



International Endangered Species Day: May 17

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY?

Established by the U.S. Senate in 2006, Endangered Species Day highlights protecting endangered species, promoting habitat conservation, sharing success stories of species recovery, and everyday actions people can take. The primary U.S. sponsor of Endangered Species Day is the Endangered Species Coalition, and the day is observed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), along with many other conservation, community, and youth organizations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As people of faith, care for endangered species is part of answering our call to till, keep, and watch over all of God's good creation.

Spread Good News

- **Talk to Someone:** Before or on Endangered Species Day, have at least one conversation with someone you know about how you see your role as a caretaker of God's creation.
- **Use Social Media:** Donate your social media status to the cause on May 17. Use #EndangeredSpeciesDay and #BlessTheAnimals to share why you care about protecting all God's creatures. Be sure to tag @CreationJustice and @endangered so we can share!
- **Call your local policy-makers** to invite your city or county to begin the practice of honoring Endangered Species Day.
- **Contact your members of Congress** to let them know your faith perspective on importance of protecting endangered species. Call 855-742-9576 or find an email form at www.creationjustice.org/endangered

Learn More About and Encounter Endangered Species

- Attend one of the events listed at www.endangeredspeciesday.org
- Watch an educational film such as *DamNation*, *Racing Extinction*, *Love and Bananas*, *Humpback Whales (with Ewan McGregor)*, *More than Honey*, *Extinction in Progress*, *Last Chance to See*, *Virunga*, *The Ivory Game*, or *Chasing Coral*.

Take It Home

- Garden: Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly plants, and consider adding a bat house to your yard. See www.creationjustice.org/garden for ideas.
- Gather friends and family and do a "Bio Blitz" to engage in citizen science in your own backyard! Observe God's creatures in your area. Learn how at www.nationalgeographic.org/media/do-it-yourself-bioblitz



Find more resources on the Endangered Species Day website www.endangeredspeciesday.org.



LET US PRAY

Call to Worship

One: Let us worship God together. How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. You call your creation “very good.”

Many: It is good, and we rejoice!

One: Come Leviathan who frolics, beasts that prowl, and every creeping thing that creeps! When you send your Spirit, LORD, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. Every creature gives you praise.

Many: It is good, and we rejoice!

One: Let us celebrate the harmony of all God’s creatures that sing in the choir of our watershed. Let us embrace our roles as caretakers of God’s majestic creation.

Many: It is good, and we rejoice!

Prayers of the Faithful

We pray for God’s creatures that have been endangered for the sake of profit, for creatures killed by environmental disasters wrought by human carelessness, and for animals that have lost their habitat.

R: God, hear our prayers.

We lift up our wonder at God’s diverse creatures which teach us profound lessons in science, as well as in our faith journeys.

R: God, hear our prayers.

In gratitude we lift up all caretakers of God’s creation, and public policies like the Endangered Species Act, which follow God’s call to protect the web of life.

R: God, hear our prayers.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, we too often ignore the cries and suffering of your creatures. With great sorrow we acknowledge that one in five species are threatened or endangered with extinction. We lament what we have done, or what we have failed to do, for threatened and endangered species that are struggling to survive. Help us remember that we, too, are your creation: vulnerable and interdependent. **Amen.**

Assurance

God has declared all creation is *very good*. We are honored that God calls on us to till and keep the earth, as well as watch over all of creation. With hope and inspiration to answer that call, we place our trust in God to show us the way. **Amen.**

www.creationjustice.org/endangered



Creation Justice Ministries educates, equips, and mobilizes its 38 member communions and denominations, congregations, and individuals to do justice for God’s planet and God’s people. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org



The Endangered Species Coalition’s mission is to stop the human-caused extinction of our nation’s at-risk species, to protect and restore their habitats, and to guide these fragile populations along the road to recovery. Learn more at www.endangered.org



Photos courtesy of Endangered Species Coalition.

Photos: top left to right: Ocelot, Gray Wolf, Baby Loggerhead Turtle, Canadian Lynx. Above: Humpback Whale