

BIODIVERSITY:

World Vision's Approach

Biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and our contribution to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for children's wellbeing

Why biodiversity matters to children

World Vision sees biodiversity as vital to child wellbeing. Biodiversity – that is, biological diversity – refers to the inherent variability among living organisms, including the variety of life within species, between species and across ecosystems[1]. Healthy ecosystems provide the air we breathe, along with 75 percent of the world's fresh water. They also support food, health, livelihoods and climate resilience[2]. Biodiversity continues to decline rapidly. Monitored wildlife populations around the globe reduced by 73 percent between 1970 and 2020[3]. Land clearing, unsustainable farming, resource extraction and climate change are collectively damaging biodiversity where people live. Biodiversity loss disproportionately affects vulnerable children and families, particularly those living in rural, coastal and Indigenous communities who depend on healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as forests, grasslands, rivers and wetlands, for food, clean water, livelihoods, cultural identity and protection from climate-related hazards. Biodiversity loss is therefore not only an environmental issue. It drives poverty and vulnerability and affects World Vision's mission for children to experience fullness of life. Protecting biodiversity and restoring ecosystems are critical to supporting healthy environments, strong livelihoods, resilient communities and lasting community development.

Our role in biodiversity conservation

World Vision works with communities and partners in more than 60 countries to protect, sustainably manage and restore the landscapes and ecosystems on which children and communities depend. This work supports stronger and more sustainable livelihoods, greater resilience for communities and landscapes and better outcomes for children. In this way, our work benefits biodiversity,

[1] Convention on Biological Diversity. (1992). *Convention on Biological Diversity*. United Nations. https://www.cbd.int/convention/text/

[2] World Health Organisation, (2025) Biodiversity Factsheet

[3] WWF. (2024). *Living Planet Report 2024: A System in Peril*. World Wide Fund for Nature, Gland, Switzerland.

climate action and land restoration under all three international agreements on climate change, biological diversity and desertification from the Rio Earth Summit[4].

World Vision supports biodiversity through community-led ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, conservation and sustainable natural resource management—recognising the close connection between people and nature. We have helped communities care for natural resources and respond to climate change in 66 countries since 2023[5]. This work contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through restoring damaged ecosystems (Target 2) and supporting sustainable production (Target 10). Our work also supports action on climate change (Target 8). It promotes knowledge, participation, rights and gender equality (Targets 21, 22 and 23).

As a Supporting Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, World Vision contributes not only through large scale programming, but also through mobilising communities, strengthening local leadership and working with partners to share knowledge, build skills and advocate for restoration.



How World Vision contributes

World Vision's Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action Strategy guides this work. **Focus Area 1** restores ecosystems and the benefits they provide. It uses Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), regreening and other proven approaches, and since 2023 has brought more than 1.6 million hectares of land under restoration[5]. **Focus Area 2** supports sustainable, climate-resilient farming. Since 2023, more than 1.4 million farmers have been trained in improved sustainable agriculture practices including climate-smart agriculture, natural resource management, sustainable fisheries and ecosystem restoration[5]. Together, these focus areas protect and enhance the productive landscapes that communities rely on.

Children are not only affected by biodiversity loss; they are also powerful agents of change in restoring and protecting nature. World Vision also seeks to strengthen opportunities for children and young people to participate meaningfully as agents of change in biodiversity in line with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's vision of "*Generation Restoration*". Since 2023, more than 700,000 children[5] have participated in environmental and climate awareness activities, increasing their understanding of environmental sustainability and climate action.

Our Regreening Communities model turns the strategy into local action. Communities assess landscape degradation—including biodiversity decline—set priorities and choose locally appropriate ways to protect and restore ecosystems. These regreening practices may include agroforestry, soil and water conservation, biodiversity protection, assisted natural regeneration, or coastal and mangrove restoration. The model draws on traditional and local knowledge, strengthens local leadership and supports communities to manage natural resources together. Our programmes span farms, grazing lands, forests, coastal areas and marine environments. Examples include dryland ecosystem restoration across eight countries through the Regreening Africa Project, mangrove restoration and child-led climate

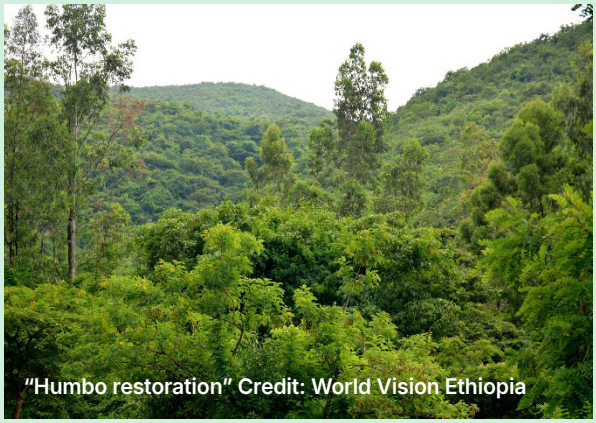
[4] Rio Conventions (2026)
[5] Shoots of Hope for a Greener Future 2.0: World Vision's Progress on it's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Roadmap 2024-2025 | Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action | World Vision International

Humbo Community Reforestation Project

Ethiopia, 2006–to date.

To reduce poverty and respond to climate change, World Vision worked with local communities and the Ethiopian Government to launch a carbon-based FMNR project in 2006.

