

Republic of Madagascar “The Eight Continent”



Chief of State: President Andry RAJOELINA (since 16 December 2023)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Christian NTSAY (since 6 June 2018)

Capital: Antananarivo

Population: 29.9 million

Independence: June 26, 1960 (From France)

Currency: Malagasy Ariary (MGA)

[Madagascar](#) was one of the last major habitable landmasses on Earth to be settled by humans. While there is some evidence of human presence on the island in the millennia B.C., large-scale settlement began between A.D. 350 and 550 with settlers from present-day Indonesia. The island attracted Arab and Persian traders as early as the 7th century, and migrants from Africa arrived around A.D. 1000. Madagascar was a pirate stronghold during the late 17th and early 18th centuries and continued to serve as a slave trading center into the 19th century. From the 16th to the late 19th century, the native Merina Kingdom dominated much of Madagascar. The French conquered the island in 1896 and made it a colony; independence was regained in 1960.

The island of Madagascar is known as the “Great Red Island” due to its iron-rich red soil. It is a large island off the east coast of [Africa](#) in the [Indian Ocean](#). It’s the world’s fourth-largest island. Only the islands of Borneo, [Greenland](#), and New Guinea are larger than the island of Madagascar. It boasts a wealth of endemic species, meaning plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth, including the iconic lemurs. The island is also famous for its unique landscapes, like the “stone forest” of [Tsingy de Bemaraha](#) and the towering [baobab trees](#).

Fun Facts (Here are some amazing fun facts about Madagascar):

[Madagascar remains the world's leading producer and exporter of vanilla](#). It grows and exports over 80% of the world’s vanilla as of 2022. The island nation off Africa’s east coast provides ideal humid, tropical conditions for growing the *Vanilla planifolia* species.

[Madagascar has three UNESCO World Heritage sites](#): the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga, the Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve, and the Rainforests of the Atsinanana. The Royal Hill of Ambohimanga is a cultural site, while the other two are natural sites.

Madagascar is an island like no other. It is hundreds of miles off the southeastern coast of Africa, isolated for more than 80 million years, changing and evolving independently from the rest of the world. Today, the island is famed for its extraordinary biodiversity and distinctive flora and fauna, with more than 85% of its species found nowhere else on Earth. Its size, varied topography, and four distinct regional climates create a vast array of habitats for animals and plants, making Madagascar often referred to as the “*Eighth Continent*.”

[Biodiversity Haven](#): Madagascar boasts exceptionally high biodiversity, with about 90% of its wildlife found nowhere else on Earth. It is the sole home to lemurs in the wild, who have thrived and diversified in isolation, adapting to various habitats. Also, six of the world's nine baobab species are endemic to Madagascar, including the iconic bottle-shaped ‘tree of life’.

[Madagascar is home to almost half of the world's 150+ chameleon species](#): Approximately half of the world's chameleon species, ranging from the large Parson's chameleon to the tiny dwarf chameleon, call Madagascar home.

Every five to seven years, families exhume the remains of their ancestors from family tombs. The bones are wrapped in fresh, often colorful fabric—called [lamba mena](#)—and sometimes perfumed to honor the deceased. This practice is referred to as [Famadihana](#), also known as the “[Turning of the Bones](#).” It is a captivating tradition practiced in Madagascar. This ceremony is a unique expression of ancestral reverence and family unity, offering a powerful glimpse into how the dead continue to play an active role in the lives of the living. Rather than grieving, families gather to honor their deceased loved ones with dancing, music, and feasting. This vibrant event reaffirms the bond between the living and their ancestors, transforming a traditional funeral practice into a lively, festive occasion.

JUNE 2025

Division Director’s Message



U. Desmond Alufohai
Division Director II

Protocol & International Affairs Division
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

June arrived with symbolic richness—a month-long associated with marriage, youth, and the radiant beginning of summer. Named for Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage and protector of women, June invites us to celebrate commitment, vitality, and forward momentum. The summer solstice marks the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, a time of light, warmth, and growth.

Nature, too, offers its tribute to the season: the rose, emblem of love and beauty, and the pearl, representing purity and new beginnings, are June’s floral and birthstone symbols—reminders that renewal often comes with elegance.

As we step into this season of abundance, we are delighted to welcome two distinguished diplomats to our community: Mr. Tyson K. McKenzie, Acting Consul General at the Consulate General of The Bahamas in Miami, brings over a decade of dedicated service in the Bahamian Foreign Service.

