Religions *for* Peace
UNITED KINGDOM



WHAT'S UP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT?

CHALLENGES | ACTIONS | YOU

We all cower in front of "Environmental Problems." They push us into a corner:

WHERE DO I BEGIN?
WHAT DO I DO?

To stop ourselves reeling from the enormity of it all: the complexity of the sciences, the hustling politics, the resource-strapped conditions we all face, Religions for Peace UK ran an online campaign featuring environmental days, bringing the challenge from all corners, how UK & international organisations are working to improve conditions, and actions we can take to bring positive impact.

This resource puts it all in one place for you.

RfPUK's chosen default action whenever we encounter environmental issues during this campaign was to advance the rewilding of Scotland.

Trees for Peace

FACE THE CHALLENGES.
SEE WHO IS DOING WHAT ABOUT WHICH.
CONSIDER THE ACTIONS WE SUGGEST.

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental observance days offer an opportunity not only to learn about specific issues but also to reflect on the complexity of the challenges we face. Many of the pressures driving climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are consequences from the way societies function and the choices we make every day, from the products we buy, how we heat our homes, or use land and water. Often we do not realise how these simple decisions can accumulate and shape the wider natural world, influencing ecosystems, community wellbeing and the foundations of a peaceful society.

This resource of observance days aims to raise awareness in a clear, meaningful and accessible way. Each entry highlights a different environemntalheme, along with organisations actively working on the ground. By showing the real work being done and offering simple actions individuals can take, the aim is to inspire people to participate rather than feel overwhelmed. Small actions matter. They can shift habits, change expectations, and contribute to collective progress.

During th online campaign, our default action was to donate five trees to **our grove** managed by **Trees for Life** in the Scottish Highlands. This act captures the central idea behind the project: every contribution counts. Taking even one practical step can strengthen a sense of responsibility, foster hope and cultivate connection with the natural world.
Trees for Life, which manages our Trees for Peace grove in Scotland, is dedicated to restoring the Caledonian Forest, once covering much of the Highlands. The charity works to re-establish native woodland, connect fragmented habitats, support species recovery, and rewild landscapes for future generations. Their projects include large-scale tree planting, propagating native species, landscape-scale habitat restoration and reintroductions, undertaken with volunteers, communities and conservation partners *(Trees for Life)*.



The growth of a single grove illustrates how individual and collective action can repair ecosystems that have been degraded for centuries. It also demonstrates how environmental restoration supports community wellbeing: healthy ecosystems regulate climate, improve water and soil quality, support livelihoods and provide spaces for recreation, learning and cultural identity.

This interdependence is central to the relationship between the environment and peace. Ecological degradation can deepen inequality, fuel displacement, heighten competition for land and water, and undermine stability. Conversely, protecting and restoring nature supports peaceful societies by strengthening resilience, improving health and securing livelihoods. When communities share access to clean water, fertile soils and functioning ecosystems, the foundations for cooperation and trust grow stronger.

By sharing these observance days, we hope to encourage deeper reflection, recognising that environmental challenges are intertwined with social justice, community welfare and peace. Understanding these connections can motivate informed choices and practical action.

Ultimately, this is our common home. Caring for it requires many small steps, taken by many people. Through greater awareness, thoughtful decisions and collective effort, it is possible to build a healthier environment and a more peaceful future for all.

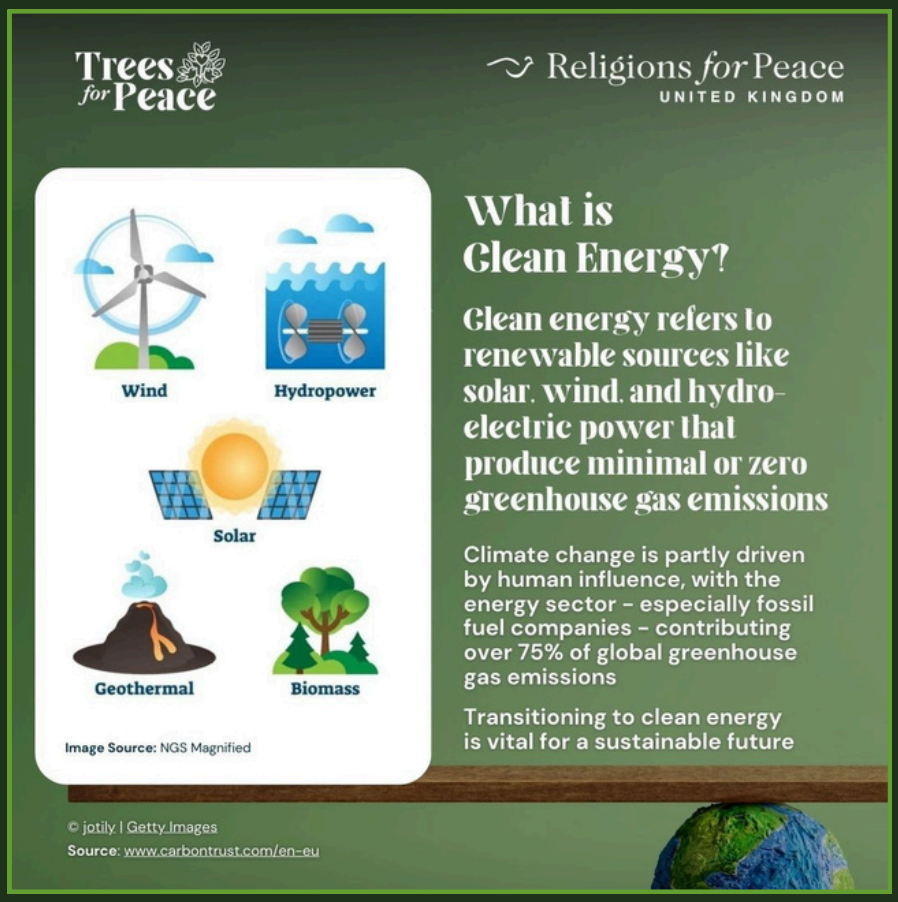


The **International Day of Clean Energy**, observed each year on **26 January**, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2023. The day promotes awareness and practical action towards a just and inclusive transition to clean, reliable, and affordable energy. It supports global efforts to expand the share of renewables by 2030 and contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy (*United Nations*).



The date coincides with the founding anniversary of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), reflecting the growing recognition of renewable energy as a cornerstone of climate action *(Bimcal)*.

Clean Energy refers to renewable sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectricity, and other technologies that generate minimal or no greenhouse-gas emissions *(MIT Climate Portal, 2024)*. By contrast, the global energy system is dominated by fossil fuels and are responsible for about 75% of greenhouse-gas emissions contributing to climate change *(United Nations)*, as well as nearly 90% of carbon dioxide emissions *(Climate Action Network International, 2023)*.



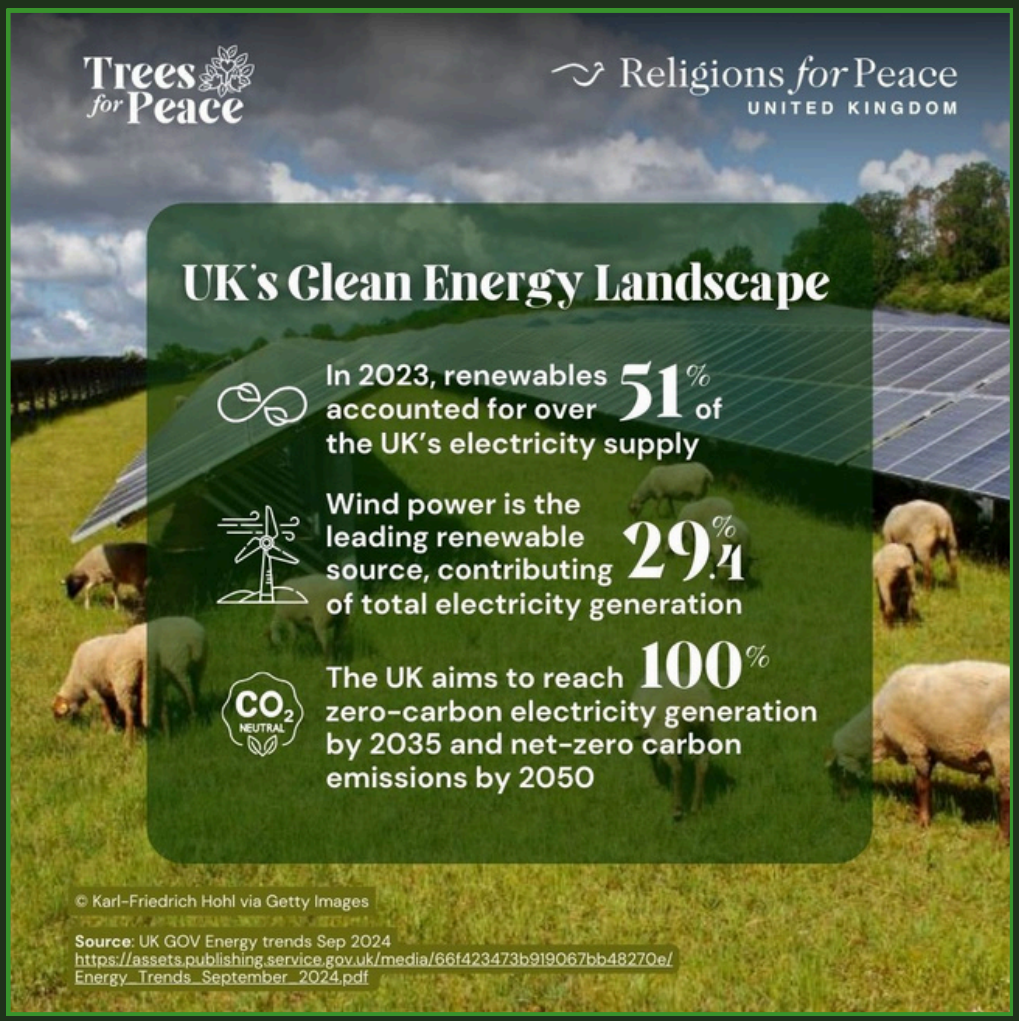
Energy has also created profound social and economic inequalities. Around 675 million people still lack access to reliable electricity, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Without accelerated progress, 1 in 4 people could still be using unsafe cooking systems by 2030, with significant consequences for health, education, and economic opportunity *(United Nations)*.

Renewable energy sources are abundant, widely available, and increasingly cost-effective. Solar power costs fell by 85% between 2010 and 2020, while the cost of wind power dropped by more than half. Renewables are now the cheapest option for new electricity generation in most regions, and IRENA estimates that renewables could provide 90% of the world's electricity by 2050 (*International Renewable Energy Agency IRENA; Carbon Trust).*

The International Renewable Energy Agency emphasises that renewable energy, combined with energy efficiency, digitalisation, and smart electrification, forms the backbone of a resilient future energy system *(IRENA)*. These technologies can unlock substantial economic opportunities, from lowering system costs to reducing vulnerability to fossil-fuel market fluctuations. Meanwhile, the Carbon Trust highlights how clean energy and net-zero strategies contribute to long-term economic resilience and lower environmental impact for businesses and governments *(Carbon Trust)*.

RENEWABLES IN THE UK

In 2023, renewables accounted for 51.6% of UK electricity generation, the highest share recorded and marking the third consecutive quarter above 50% *(UK Government Energy Trends, 2024)*. Wind power remains the leading source of renewable electricity, providing 29.4% of total generation. Solar, hydropower (including tidal), bioenergy and other technologies make up the remainder *(National Grid)*.



The UK aims to achieve 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2035 and reach net zero emissions by 2050 *(UK Government)*. Since 1991, when renewables supplied just 2% of electricity, the country has expanded its renewable generation dramatically. The first trillion kilowatt hours of renewable electricity took 50 years to produce; the next trillion is expected in just over five *(National Grid)*.

Despite these achievements, further progress is needed, especially in heating, transport, and energy efficiency. Approximately 630,000 homes require annual upgrades until 2040 to meet net-zero goals, and long-term investment and policy support will be critical *(Green Alliance, 2021)*.

CHALLENGES



Renewable technologies depend on materials such as lithium, cobalt and nickel, some of which are sourced through deep-sea mining or extraction in ecologically sensitive areas *(International Energy Agency, 2021)*. Poorly planned wind or hydroelectric developments can also affect local wildlife and habitats. Digitalisation and smart electrification, ranging from intelligent grid management to electric vehicles and heat pumps, can improve system efficiency, optimise energy use, and reduce the overall impact of new technologies *(IRENA, 2023)*. Energy storage, hydrogen production for hard-to-electrify sectors, and continued innovation in renewable technologies will all play key roles in creating a sustainable energy system *(International Energy Agency, 2023)*.



ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Carbon Trust

Established in 2001, the Carbon Trust supports businesses, governments, and financial institutions in reducing emissions. Its work spans carbon footprinting, net-zero strategy, renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and sustainable finance. Over the past two decades it has contributed to major benchmarks such as the GHG Protocol, the Carbon Trust Standard, offshore wind innovation, and the Route to Net Zero Standard. Its remit covers energy, buildings, industry, transport, product footprint labelling, and policy development.

Green Alliance

Founded in 1979, it works with businesses, NGOs and policymakers to strengthen environmental leadership in the UK. Its key areas include decarbonising transport and buildings, accelerating the circular economy, supporting green job creation, and ensuring political accountability for climate commitments.

Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)

Based in Wales, CAT is a leading environmental education charity providing training, research, and practical guidance on sustainable living and renewable energy. It delivers postgraduate programmes and community support aimed at addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Supports global renewable energy deployment and provides guidance on energy transitions. Its work includes innovation in renewable technologies, digitalisation, energy storage, electrification, hydrogen, and long-term projections such as the World Energy Transitions Outlook.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Advocating for strong clean-energy and climate policies
- Making informed consumption and energy-use choices
- Supporting local initiatives that develop renewable projects
- Switching to renewable energy providers where possible
- Encouraging transparency and accountability from energy companies





World Wildlife Day, celebrated annually on **3 March**, was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2013 during its 68th Session. The date was chosen because the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on 3 March 1973, and the CITES Secretariat was designated to facilitate the global observance *(World Wildlife Day)*.



The day highlights the value of wild animals and plants, the essential contributions they make to ecosystems, and the dependence of communities worldwide on biodiversity-based resources for food, fuel, medicine, housing, and clothing. Wildlife sustains ecosystems across all major biomes and supports many of the Sustainable Development Goals *(World Wildlife Day)*.



More than 1 million species are estimated to be at risk of extinction, driven by the accelerating triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as assessed by IPBES *(IPBES (2019)*. Human activities have reshaped most of the planet's land surface. Approximately 75% of terrestrial areas have been significantly altered, and about 50% of all habitable (ice- and desert-free) land is used for agriculture, including cropland and grazing *(IPBES, 2019; Ritchie & Roser, 2019)*. These changes are reflected in the transformation of mammal biomass on Earth. Humans (~390 million tonnes) and livestock (~630 million tonnes) now constitute the vast majority of mammal biomass, while all wild terrestrial mammals combined amount to only about 20 million tonnes, meaning livestock biomass is tens of times greater than that of wild mammals *(Greenspoon et al., 2023; Ritchie, 2025)*.

More than half of global GDP depends directly on nature. In some countries, fisheries contribute over 10% of GDP, yet more than 1/3 of marine fish stocks are overfished, causing economic losses, unemployment, and illegal harvesting pressures *(Wildlife Day)*. Despite the scale of dependence on nature, biodiversity finance remains insufficient. Around USD 143 billion is invested annually in biodiversity conservation, but approximately USD 824 billion is required each year *(United Nations, 2023)*. The UN Secretary-General has called for an SDG Stimulus of at least USD 500 billion to address long-term development and nature protection *(Wildlife Day)*.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets targets to mobilise USD 200 billion per year by 2030 and eliminate or reform harmful subsidies by 2030 *(Convention on Biological Diversity, 2022)*. Growing interest in innovative finance includes Debt-for-Nature swaps, Wildlife Conservation Bonds, and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) such as wildlife credits *(Wildlife Day)*. Documented protected and conserved areas currently cover around 17–18% of land and 8% of oceans, below the widely supported goal of protecting 30% by 2030 *(UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2024)*.

