



Biological Diversity 2026: Reconnecting Industry with Nature

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Executive Summary

Biodiversity is fundamental to life on Earth. It underpins ecosystems, economies, food systems, water security, climate resilience, and human health. Yet biodiversity loss continues at an alarming pace, driven by habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, invasive species, and overexploitation of natural resources.

The International Day for Biological Diversity serves as a global reminder that protecting nature is not solely the responsibility of governments or environmental organisations. Industry, infrastructure, and construction all have a critical role to play in safeguarding the ecosystems that sustain life.

At Douglas OHI, sustainability is increasingly embedded into the way projects are planned, delivered, and managed through environmental awareness initiatives, responsible construction practices, waste reduction efforts, operational efficiency, and ESG-focused thinking.



Understanding Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth, including species diversity, genetic diversity, and ecosystem diversity. Together, these systems form the foundation of healthy ecosystems that support clean air, water, food production, climate regulation, and human wellbeing.

The health of the planet and the survival of species, including humans, depend upon protecting these natural systems.

The Global Biodiversity Crisis

The world is experiencing unprecedented biodiversity decline. Biodiversity hotspots cover only approximately 2.5% of the Earth's land surface, yet they contain more than half of the world's plant species and a significant proportion of endemic wildlife.

Among the most critical of these ecosystems is the Amazon rainforest, often referred to as one of the 'lungs of the planet', due to its role in carbon storage, climate regulation, and biodiversity support.

The degradation of such ecosystems has consequences far beyond regional borders. Biodiversity loss affects climate resilience, water systems, food chains, and long-term economic stability.



Key Threats to Biodiversity

Habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, invasive species, and overexploitation continue to place ecosystems under severe pressure worldwide.

Urbanisation, industrial expansion, unsustainable land use, and environmental degradation are accelerating biodiversity decline and increasing risks to ecosystems and communities.

Why Biodiversity Matters to Business

Biodiversity loss presents direct and indirect risks to organisations across every sector. For construction and infrastructure businesses, these include environmental regulation, resource scarcity, climate-related disruption, reputational risk, and operational challenges.

Businesses that prioritise sustainability and environmental stewardship are increasingly recognised as more resilient, responsible, and future-focused.

Douglas OHI's Commitment to Sustainability

At Douglas OHI, sustainability is a core pillar of our long-term operational strategy and is embedded across project planning, design, construction, and delivery. We recognise that the construction sector has a significant environmental footprint, alongside a clear opportunity to support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Through our Sustain programme, we continue to advance responsible construction practices, ESG integration, environmental stewardship, waste reduction, resource efficiency, and nature-conscious delivery across our operations in Oman, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.



Key elements of our approach include:

- Integrating environmental considerations early in design to reduce habitat disruption and support ecological connectivity.
- Promoting circular economy principles and responsible sourcing to reduce pressure on natural ecosystems.
- Implementing site-specific measures such as waste minimisation, water conservation, and pollution prevention to protect biodiversity.
- Supporting nature-based solutions and green infrastructure, including native planting and habitat enhancement where appropriate.
- Building environmental awareness across our teams and supply chain through training and engagement.

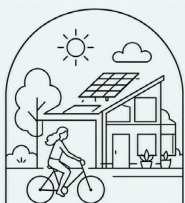
Douglas OHI recognises that sustainable construction requires more than compliance. It demands continuous improvement, accountability, and transparent decision-making that considers long-term ecological impact. By embedding these principles into our operations, we aim to support the preservation of biodiversity and the resilience of the environments in which we operate.

Conclusion

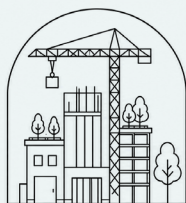
Protecting biodiversity requires collective responsibility.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a reminder that the relationship between people and nature must change. For the construction and infrastructure sector, this means moving beyond compliance towards genuine environmental stewardship.

The call to action is clear:



Transform
how we live



Transform
how we build



Reconnect
with nature



Protect the systems
that sustain life

Because the future of
humanity depends upon it.

About the Author

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Davinder leads strategic communications, ESG positioning, corporate storytelling, and stakeholder engagement across the organisation. With a strong focus on responsible construction, sustainability, and people-centred communications, Davinder works closely with operational and leadership teams to strengthen how Douglas OHI communicates its vision, culture, and long-term impact across the region. Her work supports initiatives linked to safety, sustainability, operational excellence, and industry engagement.

Sources and References



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