

# BIODIVERSITY DAY - MAY 22



"As custodians of the planet it is our responsibility to deal with all species with kindness, love and compassion."  
-- Richard Gere

Many people are helping to make the world a better place, but humanity as a whole is making it difficult for other living creatures that share our planet to survive. As humans clear the land to build, and pollute the land, air and water, wildlife habitats are being destroyed. Some scientists estimate that each year 140,000 species of plants and animals become extinct -- there are no more of those kinds of plants or animals left on the planet! Scientists estimate that if we keep doing what we're doing, 20% of all living species will be extinct in 30 years, and half of all living species will be extinct within the next century!

Recognizing the importance of protecting other living species, 150 nations signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. One definition of "biological diversity" or "biodiversity" is the totality of genes, species, and ecosystems of a region, and this document helps set up real and tangible goals for nations to achieve in order to protect living species and their habitats.

BioDiversity Day is a chance to promote conservation of biological diversity and call for the sustainable and equitable use of the resources of the natural environment.

## Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more about biodiversity
2. Hold an event to raise awareness and funds for biological diversity
3. Contribute to an organization promoting biodiversity

## Organizations Promoting BioDiversity

BioDiversity Project ([biodiversityproject.org](http://biodiversityproject.org))  
Convention on Biological Diversity ([biodiv.org](http://biodiv.org))  
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation ([cbc.amnh.org](http://cbc.amnh.org))  
Nature Conservancy ([nature.org](http://nature.org))  
Redlist of Threatened Species ([redlist.org](http://redlist.org))  
World Conservation Union ([iucn.org](http://iucn.org))

## DO ONE THING

The Emily Fund - Education, Mentorship, Inspiration, Leadership, Youth for a better world  
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