



“Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”



To mark *World Wildlife Day 2022*, FAO’s Moscow Office, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Russia Office, is holding a webinar aimed at emphasizing the central role of flora and fauna species diversity conservation and recovery in ecosystem restoration.

We cordially invite you to join this event

on Thursday, 3 March 2022,

from 11:00 to 13:00 (Moscow time).

Our panellists will discuss the imperative need to reverse the fate of the most critically endangered species in Russia and the neighbouring Asian and European countries in order to support the restoration of their habitats and ecosystems.

The webinar will bring together representatives of government agencies, international institutions and programmes, scientists and NGO activists. The webinar will be broadcast on **Zoom** with simultaneous interpretation into Russian and English provided. Register [here](#) to participate.

FAO Office contact persons:

Mr Eduard Porvatov, tel.: +7(915) 062-85-88, email: eduard.porvatov@fao.org

Ms Victoria Solovieva, tel.: +7 (915) 168-12-92, email: vicki.solovjeva@yandex.ru



BACKGROUND:



On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **3 March** – the day of signature of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* in 1973 – as UN World Wildlife Day.

The **World Wildlife Day** provides an opportunity to draw attention to the diversity and beauty of wild fauna and flora, and helps raise awareness of the benefits of conservation for humanity. Moreover, this Day reminds us about the need to step up our fight against wildlife crime, which has far-reaching economic, environmental and social consequences.

World Wildlife Day (WWD) will be celebrated this year under the theme “**Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration**”. The celebrations will seek to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and to drive discussions towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve them. All conversations will be inspired by and seek to inform efforts towards the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals 1 (*No Poverty*), 2 (*Zero hunger*) 12 (*Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*), 13 (*Climate Action*) 14 (*Life Below Water*) and 15 (*Life on Land*).

According to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable. Based on these estimates, it is suggested that over a million species are threatened with extinction.

Continued loss of species, habitats and ecosystems also threatens all life on Earth, including us. People everywhere rely on wildlife and biodiversity-based resources to meet all our needs, from food, to fuel, medicines, housing, and clothing. Millions of people also rely on nature as the source of their livelihoods and economic opportunities.

You can learn more about FAO activities for wildlife conservation and protected areas management by visiting the [website](#).

#WorldWildlifeDay#WWD2022#RecoverKeySpecies