WILDLIFE AND NATURE IN THE UK

In the UK, semi-natural habitats (the most nature-rich landscapes) cover approximately 32.6% of the land area, or about 8.02 million hectares, but many are degraded and continue to decline *(ONS, 2021)*. Major pressures driving UK wildlife declines include agricultural intensification (nutrient runoff, pesticide use), habitat loss and fragmentation, sewage discharges, river engineering and water abstraction, and climate change, as documented in the State of Nature 2023 report *(State of Nature Partnership, 2023; Defra, 2024)*.

The UK has committed to protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030 (30by30). Key tools include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), agri-environment schemes, and targeted habitat-restoration funds *(Defra, 2024; JNCC, 2025)*.



ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

A global authority on the status of the natural world, known for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It supports countries, scientists, and communities in conservation planning, protected area management, and biodiversity policy worldwide.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

An international organisation working across more than 100 countries to protect species, restore ecosystems, address climate and biodiversity crises, and promote sustainable resource management.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

A global conservation organisation conducting science-based wildlife protection, managing protected areas, and safeguarding species and habitats across more than 60 countries.

The Wildlife Trusts

A federation of 46 local trusts restoring nature through landscape-scale projects, habitat recovery, species protection, community engagement, and advocacy for stronger nature laws.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The UK's largest nature conservation charity, protecting birds and wider biodiversity through reserves, research, restoration, education, and policy work.

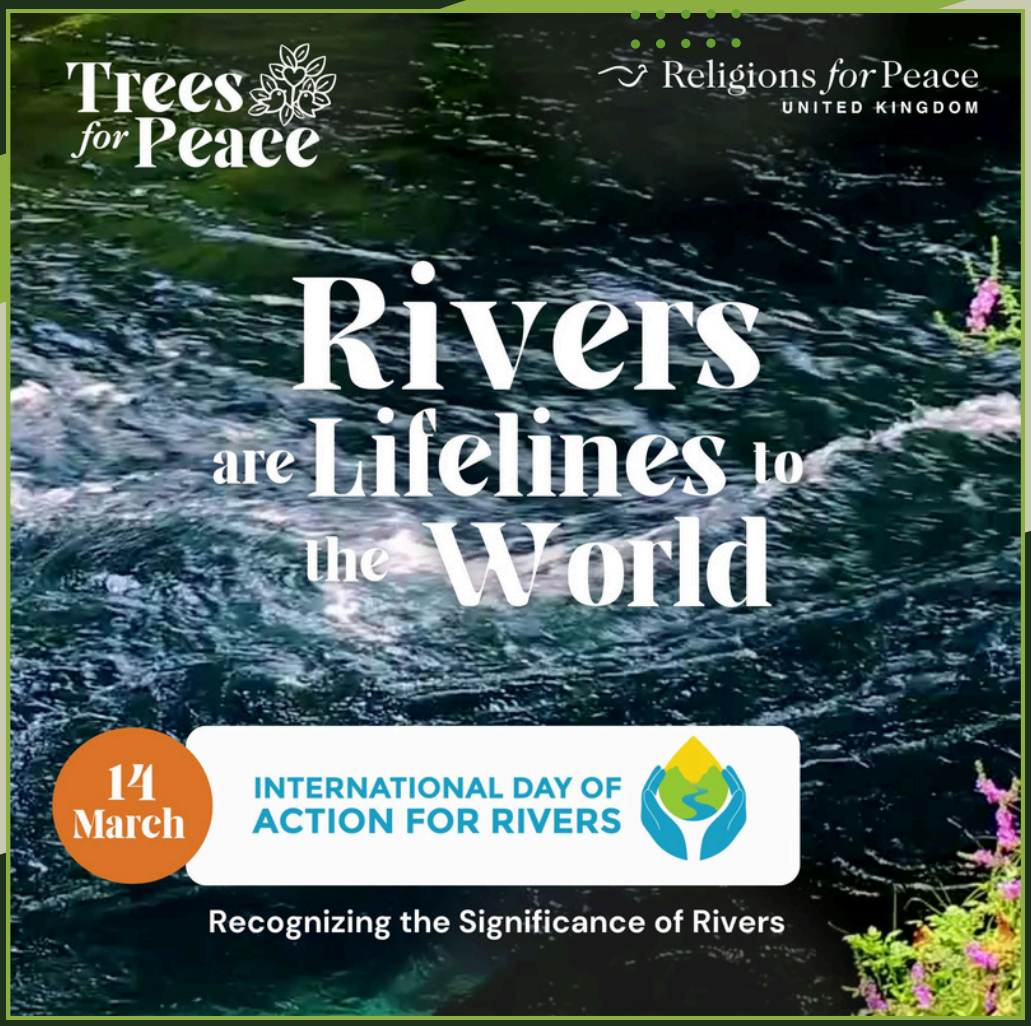
Buglife

A UK charity dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, working to restore pollinator networks, safeguard endangered species, and promote nature-friendly land management.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Create space for wildlife by planting native species, restoring ponds, leaving wild patches, and improving gardens, balconies, and community green areas for pollinators and small animals.
- Reduce consumption impacts by choosing sustainable food products, cutting food waste, supporting high-welfare and low-impact farming, and avoiding products linked to habitat destruction.
- Support conservation organisations through volunteering, citizen science projects, donations, or taking part in species surveys, river clean-ups, and habitat restoration efforts.
- Advocate for nature by supporting strong environmental policies, engaging with local councils, and encouraging protection and proper management of protected areas.
- Lower pressures on ecosystems by reducing energy use, limiting single-use plastics, choosing sustainable seafood, and considering the biodiversity impacts of travel and household products.

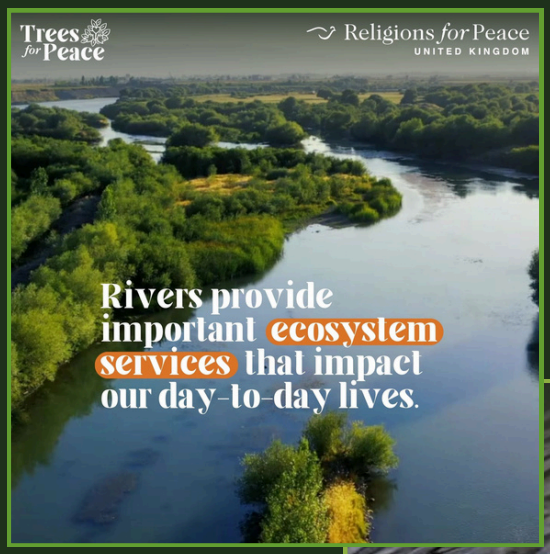




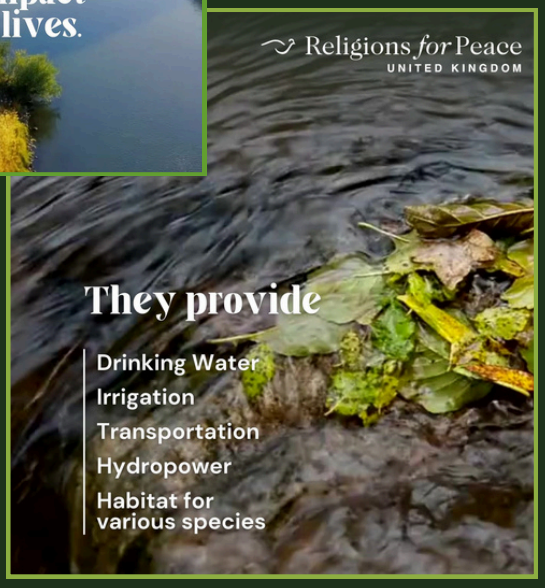
The **International Day of Action for Rivers** is observed annually on **14 March** to defend rivers, ecosystems and the rights of communities who depend on them. The day was established in March 1997 during the first International Meeting of People Affected by Dams, held in Curitiba, Brazil, where representatives from 20 countries agreed to unite on a shared date of action aligned with Brazil's own Day of Action Against Large Dams *(International Rivers)*. Its purpose is to challenge destructive water-development projects, restore river health and advocate for fair and sustainable management of freshwater systems worldwide.



Healthy, free-flowing rivers are indispensable for human well-being and planetary stability. They supply freshwater, sustain major food systems, regulate climate processes, support biodiversity and underpin cultural and spiritual traditions across societies. Access to clean water and the protection of healthy rivers are recognised as fundamental human rights *(International Rivers)*.







Freshwater ecosystems are the most threatened globally, with freshwater species populations have declined by 83% since 1970, a rate far more severe than declines seen in terrestrial or marine systems *(WWF, 2020)*. Half of the world's countries now report degraded freshwater ecosystems, characterised by reduced river flow, shrinking wetlands, rising pollution and poor management *(UNEP, 2024)*. Agriculture is the dominant driver of water withdrawals, accounting for around 72% of global freshwater use, placing substantial pressure on rivers, lakes and aquifers that are essential for food production *(UN-Water, 2025)*.

Global dam inventories, including the GRanD database and subsequent compilations, document tens of thousands of large dams worldwide, with datasets ranging from the original 6,862 GRanD records to more than 20,000 large structures in updated catalogues and around 35,000 dams in global trackers *(Global Dam Watch, n.d.; Mulligan et al., 2023)*. Approximately 48% of global river volume is moderately to severely affected by dam-related flow regulation and fragmentation, interrupting natural hydrology, nutrient transport and fish migration *(WWF, 2020)*.



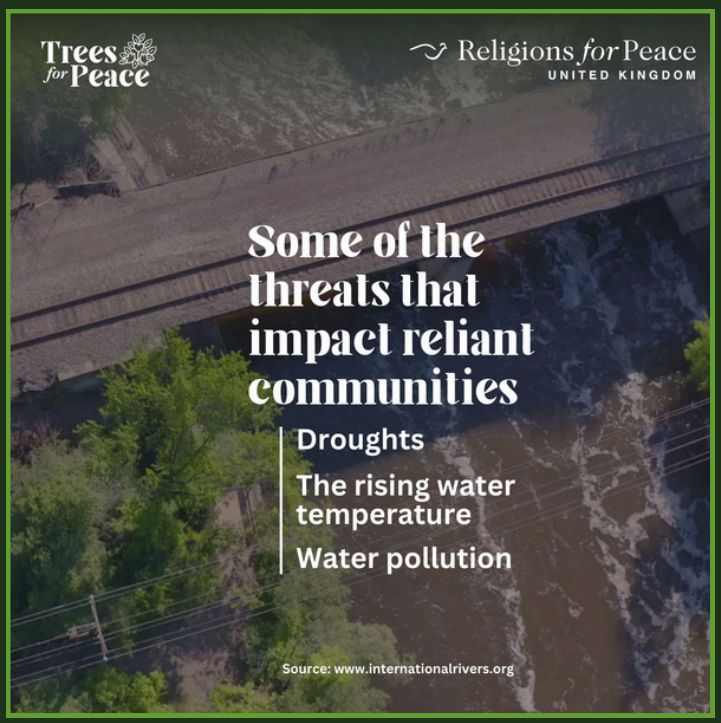
Pollution remains a major threat, with an estimated 80% of the world's wastewater entering the environment untreated, contaminating rivers with pathogens, chemicals and nutrients *(Jones et al., 2020)*.

Despite these pressures, positive developments are emerging. Dam-removal and river-reconnection efforts are accelerating across Europe and other regions, with datasets recording hundreds of barrier removals annually. These initiatives restore connectivity, improve fish passage and revitalise natural river function *(Dam Removal Europe, n.d.; Wetlands International, 2023)*. International frameworks, including SDG 6, continue to emphasise the need for improved water management, ecosystem restoration and universal access to clean water. Global water demand is projected to rise by 20–30% by 2050, underscoring the urgency of protecting freshwater systems *(United Nations)*.

RIVERS IN THE UK

Only 14% of rivers in England currently achieve good ecological status, and recent assessments report that none have met good chemical status due to persistent pollutants (DEFRA, 2023; UK Parliament, 2025). Across England, Scotland and Wales, more than 23,000 weirs, dams and other barriers have been recorded, obstructing natural flows and fish migration (Europe as a whole has documented approximately 1.2 million barriers) (The Rivers Trust; Mouchlianitis, 2025).

Major UK pressures also include agricultural nutrient runoff (notably phosphorus and nitrates), untreated and partially treated sewage discharges, water abstraction and climate-driven extremes including droughts and high-flow events *(UK Parliament)*. In response, government programmes support river restoration. The Water Restoration Fund (England) allocated up to £11 million to projects working to improve rivers, lakes, wetlands and estuaries, with grants ranging from £75,000 to £2 million depending on project scale (UK Government, 2024). Earlier rounds of the Catchment Restoration Fund awarded around £24.5 million for major restoration schemes, including river re-naturalisation, floodplain reconnection and habitat enhancement *(DEFRA, 2015)*.



ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

International Rivers

A global organisation dedicated to protecting rivers and defending the rights of river dependent communities. It works internationally to halt destructive dam projects, promote sustainable water management and support community led river stewardship.

WWF Freshwater Programme

A global conservation initiative focused on restoring freshwater biodiversity, securing environmental flows, tackling pollution and promoting integrated river-basin management across regions facing severe water stress.

The Rivers Trust

A UK-wide network of local trusts working to improve the health of rivers through science-based restoration, catchment management, water-quality monitoring and community engagement.

The Wildlife Trusts

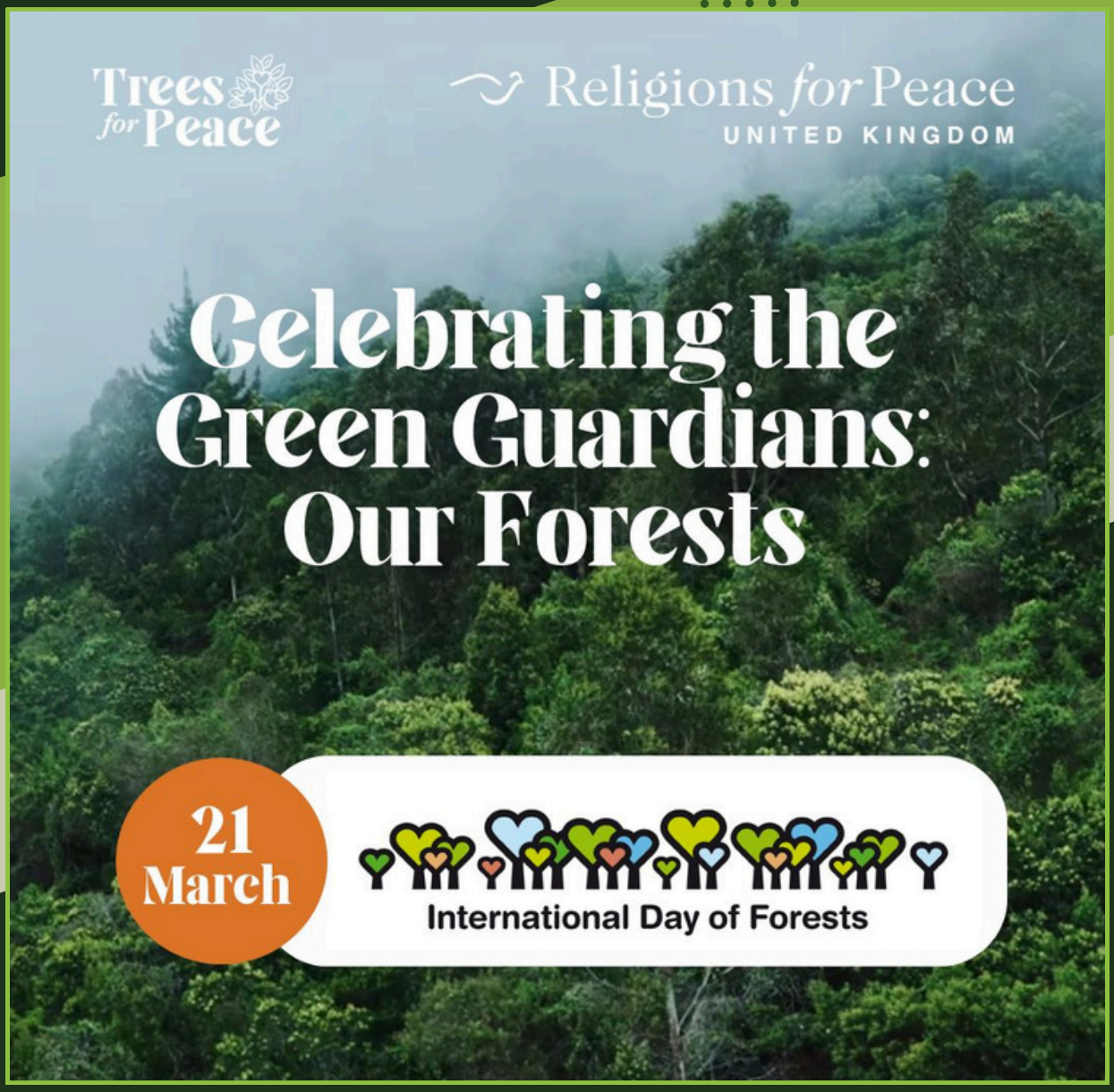
A network of 46 local trusts across the UK restoring river habitats, advocating for stronger freshwater protections and supporting nature-based solutions that improve water quality and ecological resilience.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Support river-protection and freshwater-conservation organisations through membership, volunteering or donations.
- Reduce water waste and choose products with lower water and pollution footprints.
- Advocate for improved wastewater treatment and policies that tackle agricultural nutrient runoff.
- Participate in local river-cleaning or monitoring initiatives.