Today, 2,783 hectares of barren mountains have been restored and are home to diverse vegetation and wildlife species. The regeneration of the Humbo forest has increased agricultural productivity downstream as a result of the increased water retention and moisture reserves in the forested land.



"Humbo restoration" Credit: World Vision Ethiopia

Katimar, a local farmer who has lived on the Humbo mountain all his life explains, *"My land's productivity has increased by twofold as a result of the plentiful moisture reserves....I used to cultivate primarily grain crops, but now grow vegetables and fruits that increase our revenues and food alternatives. I also raise seedlings of various types and sell them. Now, we can put adequate food on the table."*

The Humbo reforestation project not only restores biodiversity and improves livelihoods but also earns carbon credits. The project is expected to absorb over 880,000 metric tonnes of CO2 over 30 years, and the community is paid for protecting the forest. This project shows how community-led restoration can restore nature, store carbon, strengthen farming systems and improve livelihoods at the same time, contributing to multiple outcomes in the Global Biodiversity Framework. The project demonstrates that community-led restoration can achieve biodiversity, climate and development benefits at scale. Read more: https://www.iied.org/20451g

solutions in Solomon Islands and conservation in the Amazon rainforest. These programmes bring together restoration, sustainable production and community resilience to benefit people and nature in locally responsive and adaptable ways. Across World Vision programmes, children and young people contribute to Regreening Communities as key change agents, bringing local knowledge initiatives, creativity and long-term commitment to the health of their communities and ecosystems.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration is a key World Vision restoration approach. Farmers select, prune and manage trees and shrubs regenerating from living stumps, roots and seeds. This allows naturally regenerating woody vegetation to be integrated into local agricultural and pastoral systems at low cost. The resulting vegetation can increase habitat complexity and support native species, while improving soil health and productivity, reducing erosion and providing fodder and other forest products that support livelihoods and climate resilience. Studies from Kenya[6] and Niger[7] show that this method can increase the diversity of tree species in the landscape and contribute to greater biodiversity outcomes. It is a practical approach that communities can manage and expand across productive landscapes.

[6] Choge, S. K., Ojunga, S. O., Dokata, D. I., Chepkirui, W. K., Musau, J., Muniale, F. M., & Kiptui, I. K. (2024). Floristic Composition, Population Structure, and Recruitment Status of Plant Species: A Case Study of Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration Practices in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Kenya. Open Journal of Forestry, 14, 141-154. https://doi.org/10.4236/ojf.2024.142010

Ojuok, I. A., Lohbeck, M., Stellmacher, T., Aynekulu, E., Rinaudo, T., & Borgemeister, C. (2026). Vegetation Structure and Diversity Under Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration: A Comparison of Silvo-Arable and Silvo-Pastoral Systems in Kenya. *Land Degradation and Development*, *37*(13), 9190-9201. https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.70605

[7] Abdou, M. M. S., Moussa, M., Nomaou, D. L., Zounon, F. C. S., & Abasse, T. (2026). Influence of farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) on the woody species diversity and structure in agroforestry parklands of South-central Niger *Agroforestry Systems*, *100*(7), 210.

Carbon Programming

FMNR and regreening can increase carbon storage while supporting ecosystem restoration, livelihoods and biodiversity co-benefits. World Vision's growing portfolio of land-use carbon programmes provides an additional financing pathway for long-term restoration and can contribute to nature-based climate action, while applying environmental and social safeguards.

How we track and strengthen our contribution

Track restoration scale: projects map areas of land under restoration and protection through Solstice, a tailored monitoring and evaluation platform for tracking World Vision's ecosystem restoration programming, enabling portfolio aggregation and reporting aligned with Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework

Monitor ecosystem recovery with communities: Projects use a combination of standardised and locally selected indicators to track landscape and ecosystem change, including vegetation, tree density, soils, water and land condition. Where relevant and feasible, programmes also collect biodiversity and ecosystem-service indicators. Communities assess change through the Regreening Index and indicators selected to reflect local priorities. (Read more on Page 64 of the Regreening Communities Handbook.) World Vision is continuing to strengthen consistent approaches for measuring species diversity, habitat condition and broader ecological recovery.

Monitor carbon outcomes and co-benefits: Carbon programmes use monitoring, reporting and verification to track emissions reductions and carbon removals, assure data quality, and meet reporting, independent verification and carbon credit issuance requirements. Depending on the project and applicable carbon standard, monitoring may also include social, economic and environmental co-benefits and safeguards, such as habitat conservation, species protections, livelihoods, gender equality and wellbeing.

Strengthening biodiversity evidence: World Vision works with communities and research partners to strengthen approaches for measuring species diversity, habitat condition, ecological integrity and connectivity, and to understand how ecological recovery relates to livelihoods, resilience and child wellbeing.

Our commitment

World Vision has committed to bringing 27 million hectares of land and sea under restoration to strengthen community and environmental resilience by 2033. We will scale inclusive, community-led and context-specific approaches that protect biodiversity, restore degraded ecosystems and support sustainable management of productive landscapes, building on local knowledge, rights and priorities. World Vision continues to strengthen meaningful child and youth participation in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, recognising children not only as beneficiaries of healthy ecosystems but as active agents of change in achieving lasting restoration outcomes. World Vision is an active contributor to biodiversity conservation and to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Biodiversity Framework —keeping children, communities, resilient livelihoods and healthy ecosystems at the centre of biodiversity action and ecosystem restoration.

For further information about this publication or to learn more about ESCA, please contact: esca@wvi.org

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World Vision

World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.