



# REPORTING ON OUR LIVING PLANET

## YOUTH GROUP LEADERS' PACK

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### LEADER NOTES

Since 1998 the Living Planet Report, the world's leading science-based assessment of the health of our planet, has been tracking the state of global biodiversity. More than 50 experts from academia, policy, international development and conservation organizations have contributed to the Living Planet Report in 2018.

The report shows clearly that biodiversity is in serious decline around the world, and that the impact on humans as well as the natural world will be huge if this is not addressed in the next few years. The report concludes that in order to bring about the change that is needed in time to prevent environmental catastrophe, the world needs to come together around collective commitments that stop the destruction of nature and give it the support it needs to recover.

The global conversation about biodiversity loss will become increasingly loud over the next few years, especially in 2020 when global leaders will come together to discuss climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Big changes to the way we live may become necessary in order to protect and restore the natural world on which we all depend. Today's young people will ultimately be most affected by the decisions made today, and they will have an important role to play in saving our living planet through their actions and choices over the years to come.

In recognition of the fact that the conclusions of the Living Planet Report affect everyone in society, WWF has this year created a version for young people that will ensure they are not excluded from this global conversation about their future.

These notes, and the accompanying visual aids, provide ideas and inspiration for how you can bring the Living Planet Report into your meetings. The report is written to be accessible to children as young as 8, but is suitable for older age groups. The activity ideas below are intended to be fun and informative for all ages.





## ACTIVITY 1 NATURAL CONNECTIONS

### GET INFORMED! SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Use the resource sheet, “Natural connections”

This fun game shows how everything in an ecosystem is dependent on other things, and that the loss of one has knock-on effects.

Explain that an ecosystem is an interconnected web of living and non-living things. Print out one of the lists and cut into slips of paper, and allocate one to each group member. Players sit in a circle. Take a ball of string and ask a player to hold the end and announce what part of the ecosystem they represent. Ask the group to put their hands up if they think they have any connection with that species or resource, and ask them to explain. If the group agree that there is a connection, the string is let out to them. You can go back to the first player in order to then connect others with the same element of the ecosystem, or always go on from the player who has just been connected to the web. Players should keep their strings taut.

When you run out of connections – or string – you can see and discuss the complexity of the web of connections within the ecosystem.

Next, consider a human impact on the ecosystem (eg farming / fishing / hunting / global warming) and ask players to put their hands up if they think they would be negatively affected. Decide which would be most affected and ask them to leave the circle, letting go of all the strings they hold.

As each player leaves, the web deteriorates further and it becomes clear how many other parts of the ecosystem would be affected by the loss.

## ACTIVITY 2 ENDANGERED ANIMALS PICTIONARY

### GET INFORMED! SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Through a fun game of Pictionary, explore with your group the concept of biodiversity and the main threats animals face.

1. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front of the group. Show them one of the endangered animals fact cards and ask them to draw that animal.
2. The rest of the group must guess what animal they are drawing. The first person to guess correctly takes over drawing the next animal.
3. Before starting to draw the next animal discuss why the first animal might be endangered.
4. Write a five point list outlining some practical changes everyone can make to help protect endangered species.

Download your endangered animal photo cards from our website at <http://bit.ly/2yI9o3H>







## ACTIVITY 3 BIODIVERSITY ON OUR DOORSTEP

### GET INFORMED! SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

To develop a better understanding of the concept of biodiversity, encourage your group to explore and record the variety of living things (plants, animals and fungi) in your area – local woodland, park or beach. You could use field notes, photography, sketches or video to record findings. You could even take part in a citizen science programme to help scientists record local biodiversity.

Did you find anything you were not expecting? Or did you expect to find something that was not there? What qualities does the habitat have that allow those species to live there? What can you do to help attract more wildlife in your area? What about planting to encourage bees and other pollinators, or creating new habitats and routes for wildlife around the community?

### TAKING IT FURTHER

- Create a map (hand drawn or online using Googlemaps) with your records marked on it, and use this to identify the features of the area that are especially important for wildlife - and the places which could be improved.
- Communicate your findings to the whole group and encourage people to do what they can to improve the environment for wildlife.
- iNaturalist is a free global citizen science platform that allows you to identify and map your records while contributing to a global database of biodiversity: [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)

Download our handy wildlife spotter sheets from our website at <http://bit.ly/2Sxuwlt>

**Biodiversity:** The variety of living things and ecosystems in a particular place - whether it's a small area or the whole planet.

