities exploiting threatened/endangered species, such as animal selfies, animal rides, or trophy hunting.

9 **Choose** alternatives to single use plastic: reusable bags, utensils, straws, and packaging; advocate for increased recycling and measures like plastic bag bans.

CONSERVATION

We get to know the [National Geographic's free online Conservation Courses](#)

[Biodiversity Day May 22 2022](#) and [Message from the Executive Secretary](#)

Dig Deeper: The Road to Cop15: A Laudato Si' inspired Biodiversity Webinar event with Cardinal Peter Turkson and invited guest Dr. Jane Goodall. [Video](#). [Gist](#)

[Pope Francis: Don't throw plastic in the sea!](#) (By Linda Bordoni)

<https://greentumble.com/10-ways-to-conserve-biodiversity/>

<https://www.slader.com/discussion/question/what-are-the-major-factors-affecting-biodiversity-today-which-one-currently-has-the-greatest-overall-effect-how-is-climate-change-different-6b58e7fb/>

<https://enviroliteracy.org/ecosystems/value-of-biodiversity/>

<https://www.aboutbioscience.org/topics/biodiversity/>

<https://www.globalissues.org/article/170/why-is-biodiversity-important-who-cares>