

The people asked, "O God's Messenger (pbuh)\* "Is there a reward for us in serving the animals?" He said, "(Yes) there is a reward for serving any animate (living being)."

• **No unnecessary harm or killing:**

"One, who kills even a sparrow or anything smaller, without a justifiable reason, will be answerable to God." [Saying of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)\*]

God punished a woman because she imprisoned a cat until it died of hunger. She neither fed it, nor let it obtain it's own food [Saying of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)\*].

'We were on a journey with Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)\*, and he left us for a while. During his absence, we saw a bird called Hummara with its two young and took the young ones. The mother bird was circling above us in the air, beating its wings in grief, when the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)\*came back and said: "Who has hurt the feelings of this bird by taking its young? Return them to her.' [Ref: Hadith Muslim]

\*'pbuh' stands for 'peace be upon him' and is used as a mark of respect after saying Prophet's name.

# Nature Needs You!

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“ Let's Take Care Of The Earth For The Future Of Our Children. ”





**Numbers of wild animals, plants and other living species have been declining sharply!**

**The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) released their shocking most recent 'Living Planet Index' in September 2014.**

Researchers from the Zoological Society of London used a new and more effective methodology designed by the WWF to look at changes, from 1970 to 2010, in 10000 populations of 3000 species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. This is what they found:

The indications from this sample are that just in the 40 years between 1970 and 2010 the populations of wildlife have declined on average by over half - 52%!

Populations of terrestrial (land) species have shrunk by 39%, as have those of marine (sea) species. Worst hit have been the freshwater (river and lake) species populations which have been reduced by 76%!

According to the United States Geographical Survey, it is estimated that by 2010 the number of extinctions had reached about 50 000 species. This rate of extinctions has risen sharply especially since 1970, mirroring the rise in the total human population, which reached 7 Billion by 2010. if the decline in marine life continues at the rate of 39% per 40 years, it could cause the loss of \$448 Billion/ £296 Billion of income to the fishing industry by 2050.

**This decline in wildlife populations as well as the rise number of species' extinctions will not only be a huge loss to the ecosystems of the planet, but also to the vital ecosystem services they provide for human beings!**

Ecosystems pollinate our food crops and trees, control our pests and diseases, clean and maintain our water, air and soil, as well as providing food, medicine and materials that we harvest from the wild. No ecosystems = no food!

Ecosystems help to prevent floods and landslides, and sustain each day many human and animal lives, as well as incomes that depend on forests, rivers, oceans and other habitats.



**What are the main causes of the rapid decrease in wildlife populations?**

The WWF in 2014 found the biggest cause (82%) of the decline is the direct damage and destruction of the habitats or homes of animals- through human activities such as exploitation (mining, quarrying, drilling for oil), building work, deforestation and industrial processes to meet the demands of the modern consumer life style, and 19% because of a combination of climate change, disease, invasive species or genes (from GM crops), and pollution.

**What will be left if we continue this way?!**

**Can we not meet our needs without causing this level of destruction of ecosystems upon which we depend so much?!**

**Yes we can!**

**How to be part of the solution:**

- Reduce, re-use, recycle and compost to minimise consumption.
- Choose greener, cleaner energy - renewable sources such as wind and solar power.
- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and household chemicals, personal hygiene and cosmetic products, drugs etc.
- Check every product you buy to try to minimise harm to nature, e.g. buy locally grown and produced goods that you know have a greener footprint.
- Learn more about products from the internet and spread awareness
- Feed local wildlife such as birds, put plants and trees in your garden or on your balcony that attract and have food for beneficial wildlife.
- Grow chemical-free, organic food, and make a variety of habitats in your, gardens and farms - e.g. Permaculture
- Drive greener cars and build greener buildings and businesses.

**The true teachings of Islam tell us that:**

- **Humans should take care of, and be kind to animals:** "All creatures are like a family of God: and he loves the most those who are the most beneficent to His family (Saying of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)\*)

**A good deed done to an animal or bird is like a good deed done to a human being.**



- **Do not change nature - work with it:** There is no altering God's creation, though most people do not realize it. [Qur'an Ch.30:Vs.30]

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- **All life is sacred, originating from God and set in a balance which we should not upset, and all creatures have God-given rights.**

And the sky has He raised high, and has devised (for all things) a balance, so that you (too, O men) might never transgress the balance: weigh, therefore, (your deeds) with equity, and do not upset the balance! [Qur'an Ch. 55:Vs.7-9].

- **Do not waste by excess: God says in the Qur'an:** '....Eat of their fruit in season, but give (the poor) their due on harvest day. And do not waste, for God does not love the wasteful' [Qur'an Ch.6:Vs.141 and Qur'an Ch.7:Vs.31 is similar]

- **Humans must share natural resources with animals:** "While a man was walking he felt thirsty and went down a well and drank water from it. On coming out of it, he saw a dog panting and eating mud because of excessive thirst. The man said, 'This (dog) is suffering from the same problem as that of mine. So he (went down the well), filled his shoe with water, caught hold of it with his teeth and climbed up and watered the dog. God rewarded him and forgave his sins." [Saying of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)\*)