- Support or promote barrier-removal projects and oppose developments that degrade river systems.
- Support reforestation and riparian vegetation restoration.
- Stay informed about freshwater conservation and share verified information to raise public awareness.



The United Nations General Assembly established the **International Day of Forests (IDF)** in 2012 to celebrate all types of forests and raise global awareness of their importance in sustaining life on Earth. Observed annually on **21 March**, the day encourages countries worldwide to organise tree planting events, educational activities and community engagement to highlight the value of forests and the need for their protection *(FAO)*.

Forests underpin the nutrition and livelihoods of millions of people, especially indigenous and rural communities, by providing fruits, seeds, roots, fungi and wild meat. More than 3,200 wild animal species are used as food, illustrating forests' central role in global diets *(United Nations)*. Globally, over five billion people rely on forest and non-timber forest products for food, medicine and household income *(FAO, 2022)*. Forests also act as a vital safety net in times of crisis, contributing up to 20% of rural household income during periods of instability or economic stress *(FAO, 2022)*.





Beyond their direct contribution to food, forests support essential ecosystem services. Forest ecosystems regulate climate, enrich soils, support pollinators vital for crops, and sustain biodiversity. Their role in freshwater provision is especially significant: forested watersheds supply drinking water to over 85% of the world's major cities, emphasising their importance for both food and water security *(FAO, 2018; United Nations)*.

FAO estimates these services to be worth around USD 7.5 trillion annually, reflecting their contribution to carbon storage, water regulation, biodiversity protection, recreation and cultural benefits. The formal forest sector itself adds hundreds of billions of dollars to national economies each year through timber, wood processing and related industries *(FAO, 2022)*.



However, forests globally remain under severe pressure. Between 2015 and 2020, approximately 10 million hectares of forest were lost every year to deforestation, driven largely by agricultural expansion, commodity production, and land conversion *(FAO, 2020; Ritchie & Roser, 2021)*. Fires, increasingly intensified by climate change, destroy around 70 million hectares annually and have become a leading cause of tree cover loss in several tropical regions *(World Resources Institute, 2024)*. Additional threats include illegal logging, pests and diseases, infrastructure development and urban expansion *(Ritchie & Roser, 2021)*. Without immediate action, critical forest ecosystems risk crossing tipping points beyond which recovery becomes far more difficult.

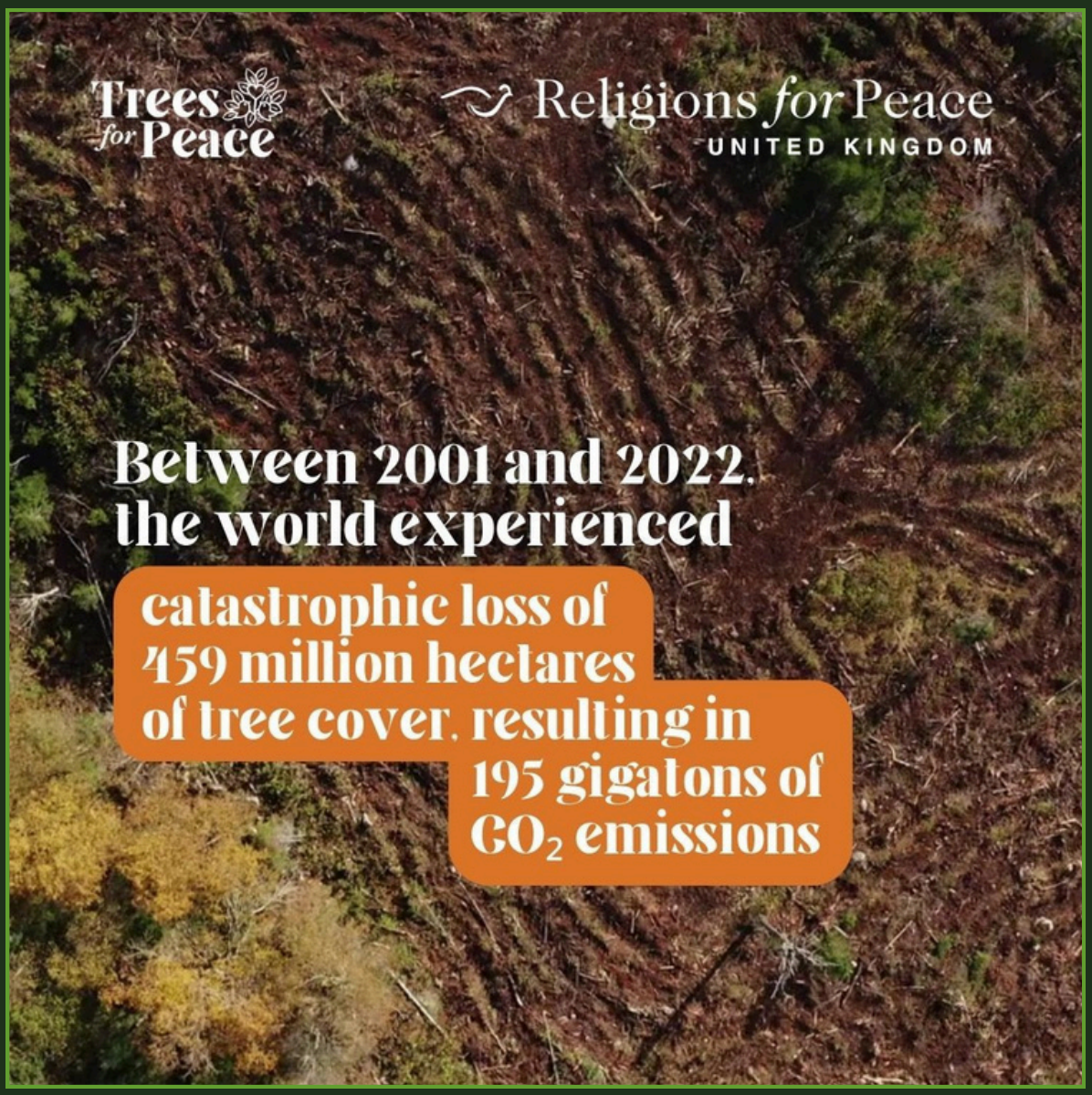


FAO and its international partners promote practices such as reforestation, community forestry, habitat restoration and the expansion of protected areas to safeguard the ecological and social benefits forests provide *(FAO, 2022)*. International initiatives, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the annual International Day of Forests campaign, help mobilise public engagement, global cooperation and evidence-based policy action *(FAO; Collaborative Partnership on Forests)*.

FORESTS IN THE UK

In the UK, forests and woodlands contribute significantly to climate resilience, biodiversity, public health and the economy. The Forestry Commission reports that England has a statutory target, set under the Environment Act 2021, to expand woodland and tree canopy cover from 14.5% to at least 16.5% by 2050 (*Forestry Commission, 2024*).

The forestry and primary wood-processing sectors contribute billions of pounds to the UK economy each year, including £0.76 billion in primary forestry and more than £2 billion in wood processing *(Forest Research, 2023)*. Forestry England produced 1,111,000 cubic metres of sustainably grown timber in 2022- 23, generating £48.5 million in income and demonstrating the capacity of domestic forestry to support a responsible timber supply *(Forestry England, 2023)*. UK woodlands also provide far-reaching social and environmental benefits. According to the Office for National Statistics, woodland ecosystem services (excluding timber) were valued at around £10 billion per year in 2021, including contributions from carbon sequestration, biodiversity, flood regulation, air quality and recreation. In 2022, approximately 3.2 million people gained measurable health benefits from visiting woodlands, worth an estimated £1 billion annually *(Office for National Statistics, 2023)*.



Threats to UK forests include pests and diseases such as ash dieback, increasing drought and fire risk linked to climate change, development pressure, and the long time required for new woodland to mature *(Forestry Commission, 2025; Forestry England, 2024)*. National programmes such as the England Woodland Creation Offer, the Woodland Creation Planning Grant, the Woodland Carbon Code and Countryside Stewardship provide financial support for planting, restoring and managing woodlands, while specific health grants help landowners address pest and disease outbreaks *(UK Government, 2024)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

The Woodland Trust

The UK's largest woodland conservation charity, dedicated to protecting ancient woodland, restoring damaged habitats and planting millions of native trees to enhance biodiversity and improve climate resilience.

The Wildlife Trusts

A network of 46 local trusts restoring natural habitats, safeguarding species and promoting nature-positive land management through community engagement, policy advocacy and rewilding projects.

Rainforest Alliance

An international organisation working to conserve biodiversity and improve rural livelihoods through sustainable agriculture, forest protection and community-based land stewardship.

Global Forest Watch (WRI)

A global monitoring initiative providing real-time data on forest change, enabling governments, communities and NGOs to detect deforestation and strengthen conservation action.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Support forest conservation charities through volunteering, membership or donations.
- Reduce consumption of products linked to deforestation and choose certified sustainable goods (e.g., FSC-certified wood, sustainable palm oil, deforestation-free food products).
- Plant native trees and protect existing trees and hedgerows in local communities.



- Reduce paper and packaging use, and recycle responsibly.
- Raise awareness about the importance of forests by participating in local events or sharing verified information.
- Advocate for sustainable land-use policies and responsible supply chains.
- Spend time learning about forest ecosystems and their role in climate stability, biodiversity and food security.



60 Earth Hour is a global environmental movement held every year, inviting people across the world to switch off their lights for 60 minutes as a symbolic gesture to protect the planet we all share. It began in 2007, when the city of Sydney turned off its lights to highlight the growing urgency of climate change and environmental degradation. What started as a single city initiative has since grown into one of the world's largest environmental movements, celebrated in more than 190 countries and territories *(WWF)*.



Although 60 Earth Hour began as a coordinated 'lights off' moment, it has expanded into what is now described as the 'Biggest Hour for Earth', encouraging individuals, communities, institutions, and businesses to 'give an hour for Earth' by spending 60 minutes doing something positive for the planet, whether restoring nature, learning more about environmental issues, or inspiring others. This evolution reflects the mounting scientific consensus that the world is dangerously close to crossing critical climate and nature tipping points *(WWF; IPCC, 2023)*.

CRISES & CHALLENGES

Climate change today is human-driven, caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas, which release vast quantities of CO2 into the atmosphere. This is identified as the main driver of modern warming *(United Nations)*.



Since the mid-18th century, human activities have sharply increased the atmospheric concentration of CO2, methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O). Today, human activities emit roughly 35 billion tonnes of CO2 per year *(Environmental Protection Agency)*.

Deforestation and land-use change contribute significantly to emissions by releasing stored carbon and reducing the planet's capacity to absorb CO2. Combined, these account for about 20 - 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions *(European Commission: United Nations)*.



Agriculture, particularly livestock farming, also plays a major role, producing methane during digestion and nitrous oxide from fertilisers *(European Commission; Met Office)*. Natural factors such as volcanic activity and solar cycles do influence climate, but they cannot explain the rapid warming observed since 1850, with natural influences contributing only around ~0.1C (European Commission).

CO2 levels are now higher than at any time in at least two million years *(Met Office)*. Global average temperatures have risen by approximately 1.1–1.3°C above pre-industrial levels, increasing at a rate of around 0.2°C per decade in recent decades *(European Commission)*.

60 Earth Hour also highlights the parallel **crisis of biodiversity loss**. According to WWF's Living Planet Report 2024, monitored vertebrate populations have declined by 73% on average between 1970 and 2020, across nearly 35,000 population trends. Freshwater wildlife is the most affected, with an 85% decline, followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (56%) populations *(WWF, 2024)*.

Regional trends show devastating losses, including:

- 95% decline in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 76% decline in Africa
- 60% decline in Asia-Pacific
- 35% decline in Europe & Central Asia

(WWF, 2024)



The biggest driver of biodiversity loss is habitat destruction and degradation, largely tied to global food systems, deforestation, and intensive agriculture *(WWF, 2024)*. Additional pressures include overexploitation, invasive species, disease, and climate impacts.

Nature underpins essential ecosystem services, including clean air and water, soil fertility, flood regulation and carbon storage, all of which are critical to human well-being and economic stability (IPBES, 2025). A major 2025 study reviewing three decades of evidence found that genetic diversity has declined in two-thirds of populations across more than 600 species, undermining their ability to adapt to climate change and disease *(Science Media Centre, 2025)*. IPBES assessments confirm rapid global biodiversity decline and warn that without transformative change, ecosystems risk cascading failures *(IPBES, 2025)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature

WWF is one of the world's largest and most influential conservation organisations, working across more than 100 countries to address climate change, halt biodiversity loss, and promote sustainable food systems. It publishes the authoritative Living Planet Report and coordinates Earth Hour globally.

Greenpeace International

A global environmental NGO campaigning for climate action, the phase out of fossil fuels, protection of forests and oceans, and a transition to clean renewable energy. It is known for evidence-driven advocacy and high-profile campaigns pushing governments and industries to act.

Rainforest Trust

Works with local partners worldwide to protect threatened tropical forests and critical habitats for endangered species by establishing legally protected reserves. Its model focuses on long-term land security and community-led conservation.

The Wildlife Trusts

A federation of 46 local Wildlife Trusts restoring nature through habitat conservation, nature reserves, species protection, and community engagement. They lead localised climate–nature action across the UK, including rewilding, citizen science, and education.

The Woodland Trust

The UK's largest woodland conservation charity, dedicated to protecting ancient woodlands, restoring damaged forests, and creating new native woodland to support biodiversity and climate resilience.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

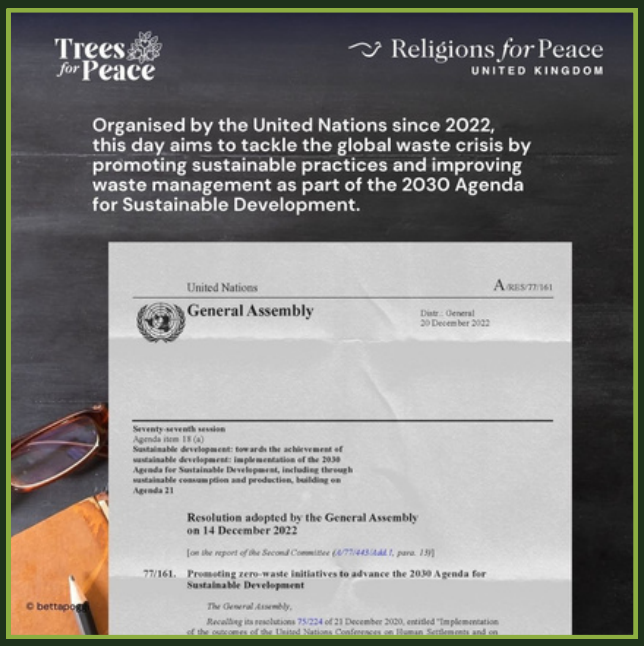
- Give an Hour for Earth by taking part in 60 Earth Hour, either through an organised event or by dedicating 60 minutes at home to an activity that benefits the planet.
- Reduce energy use by switching off unnecessary lights, improving efficiency at home, and choosing renewable energy tariffs if possible.
- Cut single-use plastics and shift towards reusable, refillable, or plastic-free alternatives.
- Plant native trees and wildflowers to support biodiversity and create habitats for insects, birds, and other wildlife if you have a garden.
- Eat more plant-based foods to lower the environmental footprint associated with global food systems.
- Learn and share knowledge about climate change and biodiversity loss to inspire action in your community.
- Join local conservation projects, citizen science programmes, or environmental volunteering to support nature restoration.