Dr. Fernando Marmolejo Roldán, the newly appointed Consul General of Colombia in Miami, is a renowned academic and expert in international cooperation, urban planning, and economic development. Their presence adds valuable perspective and energy to our region’s global dialogue. As always, please be safe.

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DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of The Bahamas in Miami, Florida



Mr. Tyson K. McKenzie is a dedicated Bahamian diplomat and public servant with over a decade of progressive experience in the Bahamian Foreign Service. He currently serves as the Acting Consul General at the Consulate General of The Bahamas in Miami, Florida. In his current capacity, Mr. McKenzie leads all facets of the Consulate's operations—including consular, political, economic, and cultural affairs—while overseeing staff and engaging with local, state, and federal authorities. His work is grounded in the principles of effective diplomacy, strategic policy implementation, and high-impact diaspora engagement. He plays a key role in promoting Bahamian interests, supporting nationals in distress, and cultivating partnerships across the diplomatic corps and the private sector.

Before this posting, Mr. McKenzie served as Deputy Consul General & Head of Chancery in Atlanta, GA, where he led the administrative and operational functions of the Consulate and acted as Officer-in-Charge during the absence of the Consul General. His diplomatic service also includes a tenure at The Bahamas Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where he served as the Chargé d'Affaires, with a critical role in bilateral negotiations, consular protection, and crisis management.

In Nassau, Mr. McKenzie held appointments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Financial Services and Immigration, and the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development. Across these postings, he contributed to national policy on migration, citizenship, gender affairs, and child protection. His early career also includes experience in hospitality, training, and tourism services, further sharpening his skills in communication and public engagement.

Mr. McKenzie will graduate in 2025 with a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Clark Atlanta University, with a focus on international relations and public policy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from the University of The Bahamas. He has also completed advanced diplomatic training through institutions such as the UWI Diplomatic Academy and the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP).

Committed to service and regional advancement, Mr. McKenzie is an advocate for Caribbean integration, youth development, and human rights. He is an active and life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and remains passionate about building bridges

Meet the new Consul General of Republic of Colombia in Miami, Florida



Fernando Marmolejo Roldán, Ph.D., is a renowned academic and expert in international technical cooperation, urban management, territorial planning, and economic development. He completed his postdoctoral studies in International Relations and Human Security at Université Paris 8 and earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) in Rio de Janeiro. With a career spanning 28 years at the United Nations, he has undertaken missions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa, leading international cooperation projects for sustainable development in collaboration with governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Throughout his career, he has held key positions in various UN agencies, government entities, and universities, including:

- * Principal Technical Advisor (PTA) for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Brazil.
- * Consultant for the ERASMUS+ Program of the World Bank.
- * Researcher at the European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation.
- * Principal Technical Advisor (PTA) at the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Rio de Janeiro.
- * Deputy Secretary of Economic Development for the Municipality of Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- * Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Labor Economics and Sociology Laboratory (LESTREG) in Paris, France (CNRS/LEST).
- * Principal Technical Advisor (PTA) for UNESCO in Paris, with projects in eight African countries.
- * Principal Technical Advisor (PTA) for PAHO/WHO in Bogotá.
- * Head of the Office of International Relations and Cooperation for the Municipality of Cali.
- * Director of International Cooperation for the Superintendence of Public Services (SUPERSERVICIOS) in Bogotá.
- * Professor at Paris 8 University (France), Faculty member at the Weitz Center Institute (Israel), and Faculty member at the Fluminense Federal University and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ - Brazil).

As Consul General of Colombia in Miami, his mission is to strengthen consular services for the Colombian community in South Florida, by improving and streamlining these services to ensure efficient and accessible support, establishing strategic partnerships with community leaders, entrepreneurs, academia, Colombian cultural representatives in the region, promoting integration as well as the well-being of Colombian nationals by facilitating access to support programs and opportunities in various fields.

Dr. Marmolejo Roldán accepts this challenge in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reaffirming his commitment to promoting the well-being of all Colombians abroad. His vision is centered on consular diplomacy for migrants, "leaving no one behind." He is fluent in Spanish (native), French, Portuguese, and German.

AVIATION, CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & PROTOCOL TIDBITS

Culture, Etiquette and Protocol

Summer is the season for outdoor gatherings and sun-soaked celebrations. Whether you're attending a barbecue, a swim party, or a beach party, specific etiquette guidelines can help you navigate these events with grace and poise.

