

Trees

It's not just animals in the UK that are under threat, trees are too!

Britain is covered in woodland and forest, and trees are more than just a part of the landscape, they're nature's superheroes! They're a powerful tool in the fight against climate change, providing homes for wildlife and even reducing pollution from cities. Without them, our world would look very different. Jeriah heads to Kew, a Royal Botanic Garden in London, that is the world leader in plant science. He finds out that because of climate change, over half of UK trees could be at risk by 2090. To help the situation, the team at Kew are using cutting-edge science in labs. They're testing to see which trees can live the longest without water, so that they can survive drought. They've also started introducing trees from other warmer countries. Kew's experts are hoping that these trees might be more resilient to less rainfall, and better suited to our changing climate.



TREES are nature's superheroes!
They provide homes for wildlife and help to remove pollution!



In 2022, there was a big drought in the UK that caused the loss of 400 trees at Kew

How can you protect trees?

You could plant a tree in your back garden. Just one tree can make a big difference! If you don't have a garden, you could campaign with friends to protect trees in your local area.

Birds

Many animals depend on our trees, including birds, which have seen a devastating decline in recent years.

Bird charity the RSPB says that since 1980, there has been a loss of one in six breeding birds. That's 600 million birds! One of the worst affected birds is the skylark. They are vulnerable to being disturbed because they build their nests on the ground. This means that people walk very close to them, and so do dogs. When this happens, the birds often abandon their nests.

Skylarks build their nests on the ground, which makes them very vulnerable



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biodiversity – the variety of plant and animal life in an environment
extinct – when there are no animals of a certain species left alive
endangered – any type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever
conservation – the protection of things found in nature
ecosystem – all the living and non-living things in an area
invasive species – when a species is introduced from another country or area and upsets nature's balance



*"Please **use your voice and believe in yourself**. Every single last one of you is important. You are not just a drop in the ocean. Because what is an ocean, but a multitude of drops. Every drop counts."*

You count. Use your voice for change. Demand that change. Put your case across. If you put a good case across then people will start to act upon it."

– Chris Packham

What can you do to help skylarks?

If you see a sign saying that skylarks are nesting, make sure to stay on footpaths. If you have a dog, keep it on a short lead.

Marine life

Biodiversity isn't just being affected on land. Climate change and pollution are affecting our seas too.

In Cardigan Bay in South Wales, a group of young people are helping to monitor and protect their coastline. The Living Seas Youth Forum takes part in beach cleans and dolphin surveys to monitor wildlife and make sure it isn't decreasing.

Some of the challenges that marine life is facing are:

- Plastics
- Pesticides
- Nets washing up on beaches

What can you do to protect our seas?

Go and join in with a beach clean. Or if you don't live near a beach, help to clear up rubbish wherever you live. Less plastic pollution in general means a safer marine environment for all animals!



Use your voice!

BRITAIN is a nation of animal lovers, but if we aren't careful, we could soon be left with just our pets. Our wildlife has suffered a devastating decline over the last 50 years and now we need to do our bit to stop it disappearing forever.

In the film, Scarlett and Jeriah discover what young people are doing to save nature for future generations, and look at how you can make a difference.

It's so important to use your voice to spread awareness of the decline in nature so we can better protect it!

What is the government doing about it?

FYI asked the UK government what it is doing to help our wildlife. It said: "The government has strict targets to meet to restore nature, and is taking action to do this by creating habitats which provide homes for our wildlife, helping to increase their numbers. We have also said that we will take serious action against those who pollute our rivers and lakes."

You can watch the show every week on the *First News* app, at first.news/tv, or on Sky News and Sky Kids.



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