

#MyActionsMatter: Global Action Days 2022



We support the



Welcome to Global Action Days 2022! Over the course of 10 days, we will demonstrate and motivate others on how small individual actions can have a significant impact on our own and our Earth's wellbeing.

Register on the [FEE website](#) to stay informed and receive a certificate of participation as an institution from the Foundation for Environmental Education.

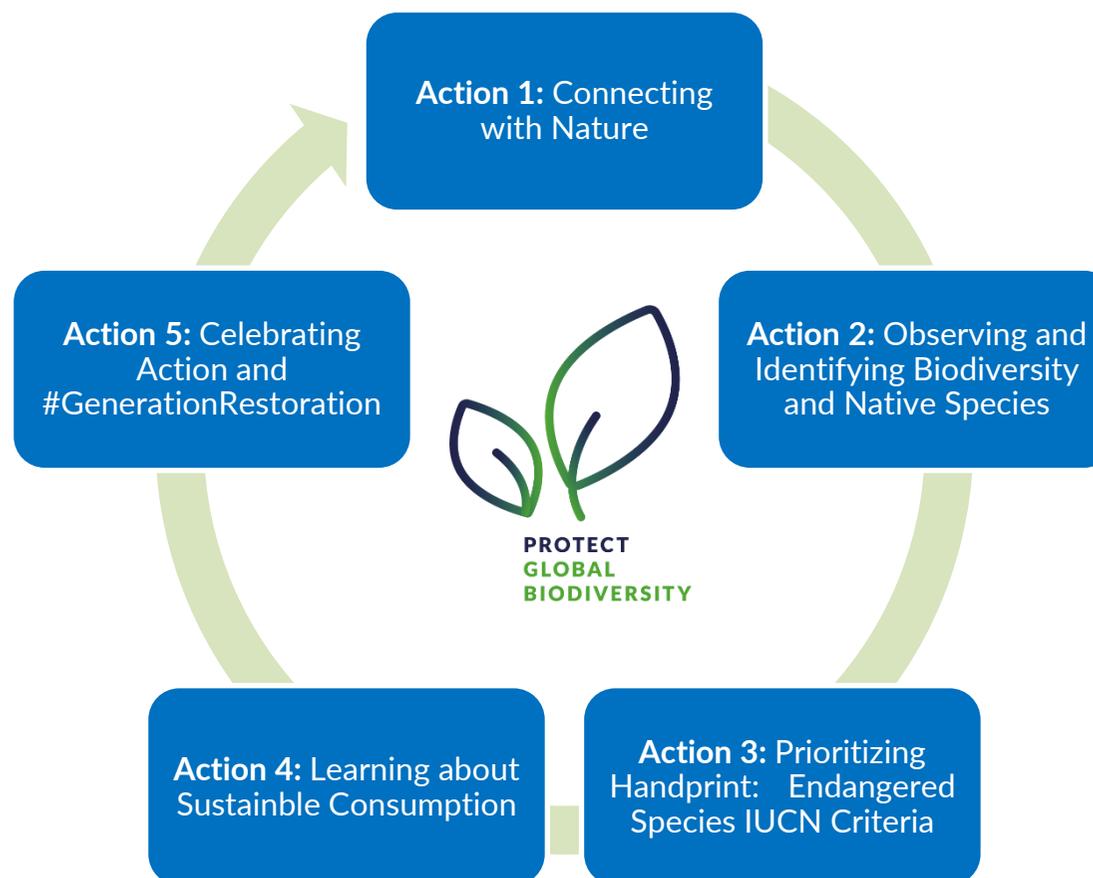
This year's edition of the #GlobalActionDays will be focusing on the important theme of Biodiversity and how you can empower and be the #GenerationRestoration. The #GenerationRestoration movement is part of the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystems Restoration](#).

Fun fact: Scientists have estimated that over 8 million species of plants and animals exist on Earth. But did you know that only around 1.2 million species have been identified and described so far, most of which are insects!

