Biodiversity & the screen industries
A best practice guide
**Biodiversity** refers to all the living things that make up our natural world, from animals and birds to plants and trees, insects and bugs right down to fungi and microorganisms.

Biodiversity is essential for human life – we depend on it for not only the air we breathe, food we eat and water we drink but also for health & medicines, fuel & materials and livelihoods.

The film & TV industry impacts on biodiversity through its production practices, supply chain and through its portrayal of biodiversity on screen.

There is great potential, however, for the impact of the industry to be positive and promote biodiversity.
### Biodiversity – the facts

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<th>Biodiversity is declining faster now than at any point in human history.</th>
<th>Since 1970, there has been an average 60% decline in global populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians</th>
<th>25% of all animal and plant species are threatened with extinction</th>
<th>Biodiversity is essential for human life – for air, food &amp; water but also for health &amp; medicines, fuel &amp; materials and livelihoods</th>
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<td>Healthy ecosystems can store carbon and help protect us from the impacts of climate change</td>
<td>Climate change impacts on biodiversity in numerous ways including through temperature rises, flooding, wildfires and drought.</td>
<td>It will not be possible to achieve net zero climate targets without considering biodiversity</td>
<td>2022 is a crunch year for biodiversity with global agreements needing to be reached at the UN's COP15</td>
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Why should the screen industry care about biodiversity?

- Biodiversity fundamentally underpins the benefits that businesses derive from natural capital
- Supply chains rely on biodiversity for natural resources, whether that be for precious minerals for cameras or water for cooling systems
- Potential cost savings from reducing resource use
- The interlinkage between climate and biodiversity mean it will not be possible to achieve net zero targets without considering biodiversity
- Reputational gain for taking action on an issue of growing concern to viewers
- Opportunity to inform viewers and help deliver international commitments
- Existing and forthcoming legislation
The film & TV industry can impact on biodiversity through its production practices, supply chain and through its portrayal of biodiversity on screen.

**On location**
- Damage or disturbance of habitats and species through noise, lighting and access
- Waste & pollution of waterways
- Introduction of non-native species

**On screen**
- Demand for biodiversity damaging products or ingredients
- Increasing visitors to sensitive locations
- Impact on individual species

**Supply chain**
- Use of non-sustainable materials in set construction e.g. lauan plywood
- Biodiversity damaging ingredients in catering or on screen e.g. palm oil

Plus impacts at an organisational level through, for example, investments, pensions and planning.
What can you do...on location?

• Consult local experts, be aware if land is protected and have any required permits or permissions in place
• Train up crew and consider having a green location manager/runner
• Minimise disturbance by limiting noise, night-time lighting, and vehicle & personnel access
• Ensure all waste is removed from site and have policies to prevent any potential contamination of land or waterways
• Avoid cutting back vegetation and ensure any *greens* brought on site, are native species
• Remediate any damage
...on screen?

- Avoid filming at sites that may be impacted negatively by increased visitors and try not to disclose filming locations
- Avoid featuring biodiversity damaging products on screen
- Consider your portrayal of particular species or habitats - ensure accuracy and avoid encouraging human interactions with them
- Look for opportunities to promote biodiversity and its protection
…in your supply chain?

Have a Sustainable Procurement policy in place that:

- Avoids the use of biodiversity-damaging ingredients in food used in catering or on screen
- Uses recognised sustainable (e.g. FSC), recycled, reclaimed or reused wood in set construction
- Sources costumes and clothing that are second-hand or made using sustainably accredited textiles
- Encourages the rental rather than purchase of any *greens* necessary and, even then, only those that are native and grown without the use of pesticides
How albert can help

Each of these albert initiatives include reference to biodiversity and how to promote it

**Free Training**

albert training helps industry colleagues to live and work sustainably by providing an optimistic, science-based, solution-centric and enjoyable introduction to the environmental challenges we face.

**Suppliers to Zero**

A series of practical solutions for the TV and Film community to address their Scope 3 emissions within their supply chain.

**Green Rider**

An agreement to help actors, writers, directors and their agents get more sustainability measures implemented on set through their contracts.
Like some more info?

Check out our case studies of shows that have included sustainability content.

albert Suppliers is a directory of those suppliers going the extra mile to be green and support productions.

Check whether locations you want to film at are home to protected species using DEFRA’s Magic Map.

Find out if you need a licence to film particular birds or animals in the UK and how to get a licence to do so.

Demonstrate your company’s commitment to biodiversity by signing up to the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity Action Agenda.

Find out more about the financial risks nature loss poses and what you can do about it at the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.