



# World Environmental Day 1 – Sarah Judkins Eco-System and Bio-diversity

Proud history, bright future.



# Introduction

Take time to read this introduction and the information we have prepared, it highlights the importance of us all **taking action now** to protect the world we live in.

World Environment Day is celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> June each year.

This year the date is significant as the United Nations are launching a decade of Eco-system Regeneration which every one of us can play a part in.

This week we are taking the opportunity to introduce some simple ideas that you may wish to try, enabling you and your family to take part in securing a bright future for generations to come.



# What is being published this week!

- Monday – introduction to the importance of eco-systems and biodiversity.
- Tuesday – surprising facts about UK waste and recycling.
- Wednesday - ocean plastics.
- Thursday – global warming.
- Friday – food waste.



# UN Launch a decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

- Earth needs help. The climate emergency, the loss of nature and deadly pollution threaten to destroy our home and eliminate many of the millions of species that share this beautiful planet with us.
- This degradation is not inevitable. We have the power and the knowledge to reverse the harm and restore the Earth – if we act now.
- That is why the United Nations has declared the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Starting on World Environment Day 2021, individuals, groups, governments, businesses and organizations of all kinds can join forces in a global movement to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation and secure a sustainable future for all. (United Nations)



# 10 Years?

- Ten years might seem like a long time. But really we are in a sprint. By 2030, we must nearly halve greenhouse gas emissions to prevent devastating climate change. Huge progress is needed to meet the sustainable development goals from:
  - Eliminating poverty.
  - Fighting disease.
  - Safe guarding biodiversity
- We need to bend the curve on biodiversity loss – a frightening trend that may lead to the extinction of 1 million species.
- Healthy ecosystems are vital to meeting those goals. Restoring them is a massive challenge. But more and more people realise that we must change our ways and move urgently to protect and rebuild nature for the sake of future generations and out of love for the world we live in.

# Biodiversity: What is it, Where is it, and why is it important?

- Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic eco-systems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of eco-systems.
- Biodiversity forms the foundation of the vast array of eco-system services that critically contribute to human well-being.
- Biodiversity is important in human-managed as well as natural eco-systems.
- Decisions humans make that influence biodiversity affect the well-being of themselves and others.

# Why is the Eco System so Important?

- Eco-systems are the web of life on Earth. An eco-system comprises of all the living organisms and the interactions between them and with their surroundings in a given place.
- They exist at all scales, from a grain of soil to the entire planet and include forests, rivers, wetlands, grasslands, estuaries, and coral reefs. Cities and farmlands contain important human-modified eco-systems.



# Why is the Eco System so Important? – Cont.



- Eco-systems provide us with priceless benefits. They Include:
  - A stable climate
  - Breathable air
  - Supplies of water, food and materials of all kinds
  - Protect against disaster and disease.
- Natural eco-systems are important for our physical and mental health, and our identity. They are home to precious wildlife. For many they are a source of wonder, spirituality and inspiration.



# Why is the Eco System so Important? - Cont.

- All Over the world, eco-systems face massive threats.
  - Forests are being cleared;
  - Rivers and lakes polluted;
  - Wetlands and peatlands drained;
  - Coasts and oceans degraded and over fished
  - Mountain soils eroded;
  - Farmlands and grasslands over exploited.
- Unless we change our ways and protect and restore our eco-systems, we will not only destroy the landscapes we love. We will undermine the foundations of our own well-being and bequeath a degraded, inhospitable planet for future generations



# Quotations

**“IT IS ONE WORLD.AND IT’S IN OUR CARE. FOR THE FIRST TIMEIN THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 500 MILLION YEARS, ONE SPECIES HAS THE FUTURE IN THE PALM OF ITS HANDS.”**

**David Attenborough**

**“THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS THE BELIEF THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAVE IT!”**

**Robert Swan**

**“THE TRUTH IS; THE NATURAL WORLD IS CHANGING AND WE ARE TOTALLY DEPENDANT ON THAT WORLD. IT PROVIDES OUR FOOD WATER AND AIR. IT IS THE MOST PRECIOUS THING WE HAVE AND WE NEED TO DEFEND IT.”**

**David Attenborough**

**“WE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND GUILD OR BLAME AND GET ON WITH THE PRACTICAL TASKS AT HAND.”**

**David Attenborough**

**“ SMALL ACTS, WHEN MULTIPLIED BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD.”**

**Howard Zinn**

**“WE ARE AT A UNIQUE STAGE IN OUR HISTORY. NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE HAD SUCH AN AWARENESS OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TO THE PLANET, AND NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE HAD THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT. SURELY WE ALL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE ABOUT OUR BLUE PLANET. THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY AND INDEED, ALL LIFE ON EARTH, NOW DEPENDS ON US. ”**

**David Attenborough**

# Final Comments

I hope you found this introduction as thought provoking as I did; while I was conducting the research to produce this presentation.

We all have a responsibility to future generations to protect the world we live in.

There are many sources of information, I have just selected a few

Ideas about simple changes we can make or different ways we can help will follow over the next few days.

Find out more about the UN Decade on [decadeonrestoration.com](https://decadeonrestoration.com) and on social media under [#Generation Restoration](https://twitter.com/GenerationRestoration)



# What will you do?

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