



Theme of ECHO 2025

Reviving Nature: Youth-Led Solutions for Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth, providing clean air, water, food, and essential resources that support our well-being, livelihoods, and economies. Yet, biodiversity is on the decline. Wildlife populations have plummeted by 73% since 1970 (WWF Living Planet Report, 2024). Habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and unsustainable practices are pushing ecosystems towards critical tipping points

Why does biodiversity loss matter?

Conserving biodiversity is essential for a healthy planet and our future. It is a foundation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with goals like Life on Land (SDG 15) and Life below Water (SDG 14) directly addressing conservation. However, all 17 SDGs hinge on thriving biodiversity.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), also known as the "Biodiversity Plan," is a global agreement that commits 196 countries to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 for the benefit of people and planet. Achieving this goal requires a "whole of society" approach, with collective action to address **direct drivers** of biodiversity loss (the exploitation of natural resources, climate change, pollution, and invasive species) as well as **indirect drivers** (demographic, sociocultural, or economic factors, governance, conflict, and so on).

Take action with ECHO 2025

To safeguard biodiversity, we must rethink how we live, produce food, utilise natural resources and ecosystem services, and reconnect with nature. The youth of today have the greatest stake in our future but also have the greatest power to effect change. With India's youth comprising around 30% of the population, the country is a powerhouse of youth-led action for conservation.

ECHO 2025 invites Young innovators from around the country to **join the ranks of ECHO Fellows** and develop innovative solutions for **conserving native biodiversity** through the following three avenues:

1. Habitat Conservation: Develop innovative solutions to protect, restore, and sustainably manage habitats, such as wetlands, grasslands, forests, and urban green spaces, supporting native wildlife and safeguarding critical ecosystem services while also addressing challenges like climate change and the threat of invasive alien species.

2. Species Conservation: Design initiatives such as species recovery programmes, strategies for protected areas, and capacity-building initiatives to protect threatened native species and habitats.

3. Community-Based Conservation: Engage and empower communities through a biocultural approach, which intertwines local cultural values and traditional knowledge with science, to restore and enhance traditional stewardship practices.

Join youth from around the country in ECHO 2025 and be part of the movement to reimagine our relationship with nature. The time to act is now—be the change our planet needs!

Apply Here by 16 February 2025

Biodiversity provides essential ecosystem services such as:



Pollination



Seed dispersal



Water Purification



Nutrient Cycling



Soil Stability & fertility



Climate Regulation