



*Listen to the  
Voice of creation*  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

## Pt 3

Reading copy only

Pope Francis names a significant  
environmental challenge for our time

## PROTECT BIODIVERSITY.

2010 was the International Year of Biodiversity when a call went out to the whole world to protect Biodiversity

December 2022 is decision making time . The Conference on Biodiversity (COP15) is an opportunity for countries to halt the destruction of eco systems and the extinction of species.

**Whoever wantonly destroys a living species,  
silences a voice of the Divine forever”.**

**Thomas Berry.**

The Conference on Biodiversity (COP15) will be held in Canada in December 2022.

During this Season of Creation Pope Francis invites us:

“Let us pray and urge nations to reach agreement on 4 key principles :

- 1.To have a clear ethical basis for the changes needed to save Biodiversity.
2. To support conservation and co-operation as well as meeting people’s needs sustainably.
3. To promote a shared commitment to biodiversity as a global common good.
4. To give priority to people in situations of vulnerability especially hardships caused by the loss of biodiversity.

### The Pope’s impassioned plea:

“In the name of God, I ask the great extractive industries - mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness—to stop destroying forests, wetlands and mountains, to stop polluting rivers and seas, to stop poisoning food and people.”

Rome, St John Lateran, 16th July 2022.

There can be no life on earth without biodiversity.

**Planet Earth is the home for  
an amazing variety of life  
from bacteria that live  
in the extreme heat of volcanic lava,  
to ice-cap dwelling polar bears.  
All are interconnected  
in a fragile web of life called  
“BIODIVERSITY.”**

Nature’s Mystery confronts us  
at all times and everywhere

***.Why do we Need Biodiversity?***

- ♦ Biodiversity is a condition for life.
  - ♦ Loss of biodiversity will result in a rapid decline of the earth’s natural wealth.
  - ♦ If bacteria and fungi disappear, our soil will dramatically deteriorate.
  - ♦ If insects, birds and bats reduce in numbers, pollination will suffer.
  - ♦ We rely on biodiversity to provide us with food, fuel, medicine and other essentials.
  - ♦ If we lose the diversity of species, we are destabilising the very ecological processes on which we depend for life.
- 3.

***What Threatens Biodiversity?***

- Human activities are at the centre of biodiversity loss.
- ♦ The introduction of alien species e.g. rats
- ♦ Over-exploitation.
- ♦ Diseases.
- ♦ Climate change is altering migratory species, affecting bird resting places etc.

***To Ponder:***

***If we lived on the moon, our imagination would be as desolate as the moon, our emotions as dull. There would be no poetry or music...***

***The preservation of the magnificent biodiversity which surrounds us is not simply a creational need or an economic urgency...***

***It is even more a necessity for the inner life of the spirit.***

***Thomas Berry***

***Brought to you by the Catholic Parish of Hasting  
Environmental and Social Justice Group***