



# Window on Social Justice

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Article 44, December 2019

## The importance of biodiversity

In our last "Window on Social Justice" article, we reflected on the declining state of nature which brings along with it a serious reduction in biodiversity. This edition follows up with a deeper look at biodiversity. What is biodiversity? Why conserve it? And what can we do to protect it?

Biodiversity is the totality of all living beings on Earth. We call biodiversity the variety of life, the totality of all living species. All of these species, including human species, depend on each other for survival. This means that when a species is threatened or in danger of extinction, the survival of other species, who depend on them, is also threatened. For human beings, losing biodiversity means losing millions of years of reproduction and evolution on earth. And it also means losing resources of edible animal products. For example, if we over fish a species, the immature fish never reach the adult phase and the species may come under threat.

What can we do to protect biodiversity? When we think of biodiversity we often believe we are powerless and that our actions are unable to change the course of events... and yet, "little streams make big rivers"! Be assured that we are not the only ones who want to save biodiversity, it is just the opposite. Today there are millions of people throughout the world who are taking simple steps each day, in their own way, making a real difference.

Here are a few suggestions for concrete actions, simple things to help preserve our planet. Keep foremost in mind that each new day provides an opportunity to do better than the day before.

- Save water
- Consume less and more wisely (do something nice for someone instead of giving a gift)
- Reduce the amount of garbage (watch out for Christmas giftwrap)
- Recycle **everything** that is recyclable
- Plan your outings and your purchases so that you aren't tempted
- Share with those who have less than you do
- Be grateful for what you have and know how to say thank you.

Protecting biodiversity means protecting the environment and all that lives, especially human beings.

Reconciliation with nature is necessary for reconciliation with ourselves.

Have a good Advent!

#### **Did you know:**

- The Amazon plays a key role in regulating the world's climate.
- 23% of birds and 25% of fish are among the species that will be threatened in the coming decades.
- 50% of forests have been lost since 1990.
- Greenhouse gas has doubled since 1980.

#### **Sources:**

- Biodiversity – Vikidia
- Infographie – All the statistics on biodiversity
- Tendua – Association for the preservation of biodiversity
- Protect diversity – Ontario.ca

#### ***Attention!***

- ***It would be good to check out and see if your Green Plan still exists in your community. It would be good to read it once in a while.***
- ***Development and Peace – Be on the lookout for documentation coming out of your parishes and be familiar with it so that you can be more involved.***
- ***Reread the Chapter Orientations on ecology.***

***SSCJ Social Justice Committee (Canada)***