



Human Nature Projects

Elliot Connor, Human Nature Projects
Australia

☀ Call to Action

Join Elliot's Human Nature Projects:
humannatureprojects.org

☀ Values

- Compassion
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Environmentalism

☀ Lessons Learned

We are all guests on this planet. Be gracious, and considerate of other species.

Turn your passion into action!

Success requires a combination of hard work and perseverance.

When Elliot was just 10 years old, he met a leopard in Botswana.

It was a close call, and an experience that he will never forget. However, the encounter only intensified his passion for animals, and when he was 16 years old, he started the charity Human Nature Projects. It connects more than 1,400 volunteers in more than 100 countries around the world, all of them working on conservation issues. Elliot is aiming large: with his organization, he wants to get people to reevaluate their relationship with nature--to rethink what it means for us as humans, to share our planet with other species.

☀ Language Arts

Choose an animal species that is endangered in your area.

Create a 5-7 minute video about this species; about why it is endangered, and what can be done to protect it. Finish your video with a Call to Action, to get your peers involved.

Working in groups of 3-5 people, create the content for a website for a fictional conservation project.

Your website must be targeted to attract young volunteers. The website must include an About Us section; a section with information about one of the species you want to protect; a FAQs page; a Call to Action page; and two blog posts. Afterwards, create a presentation using the content from your website, and present it to your class.

After watching everyone's presentations, write an essay in which you discuss which presentations were most effective and why.

Which of these fictional websites do you think best accomplishes its goal of educating people and getting them engaged in a conservation project? Which websites were more effective, and why?

STEM Activities

The [WWF Australia](#)¹ report suggests that as many as 3 billion individual mammals, birds, reptiles, and frogs died or were displaced during the bushfire crisis. Calculate the loss of plant and animal species from the fire. What percentage of Australian species are threatened with extinction as a result of this crisis? How many of those species are unique to Australia? Select one of them and explore what the effect would be if this species were to become extinct.

This [lesson plan from the California Academy of Sciences](#)² uses the imaginary location of “Conservation Island” to teach students about some of the real-world issues involved in making plans to save endangered species. Students will learn the concepts behind identifying endangered and extinct animals, and develop their own conservation plans for saving three endangered species on the fictional island.

The conservation charity [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#)³ has warned that climate change is threatening the existence of the snow leopard in the Himalayas. Research the impacts of climate change on snow leopards and chart their future population trajectory. What human activities are having a significant impact on the sustainability of this species?

Research endangered species that can be found in your community or country, and learn how human activities are contributing to their decreasing population. Then create a website, app, or infographic to raise awareness in your community, by providing information about organizations that are helping to save these species, and how people from the community can support the cause.

Sustainability Innovations

Elliott Connor began his work with [Human Nature Projects](#)⁴, but he has developed many other projects as well, to assist in the fight to create a more sustainable world. Learn about some of his projects. Which one interests you the most? How can you become engaged in this work?

As the global population collaborates to address our sustainability issues, the need for information expands. Elliot has developed the [Human Nature Podcast](#)⁵ to share information about animals, and highlight the work of animal experts so we can learn more about the creatures we share the earth with.

Seeing the work of others is great, but it is also important to find ways that you personally can make an impact. [Projects Abroad](#)⁶ highlights hundreds of different projects that you can participate in, with an emphasis on wildlife and marine conservation.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Conservationist. Conservationists have various roles to play in preserving and protecting wildlife habitats and their inhabitants: they work as animal advocates, liaisons with governments and affected communities, nonprofit managers, and fundraisers, among many other roles. This witty essay looks at the [12 different types of conservationist you could be](#)⁷. And [this article introduces you more thoroughly to the field](#)⁸.

Wildlife Veterinarian. Caring for sick and injured wild animals can be rewarding as well. [Explore how you can become a veterinarian, or check out these many other interesting jobs working with animals here](#)⁹.

Volunteer Coordinator. Nonprofits depend on volunteers to get the work done. And the success, management, and training of volunteers depends on good volunteer coordinators. Larger nonprofits hire coordinators to help draw out the energy and passion of volunteers, as well as train them: Learn more about what a [volunteer coordinator does here](#)¹⁰.

1 <https://www.worldwildlife.org/press-releases/3-billion-animals-impacted-by-australia-s-bushfire-crisis>

2 <https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/conservation-island>

3 <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/snow-leopard>

4 <https://humannatureprojects.org/what-we-do>

5 <https://www.elliottconnor.com/podcast>

6 <https://www.projects-abroad.org/volunteer-abroad/conservation-and-environment/>

7 <http://www.jamesborrell.com/the-12-types-of-conservation-career-and-how-to-choose-which-one-is-for-you/>

8 <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/conservationist-526002>

9 <https://unity.edu/environmental-careers/20-cool-careers-with-animals-that-pay-well/#unusual>

10 <https://www.indeed.com/hire/job-description/volunteer-coordinator>

