

# COMMUNICATION ON CREATION CARE

World Assembly 2023 Conversatorio: Creation/Nature Care

## INTRODUCTION

The diversity of living organisms is currently experiencing an erosion that is affecting every species in every ecosystem on every continent. Today, close to a third of all the planet's species are endangered, and the number is constantly increasing. Scientists estimate that the current rate of biodiversity disappearance could be up to 1,000 times higher than the natural rate of extinction. Species have appeared and disappeared on Earth throughout its history and *biodiversity* (different life forms) has already experienced several mass extinctions due to ice ages, massive volcanic eruptions and other extreme natural phenomena, scientists tell us. The difference with the creation (nature) crisis that we are seeing in our era, which some are already equating to a sixth mass extinction, is that this one is happening much more rapidly and is almost exclusively linked to human activities. There is therefore a *threat* to creation because of Man. We need to act!!

## CREATION

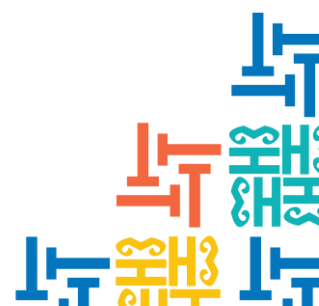
**Creation** ([Hebrew](#): מעשה בראשית *maassè Bereshit*) has a double meaning: the process by which all things come to exist (recognised by believers and non-believers) and a term for all that exists within the universe, a universe that man is untiringly and unrelentingly exploring to discover more about its origin, how it works and its future.

We note that the first meaning is well documented and related in two successive narratives in the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis (Bible). In the first (Genesis 1-2:4), [God](#), an entity named [Elohim](#) in [Hebrew](#), created the heavens and Earth and all they contain in six days, and then rested, making the [seventh day](#) holy. The second narrative (Genesis 2.4-25) introduces us to God, referred to by His personal name [YHWH](#), creating Adam, the first man, from the ground and placing him in the [Garden of Eden](#), which he is mandated to cultivate. We see God progressively order His creation (2<sup>nd</sup> meaning) so he can place [Adam](#), the man invested with a greater mission than all the rest, within in.

## WHY SHOULD WE CARE FOR CREATION?

Creation is the source of every life form on earth: animals, plants, micro-organisms etc. The most expressive part of the environment, for us, is a chain whose visible links are living beings (animals and plants), air and light. Today, each one of these links is a victim of Man's actions. The whole of the living world, known as biodiversity, is suffering from repeated hard knocks. Indeed, it has continued to decline at an alarming rate over the last few years. The loss of biodiversity is a particularly serious threat for the functioning of ecosystems, whose subsistence depends on the presence of multiple species. More and more proof is being gathered of the probability of species extinction due to climate change. The most widely recognised causes of this catastrophic situation are:

- Changes in land use (for example, deforestation, intensive monocultures, urbanisation)
- Direct exploitation such as hunting and overfishing
- Climate change



- Pollution
- Invasive exotic species

To preserve the future of mankind, it has therefore become vital to ensure we care for our environment, because the environment is firstly our source of food and drinking water, but it is also our source of air, of oxygen, and we use biodiversity to make a variety of medicines...

## WHO NEEDS TO CARE FOR CREATION?

Efficient creation care will only begin to happen when mankind, or at least a significant proportion of mankind, comes back to the original order given by the Creator to the first Man in the Garden of Eden. When God told the Man to tend (cultivate) the garden, He was speaking to the whole of mankind. And just as the fall of the first Man caused that of the whole of mankind, its consequences are experienced by the whole of mankind, redemption is for all of mankind and re-establishing Man's responsibility is also for all men.

Therefore, to the extent that a believer strives to please God, they should also strive to respect nature in all their interactions with it. The same efforts must be made by scientists, urban planners, economists, politicians, lawyers, judges, farmers, pastors, traders, learners, teachers, children, the elderly etc.

## HOW CAN WE CARE FOR CREATION?

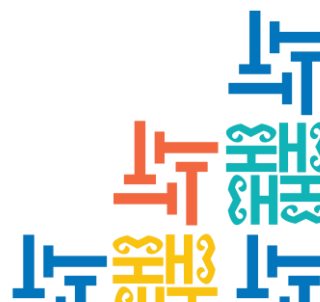
Contemporary conservation and creation care methods are very well documented. Taken together, they advocate the 3 Rs framework to care for nature: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle; however, biodiversity preservation also translates into respect for and the conservation of species and ecosystems. The problem we need to tackle now is the loss that can be seen from genes to individuals to biomes, the incessant pollution of air and water, but Man's unbridled behaviour towards nature.

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