The **International Day of Zero Waste,** observed each year on **30 March**, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022. It promotes a global shift towards reducing waste, improving waste management, and designing systems that prevent waste in the first place. The observance supports the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the goals relating to sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and environmental protection *(United Nations)*.



Worldwide, households, small businesses and public services generate between 2.1 and 2.3 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste each year. Yet 2.7 billion people still lack access to reliable waste collection, and only around 61–62% of municipal waste is properly managed *(United Nations)*. Without significant action, global waste production could rise to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050, placing additional strain on ecosystems and public health *(UN-Habitat)*.



Plastic waste increased seven-fold between 1980 and 2019, reaching 353 million tonnes per year, most of which comes from packaging *(OECD, 2022)*. Much of this ends up in marine environments, endangering wildlife and disrupting coastal communities.

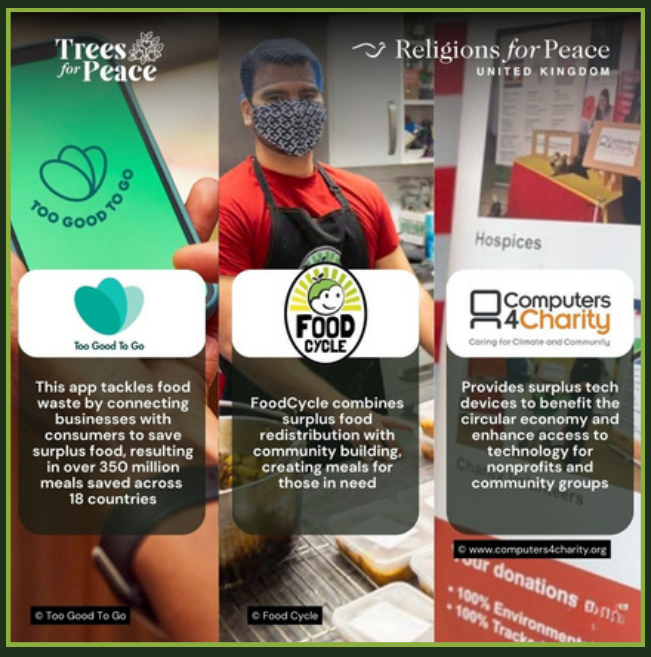
Food waste is an equally significant contributor to environmental degradation. Food and green waste together make up nearly half of global municipal waste *(World Bank, 2018)*. In 2019, an estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted worldwide, with households responsible for the largest proportion *(UNEP, 2021)*. Food waste contributes roughly 8–10% of global greenhouse gas emissions from the food system, largely due to methane released during decomposition *(UNEP, 2021)*.

Electronic waste is another fast-growing stream. E-waste generation almost doubled from 33.8 million tonnes in 2010 to 62 million tonnes in 2022, and is projected to reach 82 million tonnes by 2030 *(UNITAR, 2024)*. Only a small proportion is recycled safely, leaving many communities, particularly in low-income regions, exposed to hazardous materials.



Ffigures we have illustrate the scale of the challenge. Waste mismanagement is closely intertwined with climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The UN emphasises that addressing this crisis requires coordinated action from governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals *(UN-Habitat)*.





The global waste crisis cannot be separated from wider patterns of production, consumption, and urbanisation. As cities expand rapidly, especially in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, the pressure on infrastructure, housing, and sanitation grows. UN-Habitat, the UN body responsible for sustainable urban development, highlights how poor waste management contributes to public-health risks, environmental degradation, and social inequalities. Improving waste systems is essential for building resilient, inclusive, and safe cities *(UN-Habitat)*.

Zero-waste approaches also align with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which focuses on sustainable cities, and SDG 12, which encourages responsible consumption and production. Achieving these goals requires treating waste as a resource, increasing reuse and recycling, and designing products and services with circularity in mind *(United Nations)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

FareShare

Redistributes surplus food to more than 8,000 charities across the UK, helping to reduce food waste while supporting vulnerable communities. In 2023–24, FareShare redistributed 57,000 tonnes of good-to-eat food, the equivalent of 135 million meals. This prevented 106,000 tonnes of CO_2e emissions and saved 141 billion litres of water. Nearly one million people benefitted from these efforts, and many partner charities were able to expand their services thanks to reduced food costs.

Hubbub

An environmental charity, works with local authorities, businesses, and communities to inspire practical environmental action. In 2023, its campaigns influenced over six million people and led to more than 700,000 individual positive actions. Projects include reducing litter around city centres, improving access to refurbished technology, expanding community food initiatives, and supporting green-space projects in hospitals and neighbourhood.

TRAID

Focuses on transforming the fashion sector by encouraging second-hand choices and funding global development projects. It has reused over 233.5 million garments, saving an estimated 637,648 tonnes of CO_2 and preserving over 108 million cubic metres of water. TRAID funds projects that support organic cotton farmers, protect children from labour exploitation, and provide opportunities for waste-picker communities.

Too Good To Go

Reduces food waste by connecting users with businesses offering surplus food via its app. Founded in 2016, it has grown into a global movement with 100 million registered users and 170,000 partner businesses. More than 350 million meals have been saved across 18 countries.

FoodCycle

Combines surplus-food redistribution with community meals, helping to reduce waste while providing social support to people experiencing food poverty and isolation.

Community Wood Recycling

Diverts around 20,000 tonnes of wood each year from landfills through its nationwide network of social enterprises. The organisation also provides training and employment opportunities for individuals facing barriers to work, including people with mental-health challenges and those leaving prison.

Computers 4 Charity

Established in 1994, refurbishes surplus computers and devices for communities, charities, and organisations in need, contributing to the circular economy and reducing e-waste

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Choose products with minimal packaging, and consider durability and repairability.
- Before discarding items, explore options for reuse, repair, donation, or resale.
- Reduce food waste by planning meals, storing food properly, and choosing imperfect produce.
- Use second-hand platforms or charity shops to extend the life of clothing and household goods.
- Volunteer with or donate to local organisations working on food rescue, recycling, or community repair.
- Stay informed and share knowledge about waste reduction with friends, family, and community groups.





Earth Day, observed every year on 22 April, is a global call to protect the planet we all depend on. It began in 1970, when 20 million people across the United States mobilised to protest the environmental destruction caused by unregulated industrial development, marking the birth of the modern environmental movement *(Earth Day Network)*. The origins of Earth Day were also shaped by the environmental awareness generated by Silent Spring, published in 1962, which exposed the ecological and health impacts of pollution and helped catalyse public demand for environmental regulation *(Carson, 1962; Earth Day Network)*.

Today, Earth Day has grown into one of the largest civic observances in the world, engaging more than one billion people across over 190 countries *(Earth Day Network, 2024)*. Its global significance was reflected in the decision to open the Paris Agreement for signature on Earth Day in 2016, marking a major milestone in international climate governance *(United Nations, 2016)*.





Key environmental challenges highlighted by **EarthDay.org** include climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and in particular the growing threat of plastic pollution, which harms ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. EarthDay.org advocates for systemic solutions, including reducing global plastic production and strengthening international environmental governance *(Earth Day Network, 2024)*.

Progress and global achievements linked to Earth Day include the creation of major environmental laws, strengthened environmental institutions, the rise of global environmental awareness, and international commitments such as the Paris Climate Agreement *(Earth Day Network)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Earthday.org

The global coordinator of Earth Day, leading international advocacy on climate, plastic pollution, environmental education, and ecosystem restoration.

Friends of the Earth

A major environmental organisation campaigning for climate justice, pollution reduction, nature protection, and sustainable living across the UK.

The Wildlife Trusts

A network of local trusts restoring habitats, protecting species, and connecting people with nature through conservation and rewilding efforts.

The Woodland Trust

The UK's largest woodland conservation charity, dedicated to planting and protecting native trees and restoring ancient woodland.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Reduce plastic waste by avoiding single-use items and choosing reusable alternatives
- Participate in community clean-ups, helping to remove waste and restore local habitats
- Plant trees and support habitat restoration, aiding biodiversity and climate mitigation
- Advocate for strong environmental policies that protect nature, regulate pollution, and address climate change
- Promote environmental literacy by sharing information, supporting education efforts, and encouraging community involvement





World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual global campaign that raises awareness of the conservation of migratory birds and the habitats they depend on. It is celebrated internationally on the **second Saturday of May** and October, aligning with migration patterns across hemispheres *(World Migratory Bird Day)*.

The campaign originated in 2006 through collaboration between AEWA (African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), expanding earlier US observances into a worldwide initiative. Its aim is to highlight the ecological importance of migratory birds, the threats they face, and the need for international cooperation across flyways *(CMS; AEWA; World Migratory Bird Day)*





Loss of insects compounds other pressures such as habitat loss, pollution, and extreme weather, which already challenge migratory birds throughout the African-Eurasian Flyway *(World Migratory Bird Day)*. As food availability declines at stopover sites and destinations, birds struggle to rebuild fat reserves needed for long-distance travel, placing many species at heightened risk.



Migratory birds face a growing set of threats along their flyways, but one of the most critical is the rapid decline of insect populations, which are essential high energy food sources during migration and breeding. As highlighted by World Migratory Bird Day, insects provide the fuel that determines migration timing, breeding success, immune function, and even survival, yet they are decreasing due to intensive agriculture, pesticide use, urban development, and climate change *(World Migratory Bird Day)*.



The UK hosts many significant spring and summer visitors, including Swallows, Swifts, Chiffchaffs, Wheatears, and Arctic Terns. Birds migrate northwards because days in Britain are longer and cooler than in their Sub-Saharan wintering grounds, providing more feeding hours and lower predation pressure for raising chicks. The Arctic Tern is a remarkable example, travelling an estimated 22,000 miles annually between the Antarctic and the UK, with some individuals taking even longer transglobal routes *(RSPB)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

BirdLife International

A global partnership active across major migratory flyways, including the African- Eurasian Flyway. BirdLife leads international species monitoring, Important Bird Area protection, flyway research, and habitat restoration crucial to long-distance migrants.

RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)

The UK's leading bird conservation charity, protecting key breeding and stopover habitats for migratory species. Provides research, public guidance, conservation programmes, and seasonal migration resources for the public.

International Wader Study Group

A scientific network dedicated to the study and conservation of migratory waders, focusing on population trends, threats along flyways, and international habitat protection efforts.

BTO (British Trust for Ornithology)

Conducts long-term monitoring of migratory species through tagging, ringing, and citizen science. Provides essential data for understanding migration patterns and the impacts of climate change and habitat loss.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Plant native trees and shrubs that support insects and offer natural shelter.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in gardens.
- Create wildlife-friendly spaces with water sources and safe nesting habitats.
- Support organic or low-impact farming by choosing sustainable produce.
- Participate in local bird-watching surveys and awareness campaigns.





World Bee Day is observed every year on **20 May**, a date designated by the United Nations to highlight the essential role of bees and other pollinators. The date commemorates the birthday of Anton Janša, an 18th-century pioneer of modern beekeeping. The UN adopted this observance in 2017, with global celebrations beginning in 2018, in response to rising pollinator decline *(United Nations)*.



Bees have existed for about 30 million years, playing a crucial role in plant reproduction and ensuring the abundance, variety, and quality of fruits, nuts, and seeds essential to human nutrition *(NASA)*. There are over 20,000 bee species worldwide, most of them wild, and they form part of the broader community of pollinators that sustain ecosystems *(FAO)*.



Pollinators are vital to food systems:

- Nearly 90% of wild flowering plant species depend on pollinators.
- Over 75% of global food crops rely on animal pollination.
- Pollinators contribute to 35% of the world's total crop production, pollinating 87 of the top 115 food crops. *(FAO)*



In the UK alone, there are over 270 bee species, yet bee populations are declining rapidly.

The UK has already lost around 13 bee species, and a further 35 are at risk, with intensive farming identified as the single biggest driver of decline *(Friends of the Earth)*.

Bees are remarkably industrious: foragers must collect nectar from around 2 million flowers to produce 1 lb (approx. 0.45 kg) of honey. A typical hive may contain 50,000 bees, and the average forager produces only 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime *(NASA)*.

However, bees face severe threats worldwide, including intensive farming practices, pesticide use, habitat loss, and climate change, all of which jeopardise global food security. The FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity warn that continued pollinator decline will compromise nutrition, crop diversity, livelihoods, and ecological stability *(United Nations; FAO)*.





ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Works across the UK to conserve bumblebees and the habitats they depend on through science, monitoring, public engagement, and landscape-scale restoration such as the Bee the Change programme.

Friends of the Earth - Bees Campaign

Runs national campaigns to reverse bee decline, promotes pesticide-free towns, advocates for pollinator-friendly farming, and supports community action to create bee habitats.

Wildlife Trusts

Protects and restores habitats crucial to pollinators, including meadows, hedgerows, and nature reserves. Their practical resources (including bee identification guides) help communities take meaningful action. ***Bee ID guide link***

Woodland Trust

Conserves and restores native woodlands that provide essential habitat, forage, and nesting spaces for wild bees and other pollinators.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Plant a diverse range of native flowering plants across all seasons.
- Avoid pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides in gardens.
- Buy local raw honey and support sustainable farmers.
- Create bee water stations and leave areas of the garden 'wild.'
- Help sustain forest ecosystems and raise awareness in communities.





The **International Day for Biological Diversity** is observed each year on **22 May** to celebrate the richness of life on Earth and to raise awareness of the urgent need to protect it. The date marks the adoption of the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, after the original observance on 29 December proved difficult for many countries to celebrate due to holiday periods *(CBD)*. Biodiversity encompasses all forms of life, from bacteria to entire ecosystems, and underpins essential services such as food production, water purification, climate regulation, and disease control.

Earth is home to an estimated 8 million species. Yet biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate. Human activities, including habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, have significantly altered 3/4 of the land environment and 66% of the marine environment. The IPBES global assessment warns that one million species are now threatened with extinction, with extinction rates tens to hundreds of times higher than natural background levels *(IPBES, 2019; UNEP; CBD)*.





In the UK, native woodlands play a central role in supporting biodiversity. 1/5 of the UK's Priority Species depend on native woods, and the iconic oak tree supports 2,300 species. However, the country's woodland cover is among the lowest in Europe. The spread of ash dieback, expected to kill around 80% of UK ash trees, will exert profound impacts on woodland ecosystems, soil health, air quality, and water regulation *(Woodland Trust)*.



Ecosystems are interconnected, and the disappearance of even one species can disrupt ecological balance and reduce resilience. Declines in biodiversity also threaten human wellbeing. Healthy ecosystems provide food, water, materials, and climate stability and are responsible for over half of global GDP *(CBD)*. The degradation of these systems increases risks such as water scarcity, zoonotic disease spread, crop failure, and economic instability *(UNEP)*.