The Living Planet Report 2018 concludes that overall, living things and habitats are reducing in number.

## ACTIVITY 4 WHAT'S THE LINK BETWEEN ORANG-UTANS AND THE FOOD WE EAT?

### GET INFORMED SUITABLE FOR 8+

The use of photographs is a good way of encouraging young people to ask questions and make connections between the physical, social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability. Working in small groups, pupils stick the photographs of orang-utan and food containing palm oil on a large sheet of paper and write down their own questions about each photograph (e.g. Where do orang-utans live? What do they eat? Are they in danger? Where does our food come from? What does it contain?) They are then encouraged to think about what the link between these photographs could be. Ask the groups to volunteer their ideas and then introduce the issue of palm oil production and impact on the rainforest. Other photographs linked to different sustainability issues could be combined for a similar activity.

An average family on a supermarket outing may not realise how many goods in their shopping baskets – from food to cosmetics – contain palm oil. Global production grew from 15 million tonnes in 1995 to around 63 million tonnes in 2015, making it the world's most produced, consumed and traded vegetable oil. The palm oil industry employs more than 5 million people in South East Asia alone. Yet, much of the oil palm's expansion has taken place in high biodiversity tropical forests. The conversion of these, and peat land, to palm oil plantations releases massive quantities of carbon dioxide, fuelling climate change, and destroys the habitat of species like orang-utans. Yet, palm oil doesn't have to be destructive. Consumers, businesses and governments have the power to insist palm oil is produced sustainably, without causing further loss of forests and biodiversity.

### TAKING IT FURTHER

- Design a poster campaign urging people to support sustainable palm oil, and try it out in the local community
- Use the resource sheet 'What's the link between orang-utans and the food we eat?'



## ACTIVITY 5 START YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN!

**SPREAD THE WORD! SUITABLE FOR AGES 10+**

Create your own campaign to encourage the whole community to take action, whether it is planting trees, saving energy, developing a garden or reducing plastic use. Discuss with the group what they have learned from the Living Planet Report and brainstorm ideas on actions they want to take. What are the key issues they want to address in their own community? What can they do and how can they spread the word? Using the cogwheel diagram from the Living Planet

Report, discuss the importance of influencing decision makers for change. In groups, use questions from the 'Campaign action plan' to define the focus of your groups chosen campaign. Each team create a visual board and present it to the group to vote for the best idea. Who knows, you might even start a chain reaction that ends up changing the whole world!



### CAMPAIGN ACTION PLAN

#### VISION (WHY?)

- What changes do you want to see?
- Why is this important?

#### WHO?

- Who do you want to influence (other youth groups, the public, governments, businesses and decision makers)?
- Who might help you?

#### HOW?

How are you going to influence people (e.g. short video, posters, fundraising events, social media, article in local magazine, local radio, work with WWF and other conservation organisations?)





## ACTIVITY 6 'OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE' TAPESTRY

GET INVOLVED. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Inspired by the Living Planet report, create a visual display to raise awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity and to encourage children to express their own feelings towards the natural world. Each youth group member picks a species affected by the issues in the report that they love and want to protect. They choose a medium of their choice (drawing, paint, charcoal, collage, stitching etc.) and create their own square of the tapestry to express their views and feelings. The tapestry could even become your next camp blanket!



## ABOUT WWF

WWF is the world's leading independent conservation organisation. With over 50 years' experience of working across the globe, our aim is to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. We do this by working with governments, businesses and communities around the world. Youth groups are also vital partners in helping the next generation to connect with nature and develop the knowledge and skills to help build a more sustainable future. [wwf.org.uk/youth](http://wwf.org.uk/youth)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For a future where people and nature thrive | [wwf.org.uk](http://wwf.org.uk)