Swim Parties

Bring Your Essentials: Pack your swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and any other personal items you might need. Do not assume your host will provide these for you.

Follow Pool Rules: Respect the pool rules set by the host. This includes showering before entering the pool if requested, not running on the deck, and not diving in shallow areas.

Be Considerate: Keep noise levels down, especially if the pool area is close to the house or neighboring properties. Avoid roughhousing or splash fights that could bother others.

Barbecue Parties

RSVP Promptly: Respond as soon as you receive an invitation. This helps your host with planning and ensures they have enough food and seating for everyone.

Dietary Restrictions: If you have dietary restrictions, inform your host in advance. Offer to bring a dish you can enjoy, to relieve some of the pressure on your host.

Offer to Bring Something: Even if it's not an official potluck party, it is considerate to offer something. Some suggestions could be a salad, a side dish, a dessert, or a beverage.

Be Punctual: Arrive on time or within the first 15 minutes of the start time. If you're running late, let your host know.

Participate and Help: Offer to assist with setting up, serving, or cleaning up. Even if your host declines, they will appreciate it.

Mind Your Table Manners: Eat politely and avoid overloading your plate. Wait for everyone to be served before starting your meal, and take a moment to compliment the cook.

Clean Up After Yourself: Dispose of your trash properly, and if you've brought any items (such as a dish to share), make sure to take them home or ask your host what they'd prefer.

Beach Parties

Respect the Environment: Leave no trace. Clean up after yourself, dispose of trash properly, and avoid disturbing wildlife.

Sun Protection: Wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses to protect yourself from the sun. Bring extra sunscreen to share.

Personal Space: Be mindful of others' space on the beach. Set up your area at a respectful distance from other groups, especially if the beach is crowded. When shaking out your towel, move away from the others to avoid getting sand on them.

Hydrate and Snack Wisely: Bring plenty of water and healthy snacks. Avoid leaving food uncovered, as it may attract birds and insects.

End on a Positive Note: As the day winds down, help pack up and ensure the beach area is clean. Thank your host for organizing the event and bid farewell to other guests.

Source: [The Manners Maven](#).

Aviation Briefs & Facts: MIA updates

Miami-Dade County officials broke ground Tuesday, June 24, 2025, on a new terminal expansion at Miami International Airport. The new three-level facility, to be named Concourse K, will include six new passenger jet gates, a passenger lounge, and expanded post-security concessions. "We are not just keeping up with the wear and tear on our airport, making sure that it's modernized, functioning maximally," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. "But we are preparing for the explosive growth."

"This is the first of many jewels to come in our \$9 billion modernization capital improvement program," said MIA Director & CEO Ralph Cutie. Concourse K will be the first terminal expansion at MIA since 2012. Construction is expected to be completed in 2029. The modernization plan positions MIA to accommodate 77 million passengers and 5 million tons of cargo by 2040.

MIA became the first airport in the world to provide access to a new mobile app designed specifically for travelers with low vision. Developed by Baltimore-based [ReBokeh](#) Vision Technologies, the app is now available for free to Apple users at MIA. The technology allows users to apply customized filters to their mobile device's live camera feed, adjusting contrast, color hue, zoom, and lighting. The app also features a new tool that allows users to ask questions about their surroundings and receive visual context, supporting multiple languages based on the phone's settings. Low-vision travelers can use the app at MIA to read signs, navigate gates, interpret flight monitors, or locate shops and restaurants more easily. The platform is tailored for the 90 percent of people with vision impairments who retain some usable sight.

"I am thrilled that MIA is now the first airport in the world to provide ReBokeh's groundbreaking innovation to our travelers with vision challenges," said Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor of Miami-Dade County. "Improving accessibility across Miami-Dade County is one of my highest priorities, which is why I am proud to introduce the Rebokeh app to our millions of visitors from around the world. Navigating MIA just got easier for our low-vision community."

Rebecca Rosenberg, founder and CEO of ReBokeh Vision Technologies, and a person who lives with low vision and travels frequently, knows firsthand the difference it makes to leverage her sight while navigating the airport. "We're incredibly excited that MIA will be a leader in airport accessibility—leveraging ReBokeh's technology to provide a more independent experience for travelers with low vision," she said.