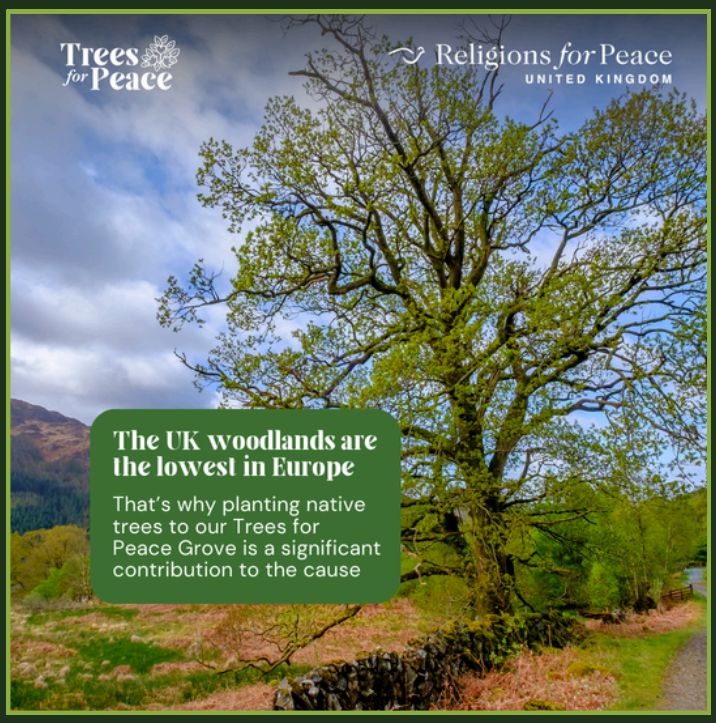
In December 2022, the global community adopted the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a landmark agreement to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Its targets include:

- conserving 30% of land and sea;
- restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems;
- halving the introduction of invasive species;
- and reducing harmful subsidies by US $500 billion per year *(CBD, 2022)*



Climate change intensifies biodiversity loss. Rising temperatures force species to shift their ranges, disrupt ecosystems, increase disease risk, and threaten coral reefs, where 70–90% may vanish at 1.5°C of warming, and up to 99% at 2°C *(CBD; IPBES, 2019)*. Marine biodiversity is further threatened by ocean warming, acidification, and declining carbon-absorbing capacity *(UNEP)*. Mangroves, coral reefs, and other coastal ecosystems provide essential services (from carbon storage to storm protection) and their decline undermines the resilience of millions who rely on marine resources *(IPBES, 2019; UNEP)*.





Indigenous peoples play a vital role in conserving biodiversity. Their traditional knowledge and stewardship protect ecosystems that support billions of livelihoods, They are increasingly recognised as key partners in climate and biodiversity policy, including through the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples *(UNEP)*.

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides tools to measure ecosystems' contributions to economies, helping shift beyond GDP to account for nature's true value. Ignoring nature imposes significant economic and social costs, while investing in restoration offers long-term benefits. Debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps are emerging mechanisms to support developing nations facing debt crises *(UNEP)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD coordinates global action on biodiversity protection, supports implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and facilitates international cooperation to safeguard ecosystems and species.

Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts form a federation of 46 local trusts working across the UK to restore nature and recover biodiversity. Their projects include large-scale habitat restoration, species protection, creation of nature corridors, and rewilding initiatives such as the Wilder Future campaign. They manage thousands of nature reserves and lead community-driven conservation, making them one of the UK's most influential biodiversity organisations.

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

Buglife is the UK's leading charity dedicated to protecting invertebrates. Their programmes include creating B-Lines (a nationwide pollinator corridor network), restoring threatened habitats such as peatlands and wildflower meadows, and conserving endangered invertebrate species. Their work directly supports ecosystem health by safeguarding pollinators, soil fauna, and freshwater invertebrates.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Europe's largest nature conservation charity, the RSPB protects birds and the wider environment through habitat restoration, species recovery programmes, peatland and wetland conservation, and major rewilding sites such as RSPB Haweswater. Their scientific research informs national biodiversity policy, and their reserves support hundreds of threatened species.

Plantlife

Focuses on wild plants and fungi. Working across the UK and internationally, they protect rare species, restore grasslands and heathlands, and manage Important Plant Areas. Their advocacy work influences national conservation policy, and their citizen-science projects engage thousands in monitoring plant biodiversity.

Bat Conservation Trust

Bats are key biodiversity indicators and pollinators, and the Bat Conservation Trust works across the UK to protect bat populations and their habitats. They deliver scientific monitoring, public education, policy advocacy, and habitat restoration, including roost protection, woodland management, and landscape-scale conservation. Their National Bat Monitoring Programme is one of the UK's longest-running wildlife datasets.

Fauna & Flora International

One of the world's oldest conservation organisations, Fauna & Flora protects threatened species and ecosystems across more than 40 countries. Their programmes support forest, marine, and grassland conservation while strengthening the rights and roles of local communities in biodiversity stewardship. They are known for science-led, partnership-based conservation.

Marine Conservation Society

The Marine Conservation Society works to protect the UK's seas, restore ocean habitats, reduce pollution, and advocate for sustainable fisheries. Their seagrass restoration projects, citizen-science beach clean network, and policy influence on ocean protection make them a leading UK ocean biodiversity NGO.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Plant and protect native trees, supporting local biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.
- Reduce consumption of products linked to habitat loss, such as unsustainably sourced palm oil, timber, or beef.
- Choose soil-friendly and biodiversity-friendly foods, including pulses, which can help repair soil.
- Support conservation organisations working to protect forests, oceans, and species.
- Restore habitats locally, such as by planting wildflowers, creating wildlife corridors, or reducing pesticide use.
- Promote nature-positive policies and participate in community conservation initiatives.



World Environment Day, established by the UN General Assembly in 1972, has become a global platform for awareness and action, engaging over 150 countries each year in efforts to protect the planet *(UNEP)*. As land degradation, drought and biodiversity loss intensify, the day highlights the urgent need to restore ecosystems that sustain clean air, water, fertile soil, and climate stability.



Today, an estimated 2 billion hectares of land are degraded, affecting around 3.2 billion people, with Indigenous Peoples, rural communities, smallholder farmers, women, and youth disproportionately impacted. Soil erosion remains severe, with roughly one football pitch of soil lost every five seconds, while nature requires 1,000 years to generate just 3 cm of topsoil *(UNEP, 2024)*.

Degraded land undermines biodiversity, water security, food production, and climate resilience. By 2030, land degradation could displace 135 million people, while intensifying droughts may put up to 700 million people at risk of displacement *(UNEP)*. Drought already affects 55 million people every year, threatening crops and livestock globally *(UNEP, 2024)*.



The global food system, responsible for over 80% of biodiversity loss, is also a major driver of land degradation, underscoring the need for more sustainable consumption and agricultural practices. Including more soil-restorative foods such as pulses can help repair soils and support ecosystem recovery (UNEP, 2024).

Around the world, countries are accelerating restoration. Saudi Arabia's Saudi Green Initiative, for example, aims to plant 10 billion trees and restore 40 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, responding to severe drought, water scarcity and widespread land degradation *(UNEP)*. These efforts complement global commitments from 115 countries to restore 765 million: 1 billion hectares under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration *(UNEP)*.

Land restoration strengthens biodiversity, supports pollinators (responsible for 75% of the world's fruit and seed crops) and helps rebuild freshwater and marine ecosystems increasingly threatened by pollution, climate change and over-extraction. Urban areas, which account for over 75% of global resource use and at least 60% of greenhouse gas emissions, also play a vital role in restoring nature and improving ecological resilience *(UNEP, 2024)*.







ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Acción Andina

A large-scale Andean forest restoration initiative working across five countries to protect water sources, restore high altitude ecosystems, and support Indigenous communities. It has been recognised as a UN World Restoration Flagship for its leadership in ecosystem restoration.

Rainforest Alliance

Active in community-led forest conservation and sustainable land management, including projects in Cameroon that empower women and youth while protecting biodiverse forest landscapes.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The GEF funds environmental restoration projects worldwide, including forest and land management initiatives in biodiversity hotspots such as Cameroon, supporting community-based conservation and climate resilience.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Support local and global restoration initiatives and NGOs working on reforestation and sustainable land use.
- Reduce food waste and adopt more plant-based, soil-friendly foods such as beans, lentils and chickpeas.
- Choose sustainably produced goods to decrease pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Participate in citizen-science and community greening projects to strengthen habitats and local resilience.
- Advocate for nature-based solutions, policy action, and responsible urban planning that protects and restores land.



World Food Safety Day, observed every year on **7 June**, was established by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 2018 to raise awareness of foodborne risks and strengthen global food safety systems *(United Nations)*.



Foodborne diseases affect around 600 million people annually and cause 420,000 deaths, including 125,000 children under five, who carry 40% of the disease burden (*United Nations)*. More than 200 diseases can be caused by contaminated food containing bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances such as pesticide residues or heavy metals *(ITU AbsorbTech, WHO)*.





Food safety is inseparable from the health of ecosystems. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity undermine both food safety and sustainable food supply. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, heavy rainfall, and droughts are already worsening global food insecurity. Acute food insecurity rose from 135 million in 2019 to 345 million by 2022, driven by climate shocks, pandemics, supply chain disruptions, and conflict *(World Bank, 2022)*. In 2021, rising food commodity prices pushed 30 million additional people in low-income countries into food insecurity *(World Bank, 2022)*. At the same time, the global food system contributes roughly 1/3 of all greenhouse gas emissions and is the largest source of methane and a major driver of biodiversity loss *(World Bank, 2022)*. Healthy ecosystems (clean water, fertile soils, pollinators, and natural pest control) are essential for safe food production. Land degradation, pollution, and climate impacts increase contamination risks across the entire supply chain *(United Nations)*.

Food safety incidents (from power failures to natural disasters) can escalate rapidly in global supply chains, which is why INFOSAN, a FAO/WHO system involving 189 countries, exists to improve rapid information sharing in emergencies *(FAO)*.







ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO leads global efforts to improve food safety, reduce foodborne illness, and support sustainable agriculture. Working with governments and international partners, FAO strengthens national food control systems, supports climate-resilient agriculture, promotes sustainable water and soil management, and co-facilitates World Food Safety Day with WHO. Its Food Safety and Quality Programme develops global standards and guidance that protect consumers and ensure safe, sustainable food chains.

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO plays a central role in global food safety by providing scientific risk assessments, setting international safety standards, and coordinating global surveillance of foodborne diseases. Together with FAO, WHO leads INFOSAN, the global rapid-alert system for food safety emergencies. WHO also works on environmental health, including water quality and climate-related risks that directly affect food safety and global nutrition.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

GAIN works to transform food systems so that safe, nutritious food is accessible and affordable for all, especially in low income countries. Their programmes address food contamination, post-harvest food loss, safe processing practices for small and medium enterprises, and climate-resilient nutrition. GAIN partners with governments and businesses to strengthen food safety across supply chains and protect vulnerable populations.

Slow Food International

Slow Food is a global grassroots movement promoting sustainable, fair, and safe food systems. It advocates for agroecology, biodiversity protection, reduced chemical inputs, and local food networks that minimise contamination risks. The organisation trains farmers, supports Indigenous food systems, and campaigns against industrial agriculture practices that threaten food safety, soil health, and climate resilience.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- keep raw and cooked foods separate, refrigerate promptly, and follow safe cooking temperatures.
- Choose locally sourced, sustainable foods when possible to reduce environmental impact and support transparent supply chains.
- Reduce food waste by planning meals, storing food properly, and composting organic waste.
- Use clean water for washing produce, cooking, and food preparation, and support initiatives improving water quality.
- Support sustainable farming and food safety organisations through volunteering, donations, or awareness-raising.
- Advocate for stronger food safety standards in your community and engage with local authorities on issues such as water contamination, pesticide regulation, and waste management.
- Stay informed about food safety risks, recalls, and best practices through trusted sources like FAO, WHO, and local health agencies.





World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought has been observed annually since 1994, following the adoption of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the only legally binding international agreement dedicated to sustainable land management. The day raises global awareness about the accelerating degradation of land worldwide and the urgent need for responsible land stewardship *(United Nations)*.





Healthy land supports nearly 95% of global food production and provides essential ecosystem services, livelihoods, and protection from natural disasters. Yet up to 40% of the world's land area is already degraded, undermining food security, increasing vulnerability to droughts, and weakening climate resilience. Each year, desertification and drought contribute to the displacement of millions of people, particularly in regions already facing poverty, water scarcity, and climate pressures *(United Nations, UNCCD, 2024)*.

Every second, the world loses an area of healthy land equivalent to four football fields, totalling around 100 million hectares annually. More than 130 countries have now pledged to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030, a commitment under the UNCCD to ensure human activity has a neutral or positive impact on land resources *((UNCCD, 2024)*.

MAJOR RESTORATION AND REFORESTATION EFFORTS:



The Great Green Wall Initiative (2007): Launched by the African Union, the Great Green Wall aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land across 22 African countries, sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon, and create 10 million green jobs by 2030. This African-led movement addresses climate change, food insecurity, and forced migration across an 8,000 km region *((UNCCD)*.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative (2019): In an ambitious national afforestation campaign, Ethiopia planted nearly 350,000 trees in a single day, focusing on restoring degraded land, improving soil fertility, and enhancing long-term food security *(Desertification Facts)*.

China's Three-North Shelterbelt Project: Known as China's 'Great Green Wall,' this project began in 1978 and aims to plant 100 billion trees by 2050 across a 4,500 km belt to combat the expansion of the Gobi and Taklamakan deserts. The programme has stabilised thousands of acres of sand dunes and reduced dust storm frequency in some regions by up to 20%, though challenges remain, including water scarcity and the ecological limits of large-scale monoculture planting *(SciTechDaily; Royal Geographical Society)*.





Saudi Arabia's Green Riyadh Programme: Green Riyadh is a major urban afforestation project led by the Royal Commission for Riyadh City, aiming to plant around 7.5 million trees across the capital. By expanding parks, street trees and neighbourhood green spaces, the programme seeks to cool the city, improve air quality, and reduce the impacts of urban desertification in one of the world's driest regions *(RCRC; Vision 2030; Green Riyadh).*

USA's Great Plains Shelterbelt (1930s): Launched in the 1930s during the Dust Bowl, the Great Plains Shelterbelt (Prairie States Forestry Project) planted around 200–220 million trees across the American Great Plains. These large-scale windbreaks reduced wind erosion, stabilised soils and helped restore farmlands, becoming one of the most significant historic land-restoration efforts in North America *(U.S. Forest Service; Iowa State University; USDA)*.

How Trees Help Combat Desertification:

- They add nitrogen to soil through root activity, improving fertility.
- Their shade reduces evaporation, preserving soil moisture in arid climates.
- Leaf litter enriches soil with organic matter, helping maintain structure and water retention.
- Windbreaks formed by trees reduce erosion and dust storms, protecting crops and settlements.

Effective land restoration typically combines:

- Soil management (mulching, composting)
- Water conservation (irrigation efficiency, rainwater harvesting)
- Re-vegetation with trees and grasses
- Windbreak construction

(Desertification Facts)

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)

ICARDA works across North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia to develop climate-resilient agriculture in drylands. Their work includes drought tolerant crop varieties, soil restoration, efficient water management, and regenerative farming practices. They support vulnerable farming communities facing increasing drought risk and land degradation.

IUCN- Drylands Initiative

The IUCN Drylands Initiative promotes sustainable land management in some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems. Through community-led restoration, rangeland governance, and nature-based solutions, it supports pastoralists, indigenous peoples, and rural communities to restore degraded land and strengthen resilience to drought.

World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)

World Agroforestry provides science-based solutions to restore degraded land using trees and agroforestry systems. Their work improves soil fertility, increases moisture retention, supports biodiversity, and strengthens agricultural livelihoods in dryland regions. They play a major role in scaling land-restoration efforts across Africa and Asia.

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

The Global Mechanism helps countries finance, plan, and scale land restoration programmes that combat desertification and drought. It mobilises funding for major initiatives such as the Great Green Wall and supports governments and NGOs in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets by 2030.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Support land restoration and sustainable land management initiatives.
- Choose products sourced from sustainable agriculture and deforestation-free supply chains.
- Raise awareness about desertification and its global impacts.
- Support policies that promote soil conservation, water stewardship, and climate resilience.



Clean Air Day is the UK's largest public campaign on air pollution, held annually to raise awareness of its health impacts and encourage collective action. Established in 2017 by the environmental charity Global Action Plan, the day mobilises schools, communities, workplaces, and the health sector to highlight the urgency of tackling air pollution and to promote practical solutions across the country *(Global Action Plan)*.



Air pollution remains one of the UK's most significant environmental health threats. It contributes to up to 36,000 premature deaths each year, with children, older adults, and people in deprived communities disproportionately affected. Pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM2.5), and emissions from transport, industry, and domestic burning impact every organ in the body, increasing risks of heart disease, stroke, respiratory illness, pregnancy complications, and cognitive decline *(Global Action Plan)*.