Do you want to discover more interesting Biodiversity facts? Check out these resources:

- [Global Biodiversity | National Geographic Society](#)
- [Biodiversity | National Geographic Society](#)
- [Canadian video on Biodiversity 101.GTt](#)

This year's Global Action Days actions have been designed to stimulate connection with nature while empowering the participant with practical skills and resources to observe local biodiversity and understand how they are part of being **#GenerationRestoration**. Find below the educational objectives behind each Global Action Days 2022 Biodiversity Actions.



Actions	Steps	Help notes
<p>Action 1: Nature Dipping</p> <p>Photo:</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Take a 10-minute walk in a green space. It can be a nearby forest, park, beach, or even your own garden or school grounds. For 30 seconds, close your eyes, stand, or sit still, relax, breathe, and just listen to your surroundings. 2) Open your eyes and look around for a flower, plant, bird, or insect that you find beautiful or interesting. Stay still and observe. 3) After 10 minutes, try to reflect upon how being outdoors in contact with nature make you feel? Did you enjoy it or find it relaxing? 4) While being outdoors you can take a photo of your surroundings and share it later on FB/Instagram with the hashtags #GlobalActionDays, #MyActionsMatter, #GAIA2030, #GenerationRestoration, and #LitterLessCampaign. Caption your photo with two words to describe how you feel after 10 minutes of nature dipping. 	<p>Goal: Nature Connectedness</p> <p>Before the action: Explain the action to the students. The action can take place on the school grounds, but students can also be encouraged to do nature dipping with their parents and friends.</p> <p>For additional ideas for activities, you could do while you are outside, have a look at the Lesson Plan: A Walk in the Park.</p> <p>After the action: Organise a reflection session on the experiences students had and what they remember the most – it could be an element of nature, peace, a conversation with their parents and friends or discovering something that they were not aware of. Encourage them to express themselves in the class, through creative means and to share any photos they might have taken on social media using the campaign hashtags.</p> <p>As a teacher, you can post your reflections of the post-activity session with your students in the Facebook GAD (Global Action Day) group.</p>

Action 2: Nature Detectives

Photo:



Native species are species that have naturally evolved in a specific area. They have been growing there naturally for hundreds or thousands of years. Contrary, non-native species, often also referred to as exotic or alien species, are those that are introduced to an area, typically by humans.

1. Do you know how important native wildflowers are for pollinators and many other species? Watch the [following video](#) to discover more about the benefits of wildflowers.
2. With this action, we invite you to get outside and try to identify some native plants and wildflowers from your country or region. While being outdoors, you can use some nature guides or identification apps such as [iNaturalist](#). List the plants you have been able to identify and try to find out whether they are native to your country or region.
3. Take photos of your identifications and share some of them on FB/Instagram with the hashtag **#GlobalActionDays**, **#MyActionsMatter**, **#GAIA2030**, **#GenerationRestoration**, and **#LitterLessCampaign**! Caption your photo with the name of the species and any other interesting facts you learned!

Goal: Students start recognising the wonders of nature using easy-to-use citizen science tools.

Before the action: Explain the action to students and demonstrate how the [iNaturalist](#) app works. Introduce the concept of native and non-native species to the students.

This action offers an opportunity to recognise local native species and their ecological and social values.

This action also offers a good opportunity to reflect on the problem that invasive species pose to natural ecosystems. The following [TED-Ed Video](#) can give you some inspiration on how to introduce the topic.

After the action: Discuss with students one new thing that they learned. You can also ask them about which role do native species play in your local ecosystems and how they can be **#GenerationRestoration**. Encourage them to create charts of species with pictures and display in classroom.

Action 3: Life in Danger

Photo:



An endangered or threatened species is a species that is highly likely to become extinct in the near future, either worldwide or in a particular area. Endangered species may be at risk due to factors such as habitat loss, poaching, invasive species, pollution, or climate change.

1. Talk to your family or teachers about what animals might be endangered in your country or region. If you are not sure, you can have a look [here](#).
2. Choose an endangered species and think about how you could help raise awareness about it in your local community (i.e., schools, classmates, co-workers, friends).
3. Now it is time for action! Make an informative poster, a drawing, write a letter, or prepare a presentation or documentary that raises awareness about the endangered species you chose! You can also raise awareness by bringing up endangered or threatened species in a conversation with your friends, family, or co-workers.

