

## Thematic Session [Climate Crisis and Biodiversity]

# Biodiversity and Life in Cities

Oct 12, 2022 (Wed) 13:00-15:30

Organizers: Korea Federation for Environmental Movements in Gwangju,  
Gwangju Jeonnam Back-to-Farm Movements Headquarter

### Background

Biodiversity in general refers to the variety of all living species on earth, the variety of their inhabitant ecosystems, or the variety of the genes of living organisms. Every living organism needs other plants or animals to survive. The tighter the chain of natural ecosystems, the less contaminated the water, air and soil will be and the higher the resistance will be to the external impact.

Climate crisis has a significant impact on biodiversity. A rapid change in temperature affects the natural environment. If flooding, drought, and diseases destroy the food chain and lead to extinction of a species, then other species connected to the food chain will be affected as well, and the balance of the ecosystem will be broken. In the end, humans as part of the food chain will not be able to survive.

Destructions caused by human actions affect not only the nature but also human beings themselves. The earth does not belong to humans. Respecting all forms of life on earth is a way of making humans' life easier. But the attitude of disregarding the life of living organisms that are weak and cannot speak persists towards the vulnerable. In this regard, we would like to hold a thematic session on building a society where all forms of life can be respected and exploring a wide range of methods to conserve biodiversity.

### Objective

Biodiversity generally refers to the variety of all living species on earth, the variety of their inhabitant ecosystems, and the variety of the genes of living organisms. We need to preserve the ecosystem of each living species to maintain their variety. Species that survived in various environments have genetic diversity and hence can easily adapt to a new environment. Such species also have higher possibility of speciation or evolution.

We get most of the raw materials for food, medicine, buildings and various goods from living organisms.



The Thematic Session ‘Climate Crisis and Biodiversity’ of the 12th World Human Rights Cities Forum addresses climate crisis and biodiversity issues. We would like to share domestic and overseas case examples of efforts for conserving biodiversity, and discuss how to tackle the biodiversity issues caused by climate crisis. In particular, we would like to focus our discussion on life in cities and how to spread Gwangju’s biodiversity conservation efforts wider.

## Main agenda

1. Relationship between climate crisis and biodiversity, and the relevant problems
2. Methods to conserve biodiversity (Jangnok Wetland, activities to prevent bird crash, etc.)
3. Bills related to conservation of biodiversity and measures to expand the biodiversity conservation implementation plan

