

# TWIN CHALLENGE FOR AFRICAN YOUTH

## Spotlight on biodiversity



Friday June 5th is the **World Environment Day**. On this day, biodiversity will find a voice through thousands of African youth. All over Africa's 54 nations, young men and women will speak out for biodiversity and take action to conserve it. You, as an **African youth**, can speak out for Africa's biodiversity and take action to conserve it through the African youth biodiversity twin challenge.


We call on you to meet this challenge head-on by **taking the following steps:**

WED 2020  
**5 JUNE**

## #mydegradationpain.

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The first part of this twin challenge is **#mydegradationpain**. This challenge offers you the opportunity to change your environment by personalizing the degradation that needs restoration. Degraded ecosystems result in loss of jobs, loss of human health, loss of serenity and loss of biodiversity which makes our world vulnerable and unsafe.



When you look around your village, locality, town, countryside or entire country, what environmental degradation do you see that gets on your nerves, relate it to biodiversity?

a. Share your views in written, audio, video or photo formats on your social media platforms with the hashtags **#mydegradationpain #ForNature #WorldEnvironmentDay #Youth @UNEP\_Africa @UNEP**

Environmental degradation doesn't just happen on its own. It is often caused by humans. Who or what do you think is responsible for the degradation that you are witnessing?

a. Share your views in written, audio, video or photo formats on your social media platforms with the hashtags **#mydegradationpain #ForNature #WorldEnvironmentDay #Youth @UNEP\_Africa @UNEP**

Environmental degradation has severe impacts on the health of the planet, human livelihoods and biodiversity loss. How have you personally been affected by the environmental degradation that you have encountered, and can you relate it to biodiversity?

a. Share your views in written, audio, video or photo formats on your social media platforms with the hashtags **#mydegradationpain #ForNature #WorldEnvironmentDay #Youth @UNEP\_Africa @UNEP**

## #findingvanishingspecies.

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The second part of the twin challenge is **#findingvanishingspecies**. This challenge will encourage inter-generational dialogue in spotlighting vanishing species and taking steps to reverse biodiversity loss. This challenge is informed by the fact that within the next 10 years, around 1 million species may be wiped out of the earth. We need to personalize this disappearing act of species so that we can all understand the gravity of their loss then take action that will address this alarming biodiversity loss. In this regard, this challenge will employ inter-generational dialogue in the following manner:

Talk to people around you and ask them about the species that abounded during their childhood or teenage years. Write down those species in your local languages and in English. If those species had some cultural significance, write it down. Don't forget to hunt for photos of those species! Where possible record the audio or video of your interviews with the older folks.

a. Share your writings, audio, video or photos on your social media platforms with the hashtags **#findingvanishingspecies #ForNature #WorldEnvironmentDay #Youth @UNEP\_Africa @UNEP**

In that conversation with members of the older generations, find out the species that used to abound but are rare these days. Write them down and make it your mission to hunt for at least one of them in real life! If you find it, take a photo. If you don't find it, just write a few paragraphs about the unfruitful experience of hunting for species that are quite rare these days yet they used to abound earlier on.

a. Share your views in writings, audio, video or photos on your social media platforms with the hashtags **#findingvanishingspecies #ForNature #WorldEnvironmentDay #Youth @UNEP\_Africa @UNEP**

Start taking these five steps of the twin challenge TODAY. Your steps will give voice to biodiversity loss and lay the groundwork for reversing biodiversity loss across Africa.

*Please note that all your writings, videos, audio and photos will be compiled into an African Online Collection of young voices speaking out on Biodiversity Loss.*