

Earth Optimism Alliance – Special Message

Watch the video online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbKoXgEucNw>

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NANCY KNOWLTON: Hello and welcome to Earth Optimism 2020. This week marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The Smithsonian Institution and our global partners in the Earth Optimism Alliance are celebrating by shining a spotlight on the extraordinary actions people are taking to conserve and restore our natural world.

ROSIE TREVELYEN: In these difficult times, conservation needs optimism more than ever to encourage and guide us in our work to secure nature's future. Positive stories will inspire us to make changes in our homes, our communities, and our workplaces. And they will raise our ambitions to scale up conservation solutions so we can make real impacts across the globe.

ANDREW BALMFORD: Earth Optimism is a worldwide movement that brings people together to share what's working in conservation and to exchange ideas about how we can make sustainable choices every day. And while nature faces many threats, there is clear and growing evidence that conservation efforts are working, right around the world.

XIANGYING SHI: In China, populations of iconic species such as giant pandas are starting to recover. Renewable energy is expanding, and the vastly new national parks are being created.

VANESSA ADAMS: In the ocean, seagrass beds are regenerating, and the numbers of sea turtles and blue whales are on the rise. Across Oceania, communities are bringing together traditional management with contemporary science to improve local stewardship and protect their marine resources.

ANTHONY GICHEHA KURIA: Across Africa, the population of black rhinos is growing and forests are being restored. And here in Kenya, Earth Optimism is about empowering the next generation of conservation leaders.

FERNANDA GOMES: There are literally hundreds of success stories like this. You can discover more through our digital events taking place throughout this week. Please join in on social media by sharing your own conservation wins using the hashtag #earthoptimism and by looking out for the physical Earth Optimist celebrations we are now planning for next year.

RUTH ANNA STOLK: Earth Optimism celebrates these bright spots. And it shares are growing understanding of why certain efforts are working and what changes can be made on the ground, in our communities, and way beyond. From wherever you are watching, thank you for tuning in.

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