Goal: Discover the triggers that are endangering life on Earth.

Before the action: Discuss and explain endangered and threatened species to the students. The following biodiversity loss drivers can be discussed:

- Changes in land and sea use.
- Over-exploitation: overfishing, poaching, deforestation.
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Invasive species

Afterwards, present the action to the students and ask them work individually or in groups with an endangered species of their choice. The [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#) can be a useful information source.

If you would like your students to use videos to communicate their findings, you can have a look at the following lesson plan: [Using Video to Communicate about an issue](#).

After the action: Organise a display or a sharing session about the students' findings on endangered species. We invite you to share the best students' work and submissions in the [Facebook GAD group](#).

Action 4: Labels to Look For

Photo:



1. Look around your kitchen and see how many environmental labels you can find on your food-products. You might find labels such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSP), Rainforest Alliance Certified, or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
2. Choose one label and do a little research on what it stands for – how does it help protect nature and biodiversity?
3. Next time you are in the supermarket, take a few moments to look if any of the available products have an environmental label. Are you willing to buy a product with an environmental label even if it is more expensive?
4. Take a picture of an environmental label and post it on FB/Instagram with the hashtags **#GlobalActionDays**, **#MyActionsMatter**, **#GAIA2030**, **#GenerationRestoration**, and **#LitterLessCampaign**. In the caption, write one sentence about how this label helps support biodiversity.

Goal: Students pay attention to sustainable products by understanding the role of environmental labels and what information they provide.

Before the action: Show and discuss some of the environmental labels that are common in your country. Discuss with your students what is the purpose of these labels.

This action offers a good opportunity to reflect on the impacts that our diet has on global biodiversity. We invite you to reflect with the students about the impacts of our food choices. The [following TED-Ed video](#) can give you some inspiration to have a discussion with your class on how farms from the future could look like.

After explaining the action, encourage students to share their findings on FB/Instagram using the Campaign hashtags.

After the action: Discuss in class how the knowledge about environmental labels might influence your students as consumers. What do they intend to do in the future? You can also create a display of labels in your school to encourage sustainable consumption.

Action 5: Have a Green Party!

Photo:



1. Is there any better way to host a green party than by wearing something green? Pull on any green clothing items you might already have at home but **DON'T** buy anything new! If you need to, consider borrowing something green from a friend or family member.
2. Next, find a good spot for your green party on your balcony, in your garden, or in an outside public area. There are many ways to celebrate! You could:
 - Do a trash clean-up of nearby green space. It could be a forest, park, beach, or even your school grounds. Organise with your classmates, friends and co-workers and set up some time for a clean-up!
 - Set up a bird feeder with different kinds of seeds, make a water station for bees and other pollinators or plant some native wildflowers outside!
 - You can find more ideas [here](#). It might take some time before your wild guests find their way to the party, so stay patient! 😊 When they arrive, take a photo of your outdoor biodiversity celebration, and share it in your community. Remember to not frighten your guests and visitors!
3. Another option is to do a little trash clean-up of nearby green space. It could be a forest, park, beach, or even your school grounds. Organise with your classmates, friends and co-workers and set up some time for a clean-up!
4. Take photos of your green celebration and upload it on FB/Instagram with the hashtag **#GlobalActionDays**, **#MyActionsMatter**, **#GAIA2030**, **#GenerationRestoration**, and **#LitterLessCampaign**!

Goal: Support nature resilience.

Before the action: Discuss the challenges faced by wildlife due to human activities. How can we help to increase wildlife resilience?

Explain the action to your students and fix a date for the Green Party! The Green Party offers a chance to celebrate the actions carried out through the Global Action Days campaign, and it can be a fun and celebratory way to conclude the Campaign.

For some inspiration on how to carry out a trash clean-up with your students check out the Lesson Plans: [Litter Pick](#) & [School Litter Survey](#)

After the action: Reflect on the learning outcomes as well as how students feel after taking action. Can you turn any of the actions into routinary habits and strengthen your commitment to be **#GenerationRestoration?**