



## 22 Actions for Biodiversity

During the 2022 [Biodiversity Day](#) campaign, lists of 22 actions for biodiversity will be released gradually for various audiences to inspire action for nature. The actions are aligned with the post-2020 [global biodiversity framework](#). The public is called to:

- Adopt any of the 22 actions or propose their own actions or lists
- Share photos/videos of their action(s) on social media with the hashtag [#BiodiversityDay](#) ([available in other languages](#))
- In the run-up to 22 May, the campaign will showcase these actions taking place around the world.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Biodiversity Day 2022 is commemorated mainly through online campaigns to ensure safety of all participants. You are in the best position to know what awareness-raising campaigns and calls to action are feasible at your national level considering local conditions, the COVID context and related restrictions.

The lists of 22 actions for biodiversity are not exhaustive. Examples are given for online and in-person actions. We acknowledge that some actions may not be feasible in certain countries or communities. The actions suggested in the lists are meant to mobilize action for biodiversity and to create engagement and participation in the [Biodiversity Day](#) campaign. They are by no means exhaustive or fully representative of all the possible actions that can be taken around the globe. We apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this could cause. We look forward to your feedback. Please [contact us](#) for any comments and suggestions to rectify any inconsistencies. More importantly, we invite you to create your own lists of 22 actions for biodiversity, which will be more representative of your work and adapted to your field of interest.

21 of the actions are aligned (but not identical) with the post-2020 [global biodiversity framework](#) to be adopted at the [United Nations Biodiversity Conference \(COP15\)](#). Through these actions, every person can play a role in achieving the targets set in the framework. The 22<sup>nd</sup> action is to celebrate [Biodiversity Day](#).

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## 22 Actions for Biodiversity

### Actions by Environmental Peacebuilders

Courtesy of the *Ecosystem for Peace*.

These actions are intended for peacebuilders, environmental policymakers, security stakeholders, and others striving to be peace- and nature-positive.

#### 1. **Recognize interactions between biodiversity, nature, peace, and security**

Since the mid-twentieth century, [at least 40 per cent](#) of all intrastate conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources. There are inextricable links between [SDG 15: Life on Land](#) and [SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#).

#### 2. **Prioritize equitable, inclusive decision making from the start when acting on biodiversity**

Establishing dialogues and partnerships at a much earlier stage could lead to [better policies and greater acceptance](#) — and fewer resources being wasted on developing flawed ideas.

#### 3. **View post-conflict peacebuilding as a potential opportunity to support biodiversity**

As a shared resource and value, nature can strengthen bonds and common understanding. Nature-positive activities can also [employ conflict-affected individuals](#) (e.g. ex-combatants or refugees), alleviating economic tensions and providing incentives for sustained peace.

#### 4. **View biodiversity-positive activities as a potential opportunity to support peacebuilding**

With the right approach, cooperation in the management of natural resources can offer countries recovering from violent conflict an opportunity to achieve stability and trust while re-building livelihoods and economies. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Korea Forest Service (KFS) [Peace Forest Initiative](#) is an example of this.

#### 5. **Recognize the impact of conflict on biodiversity**

Many of the world's conflict zones are in places where biodiversity is highest and already threatened. Between 1950 and 2000, [81% of conflicts](#) took place wholly or partially within biodiversity hotspots. Conflict economies also impact heavily on the environment and can involve illicit uses of endangered species. Persistent conflict can undermine good governance, enabling [harmful socio-ecological feedback loops](#). Effective conservation cannot happen without peace.

#### 6. **Ensure action to preserve biodiversity is just and conflict-sensitive**

Biodiversity-positive action that dispossesses or displaces communities, reinforces historical injustices or disregards their deeply felt opposition, can invite conflict. We must think about the wider impacts and indirect consequences of policies. Persistent injustices and social inequalities must be reconciled. [Conflict-sensitivity](#) and peace and conflict impact assessments in project planning and monitoring and evaluation can reduce these risks while enhancing peacebuilding opportunities. Ideally, biodiversity interventions should seek to be conflict transformative.

#### 7. **Integrate environmental and climate security action**

Environmental security programming can identify, prioritize, and act on biodiversity and nature loss that would otherwise have the potential to generate conflict drivers. Biodiversity and climate change interact - for instance, climate migration can strain natural resources and biodiversity, contributing to [conflicts between migrants and host communities](#). Alternatively, migrant communities should be included in resilience-enhancing programs.

## 8. **Adopt appropriate interdisciplinary metrics**

Redefining our relationships with nature and peace will require us to take [new targets and metrics](#) into account. Some examples could include the number of peacebuilding organizations involved in or incorporating biodiversity programming, or the degree of biodiversity loss due to conflict or unrest.

