



ECEN Biodiversity Questionnaire

Please respond in a simple way to the following questions. It will take you about ten minutes.

1. Find and name

a) **Five cultivated plants** growing around your church / in your churchyard.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | |

b) **Five wild plants** growing around your church / in your churchyard.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | |

2. Find and name **five non domesticated animals** you have seen during the last month.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | |

3. Would you mind bats and birds living in your church tower?

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4. What kind of plants and animals were **on your lunch plate today**?

.....
.....
.....

5. Have you ever had a naturalist invited to your church to speak about **biodiversity**? On what topic?

6. Name **two good and two bad things** about having a large variety of plants and animals in your church surroundings?

Good:
.....

7. Bad:
.....

8. Please put down the **name and place of the church** where you come from and both optional: your **name and age** .

.....
.....

Please return to

This questionnaire was devised at **European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN)** Assembly 2012 in Elspeet by the Biodiversity Working Group. www.ecen.org For more information contact ja@christian-ecology.org.uk

Three texts to help us think about about Wildlife

Psalm 104 1-35	Jonah 4	Matthew 6,25-34
<p>The diversity of creatures http://bg4.me/RPyHCl - including the following verses:-</p>	<p>A marvellous narrative about the indivisible love which God addresses to all forms of life - including the following verses:-</p>	<p>The birds and the lilies - including the following verses:-</p>
<p>He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.</p> <p>¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.</p> <p>¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.</p> <p>¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.</p> <p>¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth:</p> <p>¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts.</p> <p>¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.</p> <p>¹⁷ There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the junipers.</p> <p>¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.</p>	<p>⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.</p> <p>⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.</p> <p>⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."</p> <p>⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"</p> <p>"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."</p> <p>¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"</p>	<p>²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"</p> <p>²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?"</p> <p>²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin.</p> <p>²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.</p> <p>³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"</p>

Why fill in this questionnaire?

Individuals:

- Because it will help you think and appreciate nature more,
- Perhaps it will help you to encourage others to look at & after nature more.
- Because we are interested in your feedback.

Group leaders:-

Could you use this questionnaire with a group?

- Use it as a springboard for discussion.
- Use the results on your church website and send us a link.
- Write a short report on your findings for your church magazine.
- Please send us a few digital pictures. and your report
- Tell your group "This questionnaire will be used by people from all over Europe"

Background:

As the **Biodiversity Working Group** of The 9th ECEN* (see bottom of page) Assembly in Elspeet, Netherlands we feel that direct experience with nature is absolutely essential for caring about environmental issues.

When we lose sensitivity to life forms in our neighbourhood, we become unable to understand what we should protect and why we should preserve it for future generations. Many children are now unable to name the commonest of plants. Perception of the surrounding world can be also a release from economic and social crisis around us. It is always helpful to understand how the natural basis of life work.

We have produced this questionnaire as a resource for you to use. We hope that this questionnaire can be used in groups in your church to increase awareness of nature around the church. As people learn more, they gain confidence, and become thankful of the local gifts God has given. Perhaps this will give them confidence to care about the animals and plants in the wild that are now under threat.

We also acknowledge that it can be hard work looking after a churchyard and after church buildings, and thank those people in the church community who do this.

If you send in your results along with a few digital photos we can put up some web pages on the ECEN website and write a report – you will know you are sharing your results with people throughout Europe.

With these feelings we have prepared this short questionnaire for you. Please try to find a few minutes and think these things over. In the UK CEL (Christian Ecology Link) will compile the data. A team of Czech 14 year old naturalists is waiting to compile some of the data for ECEN. Give them a chance!

European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) is a church network promoting co-operation in caring for creation. www.ecen.org . Ecological threats transcend national and confessional boundaries. The aim of the ECEN is to share information, experiences in environmental work among widely varied Christian traditions and to encourage a united witness in caring for God's creation. ECEN is the main working instrument of the Conference of European Churches for addressing the need for environmental engagement and responding to climate change.

ECEN holds an assembly in a different country every two years. In 2012 the 9th Assembly was held at Elspeet in the Netherlands, 98 people attended from 22 different countries. Many of these were delegates and environment officers from churches in different countries; others came as individuals.

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