ReBokeh is the latest addition to MIA's [MyMIAAccess program](#), which focuses on inclusive services and earned the airport national recognition in 2023 under the Airports Council International's Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation. MIA was the first airport in Florida and only the second in the U.S. to receive accreditation. Designed by and for the low-vision community, ReBokeh aims to enhance the use of residual vision rather than replace it with audio or tactile alternatives.

[Reserved Parking](#) is now available at MIA! Travelers can now pre-pay and reserve a parking space in the Dolphin or Flamingo parking garages at [booking.mia-parking.com](#) up to a year in advance. Once the booking is confirmed, customers will receive an email receipt with a QR code that can be scanned at the MIA central collection plaza to enter and exit the garages. Reserved parking will also earn customers points in our new [MIA Rewards](#) loyalty program.

Sources: [Cities Today](#), [MyMIAAccess](#)

BRIEFS & NOTES

What is Left-Hand and Right-Hand Driving?



Photo: AutoDeal

[Right-hand driving \(RHD\)](#) refers to a configuration where the car has its steering wheel on the right; therefore, the driver uses the left side of the road. [Left-hand driving \(LHD\)](#), on the other hand, has a steering wheel placed on the left, and so the driver uses the right side of the road.

During the English feudal era, horsemen used the left side of the road. Back in medieval times, knights (who were primarily right-handed) preferred to travel on the left side of the road, so that they could easily swing their swords at the approaching opponent. It's also easier for the swordsmen to mount on the left side and dismount on the right side of the horse.

Napoleon Bonaparte enforced the countries he conquered to drive on the right side of the road. During the French Revolution, the left-handed French statesman Napoleon Bonaparte ordered his people to drive on the right side so that he could attack his rivals with his sword in his left hand. This rule made an impact on some of the countries he conquered, and they are still following this (traffic) regulation until now.

Some countries adopted right-hand driving because of British colonization. Around the 1800s, left-hand driving was imposed in Britain. Territories that the British Empire colonized then followed the rule, and that's the reason why, up to this day, Australia, India, and Pakistan drive on the left side of the road. However, there's always an exception. Countries like Japan, Thailand, Bhutan, Indonesia, and Nepal were never part of the British Empire, but they've always driven on the left.

[Henry Ford's Model T](#) had a steering wheel on the left side of the car. Henry Ford, an American automaker and founder of Ford Motor Company, designed the Model T, which featured a steering wheel positioned on the left side of the car. Because of this, Americans adopted a left-hand driving system in the early 1900s, as it is more practical to have the driver near the centerline of the road and have a clear view of oncoming vehicles. Furthermore, it allows passengers to get out of the car on the curb instead of into the middle of the street.

[Key Findings on Safety & Accidents](#)

- * A historical study (J.J. Leeming, 1969) found that Left-Hand Traffic (LHT) countries had lower collision rates, though the data were limited.
- * Driver Adaptation Risks: Accidents often occur when drivers accustomed to one system travel to a country with the opposite driving orientation.
- * Roundabout Safety: Traffic flow differences impact accident rates—LHT countries have clockwise roundabouts, while Right-Hand Traffic (RHT) countries move counterclockwise.
- * Right-Hand Traffic is adopted in **165 countries**, including most of Europe, the Americas, Africa, and mainland Asia.
- * Left-Hand Traffic, is used in **75 countries**, including the UK, Japan, Australia, and many former British colonies.

World Oceans Day and the Blue Economy



Every year on June 8, the world observes [World Oceans Day](#) to highlight the vital role oceans play in sustaining life, maintaining climate stability, and supporting global economies. Proposed in 1992 and formally recognized by the UN in 2008, the day encourages global action to protect marine ecosystems.

In 2023, UN delegates reached a landmark agreement on the High Seas Treaty to protect marine biodiversity in international waters. While it awaits full ratification, it reflects a renewed commitment to marine conservation. Despite providing 50% of the planet's oxygen, supporting over 1 billion people with protein, and absorbing 30% of carbon emissions, oceans face mounting threats—90% of major fish stocks are depleted, and half of coral reefs are destroyed. The 2025

theme, "*Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us*," celebrates the ocean's majesty and underscores the need for thoughtful, collective stewardship. The UN Ocean Conference in Nice in June, 2025 will explore sustainable solutions to protect marine resources.