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# RESOURCE SHEET

## NATURAL CONNECTIONS: AFRICAN GRASSLAND

LION



ZEBRA



WILDEBEAST



IMPALA



BABOON



ACACIA TREE



CHEETAH



LEOPARD



HUNTING DOG



GRASSES



TERMITES



GIRAFFE

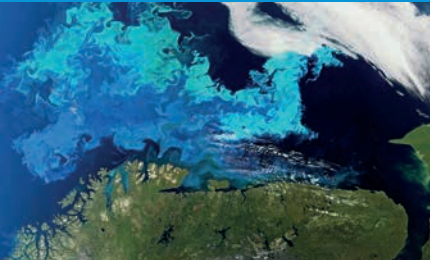




# RESOURCE SHEET

## NATURAL CONNECTIONS: ANTARCTIC

ZOOPLANKTON



PHYTOPLANKTON



SEA ICE



KRILL



HUMPBACK WHALE



TOOTH FISH



SQUID



EMPEROR PENGUIN



CRABEATER SEAL



ADELIE PENGUIN



PETREL



KILLER WHALE



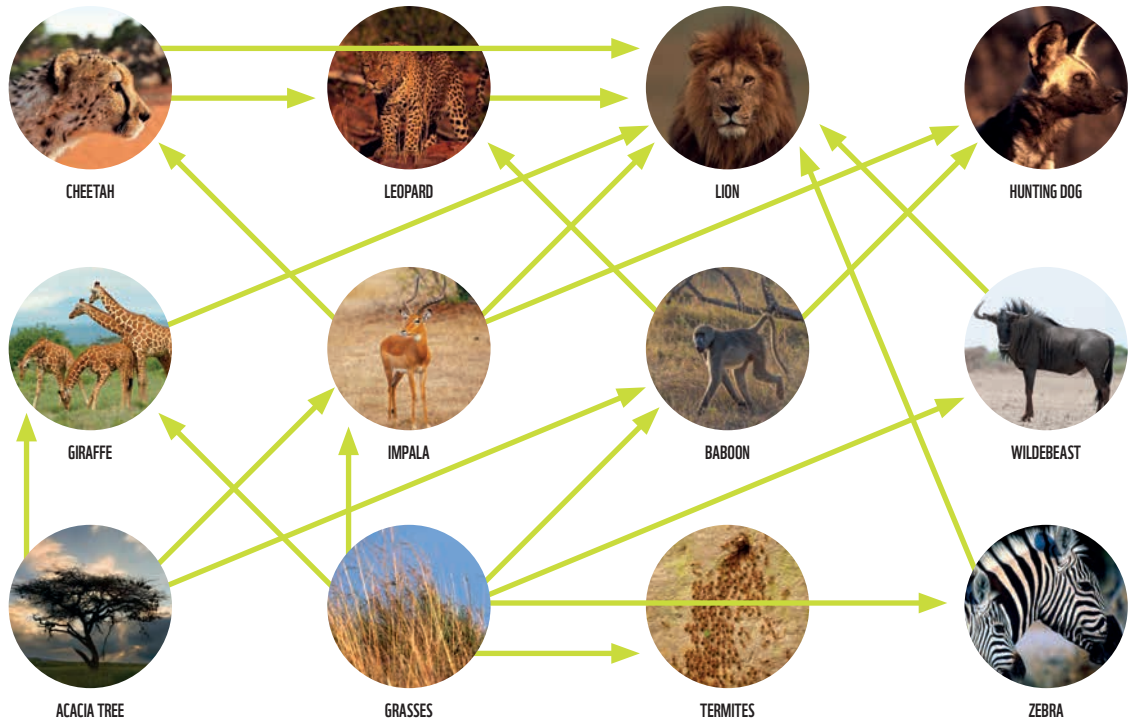
LEOPARD SEAL



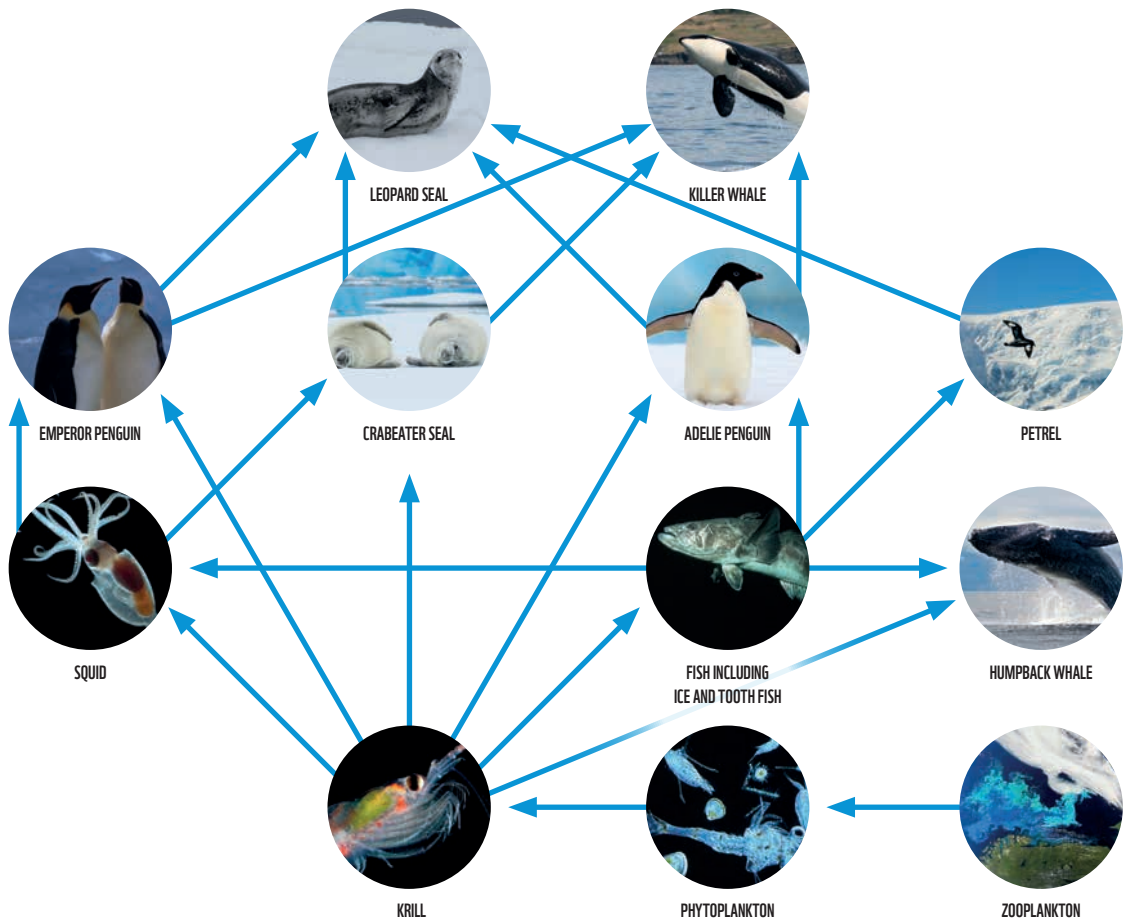
# RESOURCE SHEET

## NATURAL CONNECTIONS

### AFRICAN GRASSLAND



### ANTARCTICA





# RESOURCE SHEET

## WHAT'S THE LINK BETWEEN ORANG-UTANS AND THE FOOD WE EAT?



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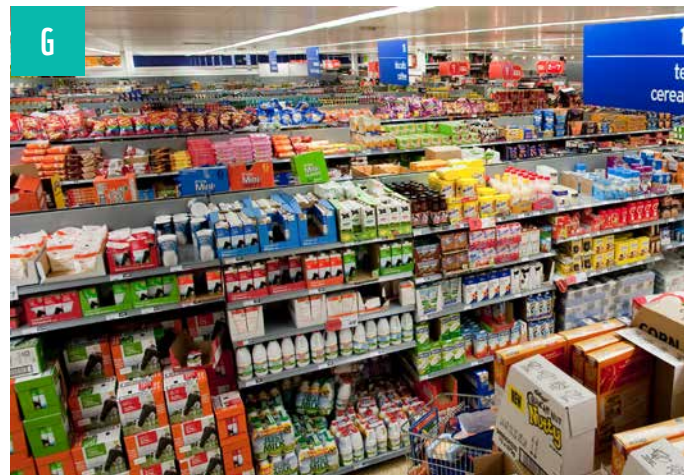
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