Clean Air Day demonstrates that high public engagement can shift behaviour and influence policy. In recent years, 90% of participants reported adopting at least one pollution-reducing behaviour, reflecting growing public commitment to cleaner air. The campaign also showcases innovative solutions emerging across the UK, from active travel schemes and low-emission transport to green infrastructure and clean-air hospital routes *(Global Action Plan)*.

Urban and rural trees help filter pollutants, store carbon, absorb ozone and particulate matter, and cool local temperatures through shade and evapotranspiration. With climate change intensifying heatwaves and raising pollution levels, the role of green spaces is becoming increasingly significant. The IPCC estimates that forests and land use can provide 20–30% of the total global mitigation needed in 1.5 °C or 2 °C pathways, according to AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use) modelling, while the WHO highlights access to urban green space as a key factor in improving both physical and mental health (IPCC, 2022; WHO, 2016).

Clean Air Day reinforces that improving air quality requires both systemic change, such as cleaner transport, renewable energy, and regulation, and community-level action. Public engagement remains vital in empowering decision-makers to implement clean-air policies and ensuring that healthier, more equitable environments are accessible to all.





ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Global Action Plan

Global Action Plan leads Clean Air Day and works to transform systems that harm both human and environmental health. Their programmes include behaviour change campaigns, school engagement, clean air research, and policy advocacy. They also run Transform Our World, a network supporting thousands of educators in climate and air-quality action.

ClientEarth

ClientEarth is a leading environmental law organisation using legal action and policy advocacy to reduce air pollution across the UK and Europe. Their landmark cases have forced governments to strengthen clean-air plans, improve emissions standards, and address unlawful pollution levels in major cities.

Asthma + Lung UK

A major UK health charity providing support for people with respiratory conditions while campaigning for cleaner air. They conduct research on the health impacts of pollution, advocate for stronger national limits, and work with communities disproportionately affected by poor air quality.

Clean Air Fund

A philanthropic organisation accelerating clean-air solutions worldwide. They fund research, support city-level clean-air planning, and strengthen cross-sector collaboration to reduce pollution and improve public health.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Reduce vehicle emissions by walking, cycling, or using public transport
- Choose low-emission or electric vehicles when possible
- Avoid wood-burning indoors and reduce domestic sources of air pollution
- Support urban greening, tree planting, and rewilding projects
- Conserve energy at home and opt for efficient appliances
- Raise awareness within your community, school, or workplace
- Back policies that reduce emissions and promote clean, healthy environments



World Rainforest Day is observed each year on 22 June to recognise the essential role rainforests play in maintaining the stability of the Earth's climate, supporting biodiversity, and sustaining millions of people. Established in 2017 by Rainforest Partnership, the day promotes global awareness and encourages practical action to protect these critical ecosystems *(Rainforest Partnership)*.



Rainforests cover only 6% of the Earth's surface, yet hold around 50% of terrestrial biodiversity, making them one of the most important reservoirs of life on the planet. A single rainforest area of roughly 10 km² can contain as many as 1,500 flowering plants, 750 species of trees, 400 bird species and 150 species of butterflies. They also influence global weather patterns, regulate the balance of atmospheric gases, and serve as major carbon sinks, storing tens of billions of tonnes of carbon *(Statista; WorldMetrics)*.



Rainforests are home to millions of people, including numerous Indigenous communities whose cultural heritage, livelihoods, and traditional knowledge are closely tied to forest landscapes. Their stewardship plays a vital role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management *(Rainforest Partnership)*.



Despite their importance, rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate, with an estimated 6,000 acres lost every hour, driven primarily by irresponsible logging, mining, large-scale agriculture, and land conversion. Historically, rainforests covered around 14% of the Earth's land surface; today they cover barely 6%, placing thousands of species at risk and undermining global climate resilience *(WorldMetrics; Days of the Year)*.

Destruction of rainforest ecosystems releases stored carbon, accelerates climate change, destabilises water cycles, and reduces the availability of essential medicinal plants. Rainforests have been described as the 'world's largest pharmacy': of the 3,000 plants identified by the US National Cancer Institute as active against cancer cells, 70% are found in rainforests *(WorldMetrics)*.

As the founder of World Rainforest Day, Rainforest Partnership works directly with Indigenous and local communities across the Amazon and globally, focusing on sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity protection, and long-term forest conservation. Their community-centred approach supports local leadership and ensures that conservation initiatives are socially and environmentally sustainable *(Rainforest Partnership)*.

Examples of their work include:

- **Women of the Rio Napo (Ecuador):** Empowering over 100 Indigenous Kichwa women, supporting sustainable income sources, and protecting 149,500 acres of community-owned land. Activities include agroforestry, sustainable fish farming, medicinal plants, handicrafts, and cacao production.
- **Sani Warmi Women's Organisation (Ecuador):** Supporting more than 100 women who protect 50,000+ acres of the Amazon while generating income through handicrafts, coffee, chocolate, and conservation projects such as the Charapa Turtle Sanctuary.
- **Youth Environmental Education (Ecuador):** Providing resources and environmental education to 160 students, establishing youth leadership groups and supporting projects in sustainable agriculture and aquaculture.
- **Biodiversity Conservation in the Cordillera de Colán (Peru):** Documenting new species, conducting ecological research, and strengthening conservation measures in one of the region's most biodiverse landscapes.
- **Butterfly Monitoring Across Ecuador:** Training park rangers, documenting climate and deforestation impacts, and strengthening long-term conservation monitoring.

(Rainforest Partnership)



MORE ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK)

Works to secure the rights of Indigenous peoples and forest communities across the Congo Basin and other tropical forest regions. Their approach combines legal land-rights protection, participatory mapping, community-led forest monitoring, and sustainable livelihoods. RFUK's Mapping for Rights platform has supported over 1,000 communities to document and defend their forest territories, significantly reducing illegal logging and external land grabs.

Cool Earth

Cool Earth is a UK-based charity partnering directly with rainforest communities to stop deforestation at the forest frontier. Their community-led projects focus on income diversification, climate resilience, and health support, helping families remain stewards of their land. Cool Earth's partnerships have helped protect over 400,000 hectares of rainforest in Peru, Papua New Guinea, and the Congo Basin, reducing carbon emissions and supporting Indigenous rights.

Rainforest Alliance

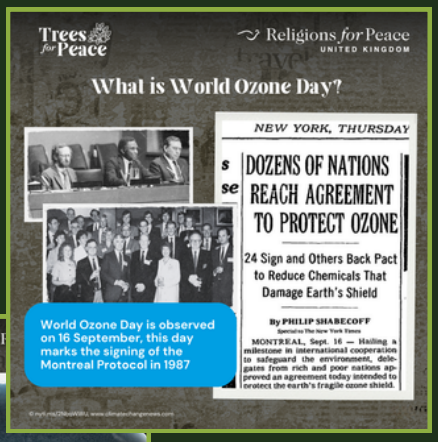
The Rainforest Alliance works worldwide to conserve forests and promote sustainable livelihoods through certification, community partnerships, and deforestation-free supply chains. Its widely recognised certification programmes improve agricultural practices, reduce forest loss, and strengthen biodiversity. The organisation supports millions of farmers and forest workers globally, advancing climate resilience and sustainable land management.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Support rainforest conservation organisations through donations, membership, or volunteering
- Reduce consumption of products linked to deforestation by choosing sustainable, certified goods
- Raise awareness of rainforest threats through community events, education, or online advocacy
- Limit personal environmental impact by reducing waste, choosing responsible brands, and supporting climate-friendly policies
- Learn from and amplify the voices of Indigenous and local communities leading rainforest protection efforts



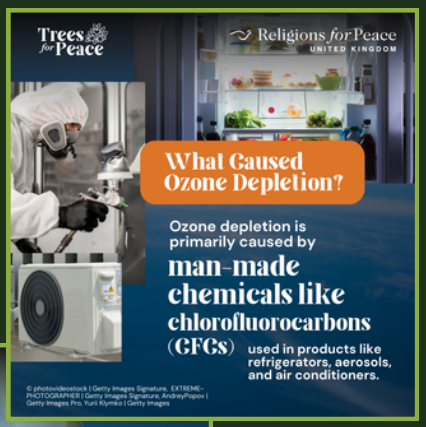
World Ozone Day marks the anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987 to protect the ozone layer. The observance, formally designated by the UN General Assembly, highlights global cooperation in safeguarding this essential atmospheric shield. The ozone layer absorbs the majority of the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation, preventing increased rates of skin cancer, cataracts, ecosystem damage, and crop loss *(United Nations)*.

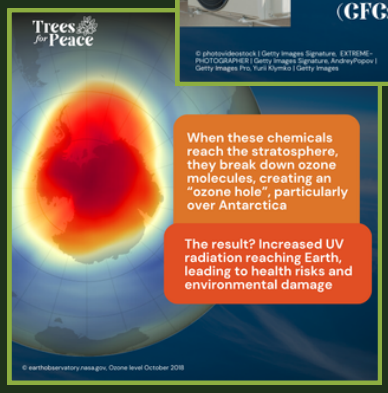




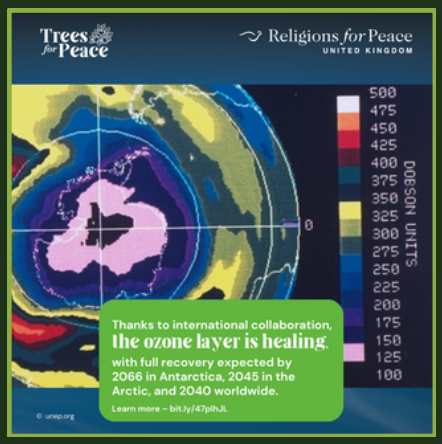
Ozone depletion was driven primarily by human-made chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons, widely used in refrigeration, aerosols, air conditioners, and industrial processes. When released, these chemicals rise into the stratosphere and break down under UV light, releasing chlorine and bromine atoms that destroy ozone molecules. One chlorine atom can eliminate up to 100,000 ozone molecules, creating severe thinning in the ozone layer, most notably the 'ozone hole' over Antarctica *(UNEP)*.

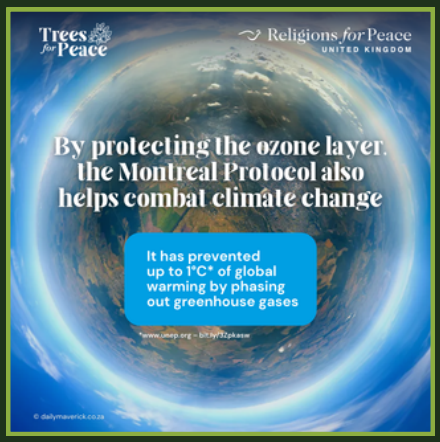
The Montreal Protocol (1987)strengthened by subsequent amendments including the Kigali Amendment (2016), remains the most successful environmental treaty ever implemented. It has achieved the phase-out of 99% of ozone-depleting substances globally, reversing decades of ozone loss. Thanks to the Protocol, the ozone layer is on track to recover to 1980 levels by 2040 globally, 2045 in the Arctic, and 2066 over Antarctica *(UNEP)*.











Many ozone-depleting substances are potent greenhouse gases, and their removal has already avoided 0.5–1°C of warming. The Kigali Amendment extends this progress by phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), powerful greenhouse gases used in cooling equipment. Full implementation could prevent a further 0.3–0.5°C of warming by 2100 *(UNEP)*.

Atmospheric assessments confirm that ozone-depleting substances continue to decline due to global compliance. However, recent unexpected emissions of CFC-11 and other substances underline the need for better monitoring and enforcement *(NOAA, 2022)*.

Broader challenges remain, including:

- emissions from chemical feedstock uses,
- leaks from older refrigeration and cooling systems,
- insufficient monitoring capacity in some regions,
- climate-driven changes in stratospheric conditions which may affect ozone recovery. *(NOAA, 2022)*

The treaty is estimated to have prevented millions of cases of skin cancer and cataracts, avoided billions in economic damages, and protected food systems and biodiversity. The Protocol also improved global cooling efficiency: replacing older refrigerants and improving system design has increased energy efficiency by 10–50%, doubling climate benefits *(UNEP)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

UNEP (Ozone Secretariat)

The Ozone Secretariat coordinates global implementation of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, manages international reporting, assessments, and compliance processes, and supports global cooperation to phase out ozone-depleting substances and HFCs. It also leads the annual World Ozone Day campaign and provides authoritative scientific and policy resources.

WMO (World Meteorological Organization)

WMO co-leads the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion, providing the world's most authoritative ozone science alongside UNEP, NASA, NOAA, and the European Commission. It coordinates global atmospheric monitoring, climate–ozone interactions research, and contributes to projections of ozone recovery timelines.

NASA and NOAA

NASA and NOAA provide high-precision satellite observations, atmospheric modelling, and scientific assessments that track ozone recovery, detect unexpected emissions, and analyse the interaction between climate change and ozone chemistry. Their work underpins global decision-making for the Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment.

UK Met Office

The Met Office contributes to global ozone and climate modelling and collaborates with international bodies on atmospheric composition and UV radiation research. Its Hadley Centre provides climate-ozone projections used in global assessments and supports UK government policy on ozone-depleting substances.

DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)

DEFRA oversees UK compliance with the Montreal Protocol, regulates ozone-depleting substances and HFCs, and implements domestic policy on refrigerants, cooling systems, and emissions reduction. It ensures national enforcement of phase-out targets, safe disposal of refrigerants, and reporting obligations to the UN.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

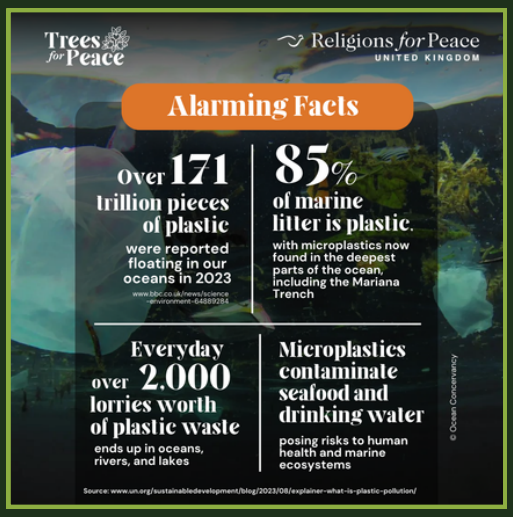
- Choose products labelled ‘ozone-friendly’, ‘HCFC-free’, or energy-efficient when possible
- Dispose of old refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners through certified recycling services to prevent refrigerant leakage
- Maintain cooling equipment regularly to reduce emissions and improve efficiency
- Reduce energy use by improving home insulation and using cooling equipment responsibly
- Support environmental policies that advance the phase-out of harmful substances





I**nternational Coastal Cleanup Day** is observed annually in September as part of a global effort to protect coastlines, beaches, and marine ecosystems. Established in 1986 by Linda Maraniss and Kathy O'Hara of Ocean Conservancy https://oceanconservancy.org/ , the initiative began with 2,800 volunteers in Texas and has since expanded into a worldwide movement involving millions of participants each year. Volunteers remove litter, document marine debris, and contribute to one of the largest datasets on ocean waste, strengthening understanding of plastic pollution and inspiring public action *(Ocean Conservancy)*.

Covering more than 70% of the planet, the ocean generates over half the oxygen we breathe and absorbs nearly 1/3 of global carbon emissions, making it indispensable in regulating the climate system *(United Nations; NOAA Ocean Exploration)*. Yet pollution, particularly plastic pollution, continues to threaten the health of marine ecosystems. The UN reports that the world now produces 430 million tonnes of plastic annually, with two-thirds designed for short-lived use, and the equivalent of more than 2,000 lorry-loads of plastic enters oceans, rivers, and lakes each day *(United Nations, 2023)*.





Recent surveys indicate more than 171 trillion plastic particles floating in the world's oceans, and 85% of all marine litter is plastic. Microplastics now occur everywhere from coastal waters to deep-sea trenches such as the Mariana Trench *(Marine Conservation Society)*.

