



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 22nd action is to celebrate [Biodiversity Day](#).

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22 Actions for Biodiversity

Actions that anyone can do

1. Clean up an area around you

- Remotely: You can support an NGO (or other) who is already doing this, either through a donation or volunteering your time online. If you have a talent for engineering or you are just very creative, inventive and resourceful, you could build a robot or an app that can help clean up the environment!
- In-person: clean up your neighbourhood, park, forest, beach, riverside, or even just your street (so that plastics/waste do not drift into rivers or are not eaten by animals). Make your environment pleasant to live in.
- Bonus points: Identify biodiversity hotspots near you and take extra steps to protect them. Get your community involved in protecting these hotspots.

2. Restore an area, near or far

- Remotely: Join a restoration project either through a donation or volunteering your time online. The projects could be in your locality, but could also operate in a different area.
- In-person: Restore an abandoned/poorly maintained area by planting native trees, shrubs or other plants. Create habitat for wildlife around your home, school, work, etc.
- Expert level: Decontaminate soil. One way of doing this is by using microorganisms that degrade organic pollutants and detoxify inorganic compounds.

3. Take pictures not samples

- When going into nature, don't disturb/damage it and don't collect samples. Instead take pictures and join our Instagram [@UNBiodiversity](#) community . Perhaps you could even do a takeover of our account!

4. Help animals, big and small

- Remotely: Support wildlife shelters and rehabilitation centres by offering your time or financial support.
- In-person: If you see an animal in distress, call your nearest animal shelter. You can also help animals that are stranded (from whales on the beach to earthworms on the sidewalk).

5. Prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases

- Ensure that water sources around you are clean and that waste is removed from your surroundings and ecosystems.
- Avoid encroaching into biodiversity-rich areas and wilderness.
- Wash hands after contact with animals.

6. Plant (native) trees, shrubs and plants

- This action is among others to counter the effects of Invasive Alien Species.
- Remotely: Support NGOs or projects that eradicate Invasive Alien Species by volunteering online or with financial contributions.
- In-person: By planting native, pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs and plants you increase habitat and food sources for your local fauna.
- Do not release pets into the wild (do not buy non-native pets in the first place).
- Expert level: Learn which alien species are invasive in your area and find ways to eradicate them.

7. Consume responsibly

- Prioritize buying products/foods that:
 - are (locally) produced without harming the environment and human health.
 - use less or no packaging, and less processing/chemicals. This is also healthier for you.
 - can be composted, recycled, or reused.

- Maximally reduce your waste generation (keep in mind the waste produced to create your product).
- In-person: Cook local crops and varieties. Try new recipes together with family or friends. Many local fruits, vegetables and old grains are often forgotten or underutilized despite their nutritional value and other qualities.

8. Save energy

- Turn off lights and appliances when you do not need them. You can also use less fossil fuels or consume less meat (especially from industrial farms).
- Expert level: Equip your home/office with renewable energy sources.

9. Share

- Share with others, especially those who have less. Not only your goods will be reused, but they will also help those who need them the most.
- Remotely: Donate money or goods to a charity or humanitarian aid organization in your area or abroad.
- In-person: Share with someone less fortunate in your own community.

10. Buy biodiversity-friendly products

- Learn which certification schemes apply in your country for certifying food and other products. Alternatively, search for other certifications schemes that are related to the environment. If not available, learn about the production methods/origin of your everyday foods and products and consider their impact on biodiversity.
- Expert level: If no biodiversity-related certification is available in your country, start one! Not only you will help nature, but you will also help your community by creating jobs.

11. Help someone stop smoking

- Improving the environment's health improves people's health. Take a "shortcut" and have a direct positive impact on someone's health. Make yourself available to support your friend or loved one in their wish to improve their health. This can be done remotely (phone/video call) or in-person if you live with them. Smoking is one example, but it could be anything that encourages a healthy lifestyle.

12. Enjoy urban biodiversity

- Treat yourself with a break from busy city life and take some time to enjoy a park or natural space within your neighbourhood. If there are no such spaces, create one, for example, by installing a potted plant on your window, planting a shrub, building a birdhouse, beehive, bat house or insect “hotel”, digging a pond, etc. (you can find countless ideas online).

13. Support companies committed to ethical standards

- Learn about the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing and support companies committed to ethical standards such as the [Ethical BioTrade Standard](#) or the [FairWild Standard](#), and especially companies that respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

14. Change one habit that is negative for biodiversity


- Do you use single-use items? Do you throw your cigarette butts or other non-biodegradable objects on the ground? Do you use herbicides/pesticides? Do you eat a lot of ‘industrial’ meat? Do you buy the latest technology (materials extraction and carbon emissions) when your old devices are still working? We all have at least one habit that’s bad for biodiversity.
- Expert level: Elect leaders who care about your environment or present yourself at the next election as a custodian of people and the environment!

15. Ask businesses to source responsibly

- Do you like getting your products or services from a particular business/brand, but want to make sure it’s not harmful to the environment? Ask them about their environmental impact or ask them to ensure their practices are eco-friendly.
- Expert level: If you are a business, get involved with the [Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity](#), the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) and/or other similar initiatives.

16. Minimize waste

- Reduce unnecessary consumption (ask yourself “do I really need this?”), reuse what you can (or give it to someone else), otherwise



recycle/compost the product or its components to reduce as much as possible the waste produced. Also keep in mind the waste that was generated for making this product, including its carbon footprint.

- Grow your own food. Many crops and herbs are easy to grow. You will not only save money but also reduce your carbon footprint.
- Expert level: If you are a business/producer/supplier, educate your customers about greener alternatives.

17. Learn about biosafety

- Biosafety is about the safe use of living modified organisms (LMOs), also known as genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The main objective of the [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#) is the safe handling, transport and use of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biodiversity, taking also into account risks to human health. Visit the [Biosafety Clearing-House](#) for more information on the potential risks of LMOs through risk assessment documents.

18. Support biodiversity-friendly companies

- Put your money where your beliefs are. Invest in biodiversity-friendly companies, divest in companies that are harming nature (and tell them). Here are some links to get you started: [Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity](#), [Act4Nature](#), [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#), etc.
- Support small local farms and their efforts to conserve biodiversity. Buy seasonal produce at your local organic farmers' market.

19. Support environmental organizations

- Online or in-person, support NGOs and other organizations that work to preserve/restore the environment and/or help people through donations, volunteering and by participating in their activities.

20. Raise biodiversity awareness

- Learn about nature and biodiversity-friendly practises, and share your knowledge with family, friends, neighbours, community, etc. Make them [fall in love with nature!](#)
- Expert level: [Promote pro-biodiversity behaviours](#) by acknowledging that different people have different values and, therefore, different approaches are needed to reach different audiences.

21. Empower someone

- Often the decisions we take affect others. Hear what they have to say about it. Their perspective may give you a better view of the situation and the potential consequences of your decision.

22. Celebrate Biodiversity Day

- 22 May is Biodiversity Day! 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. Anyone can organize activities!

#BiodiversityDay

#COP15

#ForNature