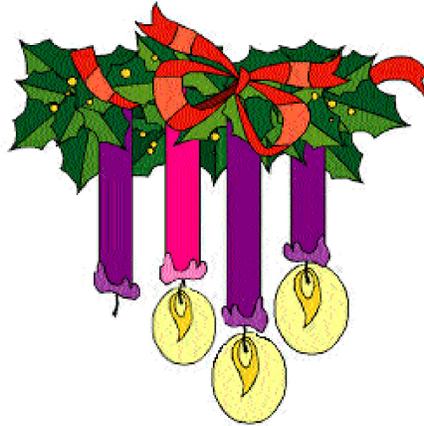


“Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity.”

How many are your works, LORD!  
In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures  
Psalm 104:24



ADVENT THIRD WEEK:  
Biodiversity - Our life support system

## What can we do?

- ◆ Eat locally produced food; Eat less meat; Reuse/Recycle; Restore local habitats; Plant native trees and shrubs; Plant pollinators - <http://pollinators.ie/>
- ◆ Support legislation on climate change, restrictions on pesticides and use of plastics
- ◆ Support the implementation of the **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
[www.cbd.int/2011-2020/about/sdgs](http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/about/sdgs)



**BIODIVERSITY**  
IS LIFE • IS OUR LIFE

“ No piecemeal solution is going to prevent the collapse of whole societies and ecosystems ... a radical re-thinking of our values, priorities and political systems is urgent. ”  
Maude Barlow, Blue Planet Project

'Future We Need' is a faith based group  
This leaflet was prepared by members  
from [www.pbvm.org](http://www.pbvm.org) and  
[www.columbans.ie](http://www.columbans.ie)



# BIODIVERSITY - OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM

## What is Biodiversity?

**BIODIVERSITY** is the variety of all life forms on Earth, The more plant, insect and animal species there are in one area the greater the biodiversity and the healthier the ecosystem!

An **ECOSYSTEM** is a community made up of living organisms and non-living components such as air, water, minerals and soil. In an ecosystem, each organism has its role and purpose.



## Why is it important?

Biodiversity underpins the functioning of the ecosystems on which we depend for survival, CLEAN AIR, FRESHWATER, FOOD, HEALTH, RECREATION AND PROTECTION FROM NATURAL DISASTERS.

Our food production depends heavily upon pollinators such as bees .

All over the world bee populations are threatened - in Ireland **one third** of bee species face **extinction**.



## Loss of Biodiversity

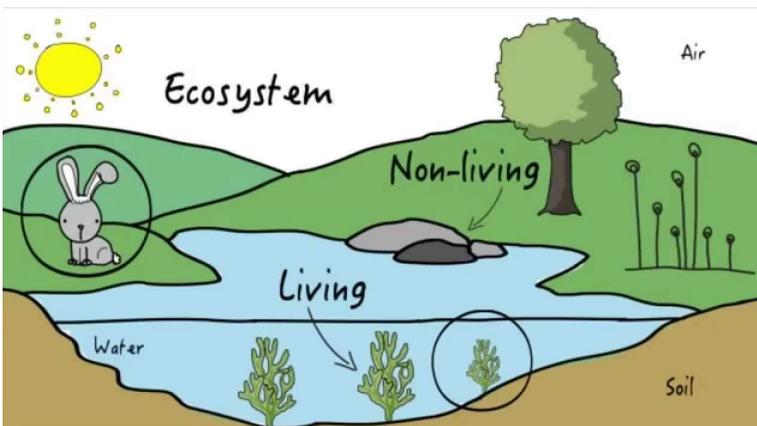
The wildlife population has decreased by 60% in just over 40 years.  
*Living Planet Index 2018*

### Unsustainable consumption and production leads to:

- ◆ Species Extinction
- ◆ Over-exploitation of resources
- ◆ Deforestation
- ◆ Pollution

**“ The earth's resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production. Different species contain genes which could be key resources in years ahead for meeting human needs and regulating environmental problems.”**

*Pope Francis ,Laudato Si 32*



**“If we don't protect biodiversity we could face our own extinction....**

**By the time you feel what is happening it may be too late.”**

*Cristiana Pasca Palmer  
United Nations Biodiversity chief*