The International Coastal Cleanup, together with national efforts such as the Great British Beach Clean, provides essential evidence for policy reform. Data from UK beach clean-ups helped support measures such as the 5p plastic bag charge, which contributed to an 80% reduction in plastic bags found on British beaches. The Great British Beach Clean, held each September, mobilises communities across the UK to record litter density on 100-metre stretches of coastline and highlight emerging waste sources, from disposable vapes to PPE *(Awareness Days)*.

Threats to Coasts and Oceans:

- Global plastic production continues to rise, with waste increasingly entering marine environments. Plastics account for the vast majority of marine litter, and without intervention pollution levels could triple by 2060 *(United Nations, 2023)*.
- Microplastics accumulate throughout the ocean, reaching deep-sea ecosystems and reappearing in seafood, drinking water, and sediments. Their spread poses risks to marine life and human health *(Marine Conservation Society)*.
- Agricultural and industrial runoff carries fertilisers, chemicals, and hazardous materials to coastal waters, contributing to harmful algal blooms and degraded habitats *(Ocean Conservancy)*.
- Large portions of plastic waste are landfilled, incinerated, or discarded, with only 9% effectively recycled. Coastal and Indigenous communities are often disproportionately affected by pollution and climate stressors *(United Nations, 2023)*.
- Although marine protected areas cover 1/3 of UK seas, less than 1% are effectively managed, leaving many habitats vulnerable to ongoing degradation *(Marine Conservation Society)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Marine Conservation Society

The UK's leading marine charity working to restore the ocean through science, advocacy, and community engagement. MCS leads the Great British Beach Clean, produces national marine litter reports, and campaigns for stronger protections for UK seas, improved waste policies, and reduced single-use plastics.

Surfers Against Sewage

A grassroots marine conservation charity tackling pollution from sewage, plastics, and water quality issues. SAS runs citizen-science programmes, coastal monitoring initiatives, and national campaigns pushing for stronger regulations on pollution and waste.

Ocean Conservancy

Founders of the International Coastal Cleanup and leaders in ocean research, policy, and community action. The organisation advocates for plastic reduction, sustainable ocean management, and climate solutions while supporting global clean-up efforts through the Clean Swell® app and international partnerships.

The Ocean Cleanup

A technology-driven organisation developing large-scale systems to remove plastic from oceans and prevent waste from entering waterways, including projects in major river systems worldwide.

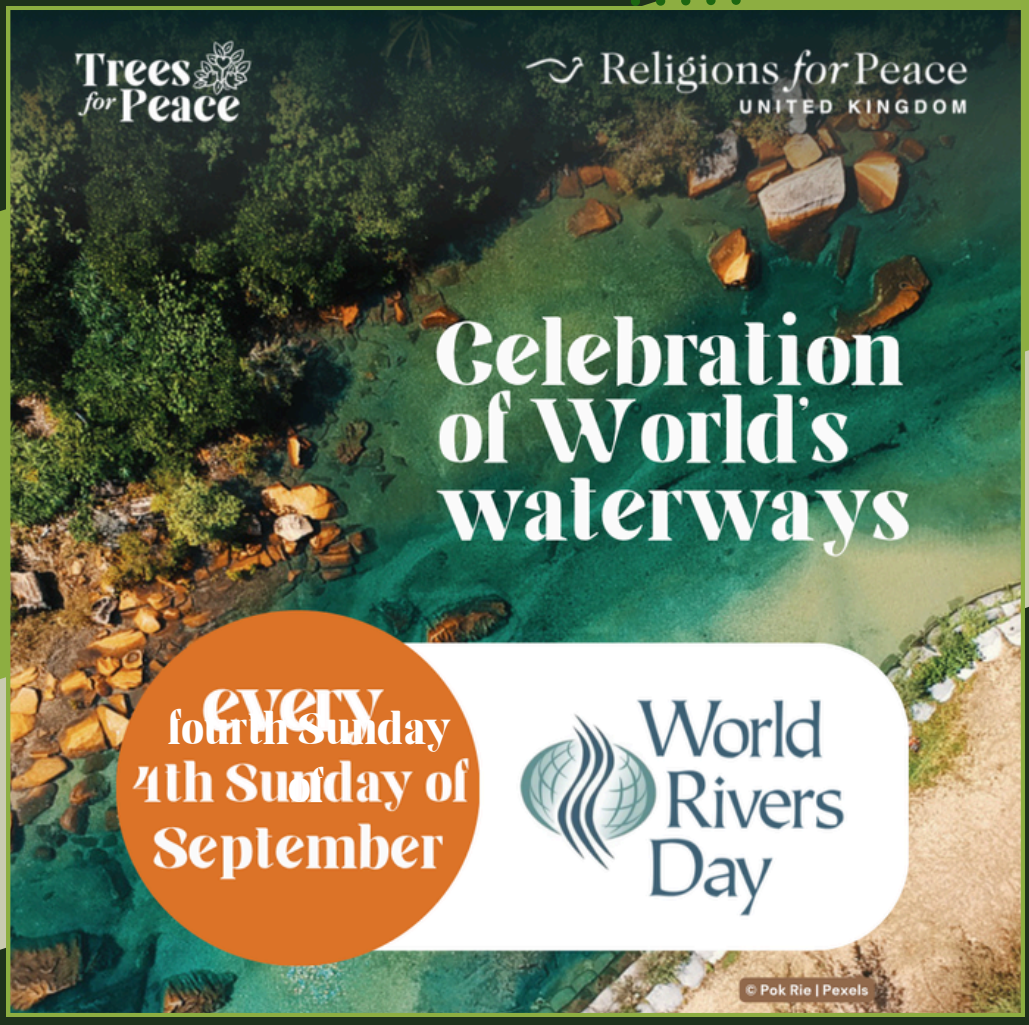
ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Joining or organising coastal clean-ups
- Recording collected waste using tools such as the Clean Swell® app
- Reducing personal plastic use and choosing reusable alternatives
- Supporting policies and organisations working to cut plastic pollution
- Spreading awareness of the threats facing oceans and coasts
- Encouraging responsible waste disposal and recycling practices









World Rivers Day is observed each year on the fourth Sunday of September, highlighting the global importance of rivers and promoting their conservation. Established in 2005 by river advocate Mark Angelo, the day grew out of the success of BC Rivers Day in Canada and was inspired by the UN's Water for Life Decade. Today, World Rivers Day engages millions of participants in up to 100 countries, reflecting its role in raising awareness of the pressures facing river systems and encouraging stewardship at community and national levels *(World Rivers Day)*.



Rivers are foundational to human wellbeing and ecological stability. They support nearly 1/3 of global food production, provide 1/5 of the world's fish harvest, and nourish some of the most productive agricultural landscapes such as river deltas. Agriculture depends heavily on river systems, using over 70% of global freshwater. Around 25% of the world's food relies on river-irrigated croplands, and 3/4 of these lie in water-stressed regions *(WWF, 2023)*.

Rivers are also central to the global water cycle. Recent NASA-led research combining stream-gauge data and modelling found that, between 1980 and 2009, Earth's rivers held an average of 539 cubic miles of water (about 0.006% of global freshwater) with the Amazon basin alone holding 38% of global river water and contributing 18% of total river discharge to the ocean *(NASA JPL)*.





Threats to Rivers:

- Over-extraction and unsustainable agriculture: Excessive irrigation reduces water flow, while poor land-use practices degrade water quality and reduce the availability of freshwater for ecosystems *(WWF, 2023)*.
- Pollution and habitat destruction: Pollutants, poorly regulated development, and destructive land practices weaken river health and diminish biodiversity *(UNEP, 2021)*.
- Dam construction and disrupted sediment flow: Poorly designed dams block the movement of sediment, causing deltas to lose elevation and raising the risk of sinking landscapes and reduced food production *(WWF, 2023)*.
- Human management impacts: NASA's global accounting study identified basins such as the Colorado, Amazon, and Orange River systems showing 'fingerprints' of intense human use, where water discharge is far lower than natural inflow due to extraction and diversion *(NASA JPL)*.

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

The Rivers Trust

The leading UK network for river protection, representing over 60 local trusts working across catchments. The Rivers Trust delivers large-scale restoration, improves water quality, creates wetlands, and runs national citizen-science programmes. It plays a central role in the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) and influences UK freshwater policy through evidence-based advocacy.

Thames21

The primary charity dedicated to restoring and protecting the River Thames and its tributaries. Its work includes major river clean-ups, habitat restoration, and wetland creation, alongside extensive citizen-science monitoring. The organisation engages local communities in caring for one of the UK's most important river ecosystems.

Canal & River Trust

Responsible for managing over 2,000 miles of rivers, canals, and reservoirs across England and Wales, the Canal & River Trust focuses on ecological restoration, heritage protection, and community engagement. Their volunteer programmes, including the Towpath Taskforce, help improve biodiversity and public access to waterways.

WildFish Conservation

A science-led charity campaigning for clean, healthy rivers across the UK. Its work includes legal challenges on sewage and agricultural pollution, rigorous water-quality research, and advocacy for policy change. They play a watchdog role, holding industry and government accountable for freshwater protection.

Wye & Usk Foundation

Focused on the Wye and Usk catchments, the Foundation restores river habitats, builds fish passes, repairs riverbanks, and reduces nutrient pollution through land-management partnerships. Their work has had significant impact on reviving salmon runs and improving ecological health across two of the UK's most pressured rivers.

International Rivers

International Rivers works worldwide to protect river ecosystems and the rights of river-dependent communities. The organisation monitors dam developments, supports sustainable river management, and advocates for the restoration of free-flowing rivers. Their global research and campaigns help shape international policy on river protection.

WWF - Freshwater Programme

WWF's global freshwater work supports river restoration, sustainable water use, and nature-based solutions across multiple continents. They produce influential global river assessments and collaborate with communities, governments, and businesses to protect freshwater ecosystems, including projects in the UK.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Organising or joining river clean-ups
- Participating in fish enhancement projects or habitat restoration
- Reducing personal water footprints by conserving water and choosing sustainable products
- Supporting nature-positive farming and responsible fisheries
- Volunteer with or donate to organisations working to protect rivers
- Learn more about the threats facing rivers and share that awareness with others

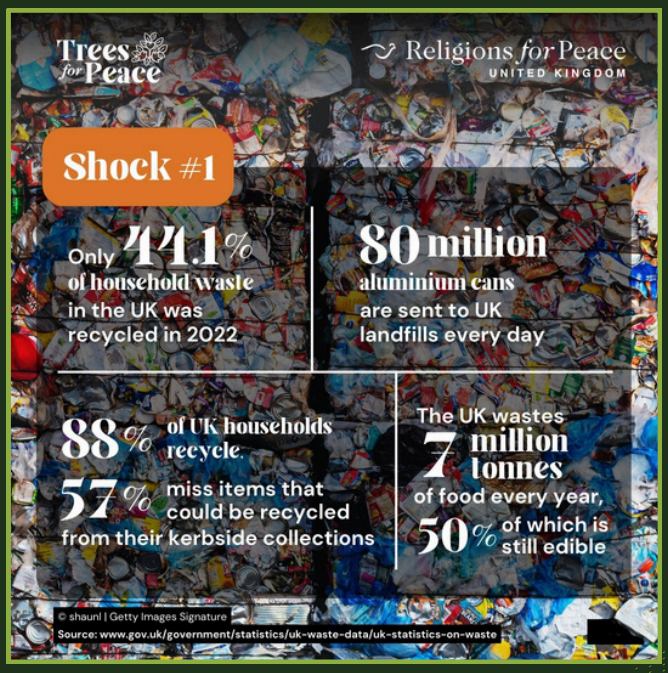






Recycle Week is the UK's largest national recycling campaign, coordinated by Recycle Now and running annually since 2004. It brings together communities, retailers, brands, waste-management companies, governments, local authorities, and the media to improve public recycling behaviour *(WRAP)*. The week typically takes place in mid-September, and has become the country's most recognised behaviour-change initiative focused on recycling.

According to government data, the UK's recycling rate for household waste in 2022 was 44.1%, a slight decrease from 44.6% in 2021 *(UK Government, 2023)*. This remains below the UK Government's earlier ambition to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020.



Recycling performance varies by nation (2022):

- Wales: 56.9%
- Northern Ireland: 49.2%
- England: 43.4%
- Scotland: 42.1%

(UK Government, 2023)

Across all sectors, the UK produced 191.2 million tonnes of waste in the most recent reported year, with England responsible for 85% of the total *(UK Government, 2023)*. Households contribute significantly: over 26 million tonnes of household waste are generated annually, equivalent to the weight of around 260 cruise ships *(WRAP, 2023)*. Despite this, it is estimated that 80% of what UK households throw away could actually be recycled *(WRAP, 2023)*.



Materials, Resources, and Environmental Impact:

- Aluminium: Recycling one aluminium can save enough energy to power a television for up to three hours, and recycling uses 95% less energy than producing new aluminium. However, an estimated 80 million aluminium cans are sent to UK landfill sites every day, representing a major loss of recyclable material with a value estimated at £36 million annually *(International Aluminium Institute)*.

- **Paper and Cardboard:** The UK uses more than 9.9 million tonnes of paper every year, recycling approximately 80% of it. Each tonne of recycled paper saves 380 gallons of oil and 7,000 gallons of water, highlighting the resource impact of paper recovery *(WRAP, 2023)*.

- **Plastic:** UK households discard at least 40 kg of plastic per person per year, amounting to around 5 million tonnes in total; only 45% of this is recycled. Globally, 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans annually, illustrating the wider ecological risk *(UNEP, 2023)*.

- **Glass:** The average UK household uses 500 glass bottles and jars each year, yet the national recycling rate for glass remains around 50%. Over 28 billion glass containers are still sent to landfill each year *(WRAP, 2023)*.

- **Household Food Waste:** According to WRAP, UK households generate around 7 million tonnes of food waste annually, valued at £7.5 billion. Approximately 50% of this waste is still edible, representing the equivalent of 650 million meals disposed of each year. UK households waste an average of 20% of all food purchased, costing the average household about £700 per year *(WRAP, 2023)*.

Recycle Week serves as a national reminder of the environmental importance of recycling and waste reduction. Recycling helps to:

- Conserve natural resources, such as metals, timber, and water
- Reduce pollution associated with extraction and processing
- Lower energy use, especially for materials such as aluminium
- Cut greenhouse gas emissions from landfill and manufacturing
- Protect ecosystems, reducing waste released into natural environments

ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Find out about recycling programmes and collection in your local council. You can also revisit organisations featured in the **Zero Waste Day** on page 31 and 32.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Identify items commonly missed in kerbside collections, such as aerosols, plastic cleaning bottles, metal tins, and paper packaging, and ensure they are placed in the correct recycling bin.
- Plan meals, store food appropriately, and use leftovers creatively to reduce the amount of edible food wasted
- Choose durable items, repair when possible, and select products with recyclable packaging to minimise waste generation.
- Raising awareness within local communities helps others understand recycling rules, which vary by local authority.





While spring migration brings birds into the UK to breed, autumn migration marks the movement of birds leaving northern breeding grounds and arriving in Britain for the winter. This seasonal shift is triggered largely by shortening day length, one of the main cues that initiates migratory behaviour *(BTO)*.



The journey south is often slower and more flexible than in spring. Birds are not racing to nesting territories; instead, they travel in accordance with food availability and weather patterns, and many species migrate under cover of darkness to conserve energy and avoid predation *(World Migratory Bird Day)*. World Migratory Bird Day reminds us that autumn migration is part of a global network of journeys. Birds arriving in Britain have crossed oceans, continents, and geopolitical boundaries, depending on a chain of functioning habitats along the way.



