



FOOD



Loss of biodiversity. The world's capacity to produce food is being undermined by humanity's failure to protect biodiversity. Numbers of plants, animals, insects and micro-organisms that help to put food on our tables are decreasing; forests, grasslands, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds which contribute to biodiversity are disappearing. [UN Report: Diversity for Food and Agriculture.](#)

Food production. Over the last two decades, approximately 20% of land has become less productive due to chemicals and other forms of pollution. A third of fishing areas are being overharvested.

Meat and dairy products. Meat and dairy provide just 18% of calories and 37% of protein for the world's population. But it uses the vast majority – 83% – of farmland and produces 60% of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions. The vast majority of rainforest destruction in the Amazon has been connected with the meat industry. Avoiding meat and dairy products is the single biggest way to reduce environmental impact on the planet.

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6392/987.full?ijkey=ffyeW1F0oSl6k&keytype=ref&siteid=sci>.

Food chain. 63% of plants, 11% of birds, and 5% of fish and are in decline. Pollinators, which provide essential services to three-quarters of the world's crops, are under threat, as well as the decline of bees and other insects.

The Church's View

Enough for all. The earth, abused and exploited, continues in many parts of the world to yield its fruits, offering us the best of itself. The faces of the starving remind us that we have foiled its purposes. We have turned a gift with a universal destination into a privilege enjoyed by a select few. We have made the fruits of the earth – a gift to humanity – commodities for a few. Pope Francis, [Address to United Nations World Food Programme, June 13, 2016.](#)

Productive use of land. In some countries a redistribution of land as part of sound policies of agrarian reform is indispensable, in order to overcome the obstacles that an unproductive system of latifundium — condemned by the Church's social doctrine — places on the path of genuine economic development. [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, parag.300.](#)

Environmental degradation. As long as production is increased, little concern is given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. In a word, businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved. Yet only when “the economic and social costs of using up shared environmental resources are recognized with transparency and fully borne by those who incur them, not by other peoples or future generations” can those actions be considered ethical. [Pope Francis, Laudato Si. parag 195.](#)

Ideas for Action

- [11 Things You Can Do To Protect Biodiversity](#) - With a few simple habit changes and proactive actions, you can encourage local biodiversity



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- [5 Easy Ways to Cut Down on Your Meat Consumption](#) - By keeping some pointers in mind you can easily reduce your meat consumption.
- [20 Simple Gardening Tips To Help Bees](#) - It's actually surprisingly easy to help bees and pollinators.
- [Reduce what goes to landfill and compost at home](#) - Home composting can take some of our leftovers, waste and unwanted extras and turn them into fertile soil
- [Bring back the forest](#) - By donating, you will help return this land to the forest and wildlife to whom it once belonged.
- [Climate change food calculator](#): What's your diet's carbon footprint?
- [12 Tips to Reduce Food Waste](#) Fairtrade have produced a list of easy to do tips on cutting down on food waste.

Liturgy Resources

[Peacemeal](#). Liturgy ideas for sharing a meal

[Season of Creation](#). An excellent booklet containing liturgies on the environment, including biodiversity

[Caring for God's Creation](#). A downloadable booklet produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with suggestions for liturgies

[Greening Worship](#). A web page from EcoCongregation with lots of useful suggestions for worship.

[Liturgical, Prayer and Spiritual Resources](#). Splendid resources page from the Global Catholic Climate Movement.