



UN Statement on Biodiversity

April 2019

Link to Biodiversity Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA3xNMJnFuo>

Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history

the rate of species extinctions is accelerating

with grave impacts on people around the world now likely

What are some of the major factors to cause this decline?

According to the UN Report

- Changes in Land and Sea use
- Direct exploitation of organisms
- Climate Change
- Pollution
- Invasive alien species



So, what has this got to do with religion and belief?

Genesis 1

26. Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

29. Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

30. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.”

William Penn, 1693 (Quaker)

It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?



So let's take a look at
one of the problems
affecting biodiversity:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Dalai Lama:

Today, more than ever before, life must be characterized by a sense of Universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life.

Ban Ki Moon:

There's no plan B for action as there is no Planet B.

Desmond
Tutu:

Climate Change is the Human Rights Challenge of
Our Time

Pope Francis:

Science and religion are not at odds on climate change.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 global goals set by the United Nations
General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good Health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- Reducing Inequality
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action**
- Life Below Water**
- Life On Land**
- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Partnerships for the Goals

Many Faiths made
statements for the
Climate Change
Conference in Paris in
2015

Sikh

Through His teachings, our first guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, explained that the world we humans create around ourselves is a reflection of our own inner state. So as we look around to our wasteful and polluting practices, we obtain an insight into the chaos within us.

<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/religious-statements-on-climate-change/first-sikh-statement-climate-change/>

Hindu

Climate change creates pain, suffering, and violence. Unless we change how we use energy, how we use the land, how we grow our crops, how we treat other animals, and how we use natural resources, we will only further this pain, suffering, and violence. On a personal basis, we can reduce this suffering by beginning to transform our habits, simplifying our lives and material desires, and not taking more than our reasonable share of resources.

<http://www.hinduclimatedeclaration2015.org/>

Buddhist

We have a brief window of opportunity to take action, to preserve humanity from imminent disaster and to assist the survival of the many diverse and beautiful forms of life on Earth. Future generations, and the other species that share the biosphere with us, have no voice to ask for our compassion, wisdom, and leadership. We must listen to their silence. We must be their voice, too, and act on their behalf.

[http://fore.yale.edu/files/Buddhist Climate Change Statement 5-14-15.pdf](http://fore.yale.edu/files/Buddhist%20Climate%20Change%20Statement%205-14-15.pdf)

Islamic

A clean energy, sustainable future for everyone ultimately rests on a fundamental shift in the understanding of how we value the environment and each other. Islam's teachings, which emphasize the duty of humans as stewards of the Earth and the teacher's role as an appointed guide to correct behaviour, provide guidance to take the right action on climate change.

<http://www.ifees.org.uk/declaration/>

Bahá'í

Identifying the spiritual principles at the root of ecological challenges can also be key in formulating effective action. Principles— that humanity constitutes but a single people, for example, or that justice demands universal participation in the work of sustainable development – reflect the rich complexity of human nature. Just as importantly, they help foster the will and the aspiration needed to facilitate the implementation of pragmatic measures.

<https://www.bic.org/statements/shared-vision-shared-volition-choosing-our-global-future-together#R6qsM7ezQYimqIBe.97>

More statements can be found at

<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/religious-statements-on-climate-change/>

So what can we
do?





BUY

Make

THRIFT

SWAP

BORROW

USE WHAT YOU HAVE

From the Lazy Person's Guide to saving the World – Things you can do at home

- Air dry. Let your hair and clothes dry naturally instead of running a machine. If you do wash your clothes, make sure the load is full.
- Take short showers. Bathtubs require gallons more water than a 5-10 minute shower.
- Eat less meat, poultry, and fish. More resources are used to provide meat than plants
- Freeze fresh produce and leftovers if you don't have the chance to eat them before they go bad. You can also do this with take-away or delivered food, if you know you will not feel like eating it the next day.
- Compost—composting food scraps can reduce climate impact while also recycling nutrients.
- Recycling paper, plastic, glass & aluminium keeps landfills from growing.
- Buy minimally packaged goods.
- Avoid pre-heating the oven. Unless you need a precise baking temperature, start heating your food right when you turn on the oven.
- Plug air leaks in windows and doors to increase energy efficiency
- Adjust your thermostat, lower in winter, higher in summer
- Replace old appliances with energy efficient models and light bulbs
- If you have the option, install solar panels in your house. This will also reduce your electricity bill!
- Get a rug. Carpets and rugs keep your house warm and your thermostat low.
- Don't rinse. If you use a dishwasher, stop rinsing your plates before you run the machine.

From the Lazy Person's Guide to saving the World – Things you can do at outside

- Shop local. Supporting neighbourhood businesses keeps people employed and helps prevent trucks from driving far distances.
- Shop Smart—plan meals, use shopping lists and avoid impulse buys. Don't succumb to marketing tricks that lead you to buy more food than you need, particularly for perishable items.
- Buy Funny Fruit—many fruits and vegetables are thrown out because their size, shape, or color are not “right”. Buying these perfectly good funny fruit, at the farmer's market or elsewhere, utilizes food that might otherwise go to waste.
- When you go to a restaurant and are ordering seafood always ask: “Do you serve sustainable seafood?” Let your favourite businesses know that ocean-friendly seafood is on your shopping list.
- Shop only for sustainable seafood. There are now many apps like this one that will tell you what is safe to consume.
- Bike, walk or take public transport. Save the car trips for when you've got a big group.
- Use a refillable water bottle and coffee cup. Cut down on waste and maybe even save money at the coffee shop.
- Bring your own bag when you shop.
- Take fewer napkins. You don't need a handful of napkins to eat your takeout. Take just what you need.
- Shop vintage. Brand-new isn't necessarily best. See what you can repurpose from second-hand shops.
- Maintain your car. A well-tuned car will emit fewer toxic fumes.
- Donate what you don't use. Local charities will give your gently used clothes, books and furniture a new life.