



June 2024

Environmental Message

## World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on June 5th and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is supported by many non-governmental organizations, businesses, and government entities. This event represents the primary United Nations outreach day supporting the environment.

First held in 1973, it has been a platform for raising awareness on environmental issues as marine pollution, overpopulation, global warming, sustainable development and wildlife crime. World Environment Day is a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually, including participation from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Africa and the United States. Every year, the program has provided a theme and forum for businesses, non-government organizations, communities, politicians and stars to advocate environmental causes.

World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (5-16 June 1972). One year later, in 1973, the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth". Each subsequent year there is a different theme and host city, such as Ontario, Canada in 1986 with "A Tree for Peace", San Francisco in 2005 with "Green Cities - Plant for the Planet", 2016 "Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife Trade" in Luanda, Angola and so forth.

This year's World Environment Day campaign focuses on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience under the slogan "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration." The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host the 2024 World Environment Day global celebrations. According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40 percent of the planet's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world's population. The number and duration of droughts has increased by 29 per cent since 2000 - without urgent action, droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050," the United Nations official website wrote.

More information on World Environment Day can be found at:  
<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