## 9. **Respect and protect Indigenous and local knowledge systems**

- Differences between scientific and Indigenous worldviews continue to [create barriers to meaningful collaboration](#), as does the widespread assumption that science is superior to other knowledge systems. Conflict and civil unrest or displacement can hinder cultural practices that preserve and transmit Indigenous and local knowledge. Indigenous and local knowledge, including the cultural systems that sustain them, need to be protected and integrated in biodiversity or peacebuilding initiatives.

## 10. **Elevate Indigenous voices**

Despite being the guardians of most of the world's critical ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots, Indigenous voices are often left out of or not equitably included in conservation or natural resource governance. Resource management systems should be reworked to [prioritize Indigenous voices](#), building inclusiveness, respecting self-determination and addressing potential conflict drivers. This includes supporting, rather than displacing, existing systems of Indigenous conservation and respecting Indigenous territories as no-go zones in armed conflict.

## 11. **Protect the rights and lives of environmental defenders whenever possible**

More than [2,500 conflicts](#) over natural resources are currently occurring across the planet, and [at least 1,000 environmental activists and journalists](#) were killed between 2002 and 2013.

## 12. Include women and young people in decisions and action

The people and communities affected by policies and projects that impact biodiversity must be [authors and actors, not merely the subjects](#), of such activities. Women and young people offer unique perspectives, knowledge and skills that could benefit and improve biodiversity protection and peacebuilding.

## 13. Improve land use and marine governance

Nature and soil degradation, combined with climate change, threaten agriculture and pastoralism or other resource-based livelihoods. [Over three billion people](#) depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. Biodiversity loss can destabilize the green and blue ecosystems that are essential to our economies and food systems, a potential driver of conflict.

## 14. Bridge disciplinary silos and consider the ecosystem of actors impacting biodiversity

- Biodiversity is inherently complex and transects social sectors. Acting effectively on the nature-peace nexus requires collective, coordinated efforts by a range of stakeholders with varying expertise, cultures of practice and data access. Bridging these differences through dialogue and habitual engagement is essential to harmonizing biodiversity actions.

## 15. Confront and disassemble divisions between people and nature

Action to both protect biodiversity and build peace should adopt a more-than-human approach. By accommodating relations between humans and other species, nature-based solutions can be [more equitable and effective](#).



## **16. Support policies, programs, and regulatory measures that value and foster socioeconomic co-benefits of biodiversity and nature**

Our current economic and financial metrics fail to adequately value how integral nature is to communities. [Half of the world's GDP](#) is moderately or highly dependent on nature. Valuing the peace and sustainable development co-benefits of biodiversity can catalyze biodiversity-positive public and private finance.

## **17. Redirect harmful spending towards biodiversity and peace positive investments**

[More than two trillion USD](#) is allocated annually to military spending. [About 1.8 trillion USD](#) is spent each year on environmentally harmful subsidies for fossil fuels, agriculture, water, forestry, and other activities. Such government spending should be critically assessed and, whenever possible, reallocated to activities that positively impact biodiversity and peace. Similar incentives should be created and strengthened in the private sector.

## **18. Explore opportunities for transboundary cooperation**

Transboundary protected areas (of which there are [currently 200+ worldwide](#)) can be developed through negotiation processes that emphasize common interests and solidify collaborative frameworks to bring adversarial parties together. This can both build peace and mutual recognition of the value of ecosystem services. These initiatives are most effective when facilitated from the ground-up, rather than top-down.

## **19. Build collaborative, coherent information-sharing networks and hubs**

Information-sharing can enable early-warning and quick response, as well as monitoring and adaptive management, for both sudden and slow-onset events. [Citizen scientists and local community monitoring](#) input is key to tracking and governing biodiversity. Peacebuilders are often in touch with communities on the ground, enabling them to serve as a conduit for both aggregating and disseminating relevant biodiversity information.

## 20. Integrate planning, preparation, mitigation, management and adaptation at the land and seascape scales

Investing in such mechanisms can enhance the short and long-term resilience of people and all other species to both environmental change and conflict.

## 21. Engage biodiversity and peace and security stakeholders in bridge-building training

Biodiversity and conservation actors should be aware of conflict resolution and transformation best practices; peacebuilders should undertake training in environmental sensitivity.

## 22. Celebrate Biodiversity Day

- 22 May is Biodiversity Day! Share this list with your colleagues, network, and friends. Participate in celebrations that are happening in your country or organize an activity to get others involved. Find out more at [www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day](http://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day). Anyone can organize activities!

*Propose your own list of 22 actions for biodiversity >*

#BiodiversityDay

#COP15

#ForNature

#EcosystemofPeace

#ClimateFinanceforPeace

### Helpful Resources

- [The Missing Piece: Making Sustainable Development Work](#)
- [A White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding: Nurturing an Ecosystem for Peace](#)
- [Making Peace With Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies](#)
- [The Nature of Conflict and Peace: The links between environment, security and peace and their importance for the United Nations](#)

*The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the list authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of [Ecosystem for Peace](#) or their Partners.*