Britain becomes a winter refuge for several species escaping harsher conditions further north. According to the Woodland Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, typical autumn visitors include:

- **Redwing:** arriving from Iceland and Scandinavia from late September onwards *(Woodland Trust).*
- **Fieldfare:** travelling from Scandinavia and eastern Europe, often forming large mobile winter flocks *(Woodland Trust).*
- **Brent Goose:** wintering on estuaries and coastal marshes after breeding in Arctic regions *(Woodland Trust).*
- **Pink-footed Goose:** arriving in large numbers from Iceland and Greenland, especially in Scotland and eastern England *(Woodland Trust).*

Large influxes, known as "falls", can occur when cold continental weather pushes birds westwards, delivering sudden movements of thrushes, geese, and other migrants into the UK *(BTO).*

While many general threats to migratory birds feature in the Spring section of the booklet, several pressures are particularly relevant during autumn migration:

- Loss of Wintering and Stopover Habitats: Wetlands, coastal areas, and farmland that winter visitors depend on continue to decline due to development and intensive land use. Species such as geese and waders are especially vulnerable *(RSPB)*.
- Climate Change and seasonal mismatch
- Autumn weather patterns influence when and how birds migrate. Increasingly unpredictable conditions (storms, prolonged rain, heatwaves) can exhaust migrants or delay movements (RSPB).
- Light pollution during nocturnal flights
- A high proportion of autumn migrants travel at night. Artificial lighting can disrupt navigation, leading to collisions and disorientation *(World Migratory Bird Day)*.
- Reduced insect availability
- For species that migrate in stages, declining insect populations reduce the energy reserves required for the next leg of their journey *(World Migratory Bird Day)*.



ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Please revisit organisations featured in the **'Spring' World Migratory Bird Day** on page 38.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Planting berry-producing trees and shrubs, such as hawthorn, rowan, and holly, can help species like Redwings and Fieldfares which rely on winter berries (RSPB https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/).
- Avoid pesticides, maintain patches of long grass, and plant native wildflowers to support insect populations essential to many migrants (WMBD; Wildlife Trusts).
- Switching off unnecessary outdoor lights during peak migration months helps nocturnal migrants maintain orientation (WMBD).
- Nature reserves managed by the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, and local conservation groups provide vital refuges for wintering birds. Volunteering, visiting, or supporting them helps maintain habitats needed through the colder months.
- Keep cats indoors at dawn and dusk. Tired migrants arriving after long flights are particularly vulnerable to predation (RSPB).





World Food Day is observed every year on **16 October**, marking the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1945. Since 1979, it has served as a global platform to raise awareness of hunger, food insecurity, and the need for sustainable agrifood systems *(FAO)*.



Despite the world producing enough food for everyone, 733 million people still face hunger due to conflict, climate shocks, economic instability, and structural inequalities *(FAO; Action Against Hunger)*. World Food Day calls on governments, the private sector, civil society, farmers, fishers, and individuals to work toward accessible, nutritious, and sustainably produced food for all.

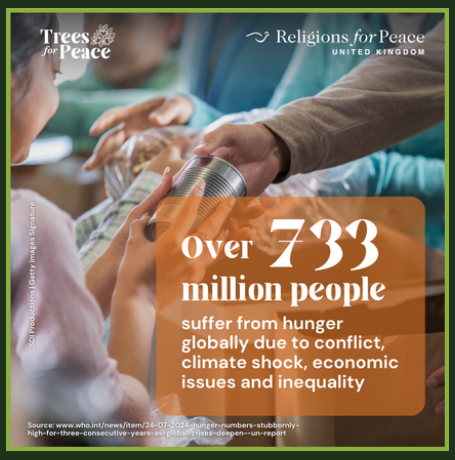


3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet, and 8% of the world's population is expected to be under-nourished by 2030 *(Action Against Hunger)*. Women and marginalised groups face disproportionate impacts: in 2021, 150 million more women than men experienced hunger. Poverty remains a significant driver, with 648 million. people living on less than $2.15 a day and unable to access a nutritious diet or essential services *(Action Against Hunger)*.

The World Bank highlights that global food insecurity rose from 135 million people in 2019 to 345 million in 2022, driven by conflict, supply-chain disruptions and the economic aftermath of COVID-19, all worsened by climate pressure on agriculture *(World Bank, 2022)*.

Food insecurity is a major and growing issue in the UK. In 2022/23, 7.2 million people, including 17% of children, lived in households experiencing food poverty *(House of Commons Library, 2024)*. The number of people in food-insecure households has risen by 2.5 million since 2021/22.

Food bank usage continues to reach record levels. In 2023/24, the Trussell Trust distributed 3.12 million emergency food parcels, the highest number recorded *(House of Commons Library, 2024)*.





Rising living costs contribute significantly to food insecurity. Food and non-alcoholic drink prices rose by 19.1% in the 12 months to March 2023, the highest rate since 1977. By mid-2024, 45% of adults reported increased cost-of-living pressures, and 92% said food prices were a major factor *(House of Commons Library, 2024)*.

Educational inequalities also mirror food insecurity. In 2024, 24.6% of pupils in England were eligible for free school meals, the highest on record. Only 43% of these pupils achieved a standard pass in English and Maths GCSE, compared with 72% of non-FSM pupils *(House of Commons Library, 2024)*.

Apparently 1.3 billion tonnes of food are wasted globally each year *(FAO)*. In the UK, around 9.5 million tonnes of food were wasted in 2018, with 70% coming from households *(House of Lords Library, 2021)*. This waste generated 25 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and cost an estimated £19 billion *(House of Lords Library, 2021)*.

The UK has committed to halving per capita food waste by 2030 under SDG 12.3 *(House of Lords Library, 2021)*. Initiatives include the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap and organisations like FareShare, which redistributed 26,329 tonnes of surplus food in 2019/20, equivalent to 57 million meals, although this represents only about 1% of the UK's surplus *(House of Lords Library, 2021; FareShare)*.

The FAO defines a sustainable food system as one that delivers food security and nutrition without compromising future generations *(FAO)*. Sustainable food systems must balance economic sustainability, social sustainability, and environmental sustainability.

Traditional approaches have often focused only on production. A food-systems approach recognises the interactions between production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste, and the influence of climate, governance, and market systems *(FAO)*. Reforming agrifood systems can reduce hunger, help mitigate climate change, and enhance community resilience *(FAO)*.
Food security requires coordinated action from governments, to implement rights-based food policies and strengthen social protection; the private sector, to support sustainable production and fair supply chains; farmers, fishers, and producers, who the FAO describes as "Food Heroes"; civil society, through advocacy and community support; individuals, by making informed consumption choices.



ORGANISATIONS TO LOOK AT

Food First (Institute for Food and Development Policy)

A nonprofit research and advocacy institute founded in 1975 that focuses on addressing the root causes of hunger and food insecurity. It works on policy analysis, education, and grassroots advocacy to promote food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, and equitable food systems, supporting small farmers and community-led food systems worldwide.

Soil Association

UK-based charity founded in 1946 that promotes sustainable farming, organic agriculture, and healthy food systems. The organisation campaigns against environmentally harmful agricultural practices, runs a widely recognised organic certification scheme, and conducts research and advocacy to improve the sustainability of food production and consumption.

Global Crop Diversity Trust

An international nonprofit organisation dedicated to conserving crop diversity to support global food security. It funds and coordinates gene banks worldwide and supports the preservation of seeds and plant genetic resources critical for resilient agriculture. It also helps safeguard crop varieties in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Choose Healthy and Sustainable Foods
- Prioritise fresh, seasonal produce, legumes, nuts, and whole grains, which support both health and lower environmental impact
- Reduce Food Waste
- Learn the difference between “use by” and “best before” dates, plan meals, compost safely, and use leftovers creatively
- Support Communities in Crisis
- Donate funds, time, or essential supplies to support vulnerable groups
- Raise Awareness on Food Inequalities
- Educate peers and communities about barriers to accessing nutritious food





National Tree Week, typically held in late November and early December, marks the beginning of the UK tree-planting season and is coordinated by The Tree Council *(The Tree Council)*. The event began in 1975, following the earlier formation of The Tree Council in 1973, which brought together communities, volunteers, and organisations to plant and protect trees across the country. Each year, thousands of people take part in planting trees and hedgerows, attending events, joining online talks, and accessing resources that help schools and communities engage with tree care and conservation *(The Tree Council)*.



The campaign highlights how essential trees are to the UK's environmental health, climate commitments, and community wellbeing. The Tree Council's interactive map allows people to add and discover planting events nationwide, while Tree Talks and Tree Party resources support community engagement *(The Tree Council)*.

Trees play a central role in mitigating climate change, supporting biodiversity, improving air quality, and enhancing resilience to extreme weather. According to the Woodland Trust, UK woodlands currently store 213 million tonnes of carbon, demonstrating their importance in reducing atmospheric CO2 through photosynthesis *(Woodland Trust)*. Urban trees can reduce air pollution by up to 50%, provide shade and cooling in cities, and help manage stormwater by absorbing rain and reducing runoff, which contributes to flood prevention *(Woodland Trust)*.

Biodiversity is also strongly linked to woodland health. Around 80% of terrestrial biodiversity depends on trees globally, and in the UK, a single oak tree can support up to 2,300 species, with over 300 species relying entirely on oak *(Woodland Trust; Action Oak)*. Ancient and veteran trees (around 25% of the UK tree population) store 36% of the carbon held in woodlands, making their protection essential *(Woodland Trust)*.

Trees also contribute to public wellbeing, as spending time in nature is linked to reduced stress and improved mental health, and urban green spaces enhance physical activity and social connection *(Woodland Trust)*.

The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with only 13% woodland cover, compared with the European average of 38% *(Woodland Trust)*. To meet the UK Government's 2050 net-zero target, woodland cover must increase to 19%, requiring an additional 1.5 million hectares of trees *(Woodland Trust)*.





Only 2.4% of UK land is ancient woodland, an irreplaceable habitat that faces threats from development, climate change, and pests https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ Wildlife declines are significant: woodland birds have declined 29% since 1970, butterflies by 41% since 1990, and woodland plants by 18% since 2015 *(Woodland Trust)*.



Nitrogen pollution also threatens woodland ecosystems, with most woodlands exceeding deposition levels associated with deterioration *(Woodland Trust)*.

Diseases such as ash dieback pose additional risks, with up to 80% of UK ash trees potentially lost *(Woodland Trust)*. Habitat fragmentation, urbanisation, and the climate crisis continue to place pressure on woodlands and the species they support.

National Tree Week is supported by a wide network of charities, research bodies, and institutions. Each plays a distinct role in tree planting, woodland conservation, research, and public engagement.







ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED TO LOOK AT

The Tree Council

Unites individuals and organisations to plant and care for trees across the UK, leads major campaigns, runs programmes such as Young Tree Champions, Orchards for Schools, and coordinates the national Tree Warden scheme of over 6,000 volunteers

Woodland Trust

The UK's largest woodland conservation charity, protecting ancient woods, restoring degraded habitats, and creating new native woodland. It plans to establish 60,000 hectares of new woodland and has identified threats such as HS2's impact on 108 ancient woods

Forestry Commission

A government body responsible for woodland health, forestry standards, felling licences, and pest and disease surveillance

Action Oak

Focuses on protecting the UK's oak trees through research, monitoring, and community collaboration. Research projects include FUTURE OAK and microbiome studies aimed at improving oak resilience.

The National Forest

A 200-square-mile transformation project in the Midlands where woodland cover has increased from 6% to over 25% in 30 years, with over 9.5 million trees planted.

Natural England

Government adviser for nature conservation in England, overseeing protected sites, landscapes, and habitat recovery.

Trees for Cities

The only UK charity dedicated specifically to urban tree planting, planting 116,772 trees in 2023–24 and working with over 9,500 volunteers

Kew Royal Botanic Gardens

A global centre for plant science and conservation, home to over 50,000 plant species and an arboretum of 11,000 trees. It leads major research initiatives such as the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership.

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)

The UK's leading gardening charity, supporting sustainable horticulture, running major shows, and conducting climate and biodiversity research .

RSPB The Royal Society for the protection of Birds

Manages 200+ nature reserves, supports millions of members and volunteers, conducts ecological research, and advocates for wildlife protection.

National Trust

Protects nature, gardens, historic landscapes, and thousands of ancient trees across the UK. Their work includes climate adaptation, species conservation, and restoring vulnerable habitats.

PTES (People's Trust for Endangered Species)

Protects habitats such as orchards, hedgerows, and wood pasture; supports species surveys; and funds global conservation research.

TCV (The Conservation Volunteers)

Engages communities in caring for green spaces, supporting nearly 97,000 people and improving over 1,300 green spaces in 2023–24.

Arboricultural Association

The UK's leading professional organisation for tree care specialists, providing training, accreditation, conferences, and public guidance.

CPRE – The Countryside Charity

Advocates for rural protection, hedgerow restoration, and climate-related planning policy.

Institute of Chartered Foresters

Professional body supporting high standards in forestry and arboriculture, representing over 2,000 professionals.

International Tree Foundation

Works globally and in the UK to plant trees, restore forests, and support community-led projects.

Learning Through Landscapes

Supports outdoor learning, nature-rich school grounds, and climate-ready educational spaces.

The Orchard Project

Creates and restores community orchards, has planted over 500 orchards, and offers accredited training in orchard management.

London Wildlife Trust

Protects London's wildlife, manages 36 reserves, and leads projects restoring urban woodland and wetland habitats.

Life for a Life

Plants memorial trees and supports communities.

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

- Join a tree-planting event via The Tree Council's national map (Tree Council link above).
- Volunteer with organisations such as TCV, Trees for Cities, Woodland Trust, or local Tree Warden networks.
- Support conservation initiatives protecting ancient trees and restoring habitats.
- Explore educational resources from RHS, Kew, Learning Through Landscapes, and The Tree Council.
- Participate in citizen science projects monitoring tree health and woodland wildlife.





OUR STORY BEHIND THIS CAMPAIGN

We are Religions for Peace UK. We address our peace work knowing that includes the land, the environment, and the ecosystem.

The destruction of the Caledonian Forest was a long-term process spanning thousands of years. Industrial expansion and military needs drove massive deforestation, included felling for ship-building, tanning, and providing charcoal for iron smelting. During the World Wars, the need for timber led to accelerated felling, often for trench construction.

Trees for Life embodies the symbolic concept of the Tree of Life, which represents the connection between heaven, earth, and the underworld, symbolising balance and harmony in nature.

Similar to ancient beliefs that trees represent rebirth—losing leaves in fall and coming back to life in spring—the charity aims to bring back the "dead" or degraded landscapes to life. A single mature tree, such as an oak, can support over 2,300 species of animals and plants.

We called our grove Trees for Peace. Because righting wrongs on the land is part of our Steps of Peace.

That's why we chose trees.

Trees for Peace

What will you choose?

This resource is provided free of charge for use within faith communities, educational settings, and related non-commercial contexts. It may be shared and adapted for teaching, learning, and community engagement purposes, provided that its original intent and integrity are respected. When possible, please acknowledge the source. For any uses beyond these purposes, or for inquiries, please get in touch.

At RfPUK, we warmly welcome ideas for projects, and collaborations that further these goals. If you have a vision for a positive environmental or community action, or simply want to explore ways to get involved, please access our Invitation to Collaboration. Every effort, large or small, contributes to building a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world. Together, we can turn awareness into meaningful action.

The RfPUK Trees for Peace Grove:
https://treesforlife.org.uk/groves/366356/

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RfPUK on Social Media:
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/religions4peace
FaceBook: https://www.facebook.com/religionsforpeaceuk/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@RfPUK
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/religions-for-peace-uk/
Linktree: https://linktr.ee/rfpuk

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Awareness Days: Great British Beach Clean 2024
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22 September: World Rivers Day

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September: Recycle Week UK

International Aluminium Institute: Recycling aluminium
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https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink/food-waste

WRAP Waste and Resources Action Programme: Recycle Week
https://www.wrap.ngo/taking-action/citizen-behaviour-change/recycle-now/recycle-week

2nd Week of October: World Migratory Bird Day

BTO British Trust for Ornithology: Migration
https://www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/birds-and-garden/birdfacts/migration

RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Bird Migration
https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-migration

The Wildlife Trusts: Brent goose
https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/birds/wetland-birds/brent-goose

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Woodland Trust: Redwing
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/birds/redwing/

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16 October: World Food Day

Action Against Hunger: World hunger facts
https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/the-hunger-crisis/world-hunger-facts/

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https://www.actionoak.org/

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https://treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week/tree-party-resources/

Woodland Trust: State of UK woods and trees
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/state-of-uk-woods-and-trees/

Woodland Trust
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

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One Tree at a Time