

# 15 LIFE ON LAND



## Goal 15 – Life On Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

### Fact of the day

Forests are home to more than 80 percent of all terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. Mountain regions provide 60-80 percent of the Earth's fresh water. Nature-based climate solutions can contribute about a third of CO2 reductions by 2030.

### Act now

#### Lie on the earth

10 minutes



Find a patch of grass and lie down. Close your eyes and relax. As your body settles, feel the ground beneath you. Feel each part of your body where it connects with the soil. Imagine all of the life beneath you. The roots of the grass extend down into the soil from you. Allow your thoughts to drift down, past the ants and the worms, the nematodes and the orbatids, the white filaments of fungi, the rusts, the moulds, the bacteria, the millions of organisms down through the depths.

Bring your consciousness back up above ground but keep your eyes closed. Listen. Hear birds and bees amongst the other sounds of people and nature. Picture what the bees are doing, heading for flowers or returning to the colony. What are the birds saying as they call; offering advice, or warning of dangers? Maybe you will hear the burbling of starlings, mimicking sounds that they have heard such as other birds or car alarms!

Smell. You might be able to smell the grass or herbs and flowers nearby. Maybe a seabreeze is bringing a mixture of scents from the shore. What else do you smell? Open your eyes and take a moment. You are not separate from this, but are part of this wonderful abundance of life.

#### Adopt a species

1 hour



Many species around the world are under pressure. Their numbers have dropped for a whole range of reasons, and they need our help to survive. This is most obvious in the bird kingdom, where birds that your parents would have found plentiful have dwindled and might even face extinction.

These species need friends right now. Why not find a bird from your own area which is maybe endangered and adopt that species. Check out our *Adopt a Species* worksheet to see how.

While this is something you could do on your own, imagine the difference you could make if your whole scout group joined in!

#### Make a bug hotel

45 minutes



A downside of our tidy and clean lives is that many places that bugs live have simply been clearer away. It's time to give them back a place to live. This can be anything from a stylish high-rise bug hotel, to an untidy mound of twigs and grass that you hide away in a corner of the garden or balcony. Get more idea on the *Bug Hotel* sheet.

### What to do next

Once finished your own action, share it on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter). Tag [@ScoutingIreland](#) and using the hashtags [#scoutsforsdgs](#) [#scoutsie](#) [#17days17sdgs](#).

This will allow scouts not only from Ireland, but all over the world, to see your actions and use that as inspiration to go and make a positive impact in their communities!



# SDG15 – Life On Land

## Adopt a Species

Many species are under threat, with their numbers dropping. Investigate your own area and find out about a species in danger. Many bird species are under pressure, but you could also choose an animal or a plant.

You could do some research online and you could talk to your parents. They might know other locals who could tell you more about your species numbers in the past. It is important to have facts and figures, but also learn a bit more about how they live, what they eat and maybe find a nice story about them. Maybe some people are already trying to help this species, like a conservation group, a local authority or some locals who care.

**This is my species...**

**This is where they live...**

**Numbers have dropped by...**

**I found out some more about them...**

**These people have helped already...**

**This is my action plan...**

This species needs help – are you ready to take action? If so, then who might help? Would some of your friends or family join in? What about the rest of your scout section, or even your whole group? Share information about the species, maybe doing a project to go up in the library and putting up signs. You could ask your local government to help protect the habitat. What else could you do?

**Your action can make a difference! Every little thing you do will help. If there were lots more people joining in, imagine the impact you could have! What if your whole scout group was helping? What if other scout groups around the country adopted the same species? Good luck!**



# #17days17sdgs



## SDG15 – Life On Land

### Bug Hotel

Lots of bugs need a safe place to spend the night, or the day, or the whole winter! You can help by creating a bug hotel, with lots of holes, cracks and gaps for them to hide in.

#### This is my design for the coolest, most fantastic habitat for bugs

Use natural materials that you find in your area.

Drill holes of different sizes in a piece of wood to make safe burrows for certain bees. Get help with this if you need to!

Remember to make it sturdy so that it will last for the whole year.

Put in plenty of dry hollow plant stems and other tubes.



While many insects need help, pay particular attention to bees. There are many different types of bees and some would love to make their home in your bug hotel. Do you know why bees are so important to the whole ecosystem and to humans?

# #17days17sdgs