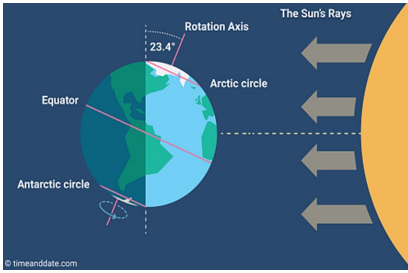
[The Blue Economy](#)

First spotlighted at the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, the blue economy emerged as a response to the green economy's limited focus on oceanic concerns. According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of the ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem." Championed by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the model promotes inclusive, sustainable ocean-based growth. It now includes traditional sectors, such as fisheries and maritime transport, and Emerging sectors, including marine biotechnology, offshore renewables, and blue carbon initiatives. At its core, the blue economy aims to strike a balance between economic development and the preservation and restoration of ocean ecosystems.

Source: [World Ocean Day](#).

BRIEFS & NOTES

The June Solstice: Key Facts and Impacts



Every day of the year, we go about our daily business. Each year, Earth experiences two solstices: one in June and one in December. The June solstice, typically occurring between June 20 and 22, marks the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

Earth's Position and the Sun

During the June solstice, the Sun is directly above the Tropic of Cancer—its farthest north point for the year. This marks a turning point, after which the Sun appears to move southward again. The phenomenon is named “solstice” from the Latin *sol* (Sun) and *sistere* (to stand still) because the Sun’s apparent path across the sky pauses before reversing direction.

Daylight Differences

In the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of Earth’s axis toward the Sun means longer daylight hours. The effect is most dramatic the farther north you go:

- * Tropical regions: The days are typically just over 12 hours long.
- * Temperate zones: Days are significantly longer than nights.
- * Arctic Circle: The Sun doesn’t set at all, resulting in the Midnight Sun.

In contrast, on this same day, the Southern Hemisphere has its shortest day of the year. Closer to the Antarctic Circle, there may be no sunrise at all, resulting in polar night.

Impact on People and Nature: The extra daylight in June can have a significant impact on our bodies and minds. Increased sunlight can affect sleep cycles, mood, and energy levels. Many cultures celebrate this day with festivals that mark the start of summer.

The Science Behind Solstices: Earth’s axis is tilted at about 23.4° relative to its orbit around the Sun. This tilt causes the Sun’s direct rays (the subsolar point) to move between the Tropic of Cancer in June and the Tropic of Capricorn in December. When the subsolar point is farthest north, we experience the June solstice; when it’s farthest south, it’s the December solstice.

Not Always Equal Day and Night: While about 99% of people see some sunlight during the June solstice, actual equal day and night—an equinox—occurs in March and September when Earth’s tilt is perpendicular to the Sun.

Sunrise and Sunset Oddities: The longest day doesn’t always correspond precisely with the earliest sunrise or latest sunset due to Earth’s orbital dynamics. Typically, the earliest sunrise occurs a few days before the solstice, while the latest sunset happens a few days after.

Solstice Date Variations: Most people associate June 21 with the summer solstice, but it can occur between June 20 and 22. This variation happens because Earth’s orbit takes about 365.24 days—a little longer than our 365-day calendar year. Leap years help correct this drift, occasionally shifting solstice dates.

Cultural Significance: Many cultures have honored the solstice for centuries, using monuments like Stonehenge to mark sunrise positions on this day.

Equinoxes & Solstices

Equinox (Vernal & Autumnal): Twice a year, during the vernal (spring) and autumnal (fall) equinoxes, the Earth's axis is neither tilted toward nor away from the Sun, resulting in nearly equal daylight and darkness across all latitudes. The term “equinox” comes from Latin—*aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night).

At the equator, the sun is positioned directly overhead at noon on these days. However, due to the refraction of sunlight, the actual length of daylight slightly exceeds 12 hours, as light bends and makes the sun appear above the horizon even when it is below. Additionally, at higher latitudes, days become slightly longer because the sun takes more time to rise and set. For instance:

- * At the equator, the day lasts 12 hours, 6.5 minutes
- * At 30° latitude, it lasts 12 hours, 8 minutes
- * At 60° latitude, it extends to 12 hours, 16 minutes
- * Solstices (Summer & Winter)

Solstices mark the extremes of daylight duration: Summer Solstice: The longest day of the year occurs when the sun is positioned directly over the Tropic of Cancer (23.5°N). This impacts regions spanning Mexico, Egypt, India, and China, where the sun reaches its highest point in the sky. The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year, occurring when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5°S), affecting regions such as Australia, Brazil, and South Africa.

These celestial events shape seasonal changes, agricultural cycles, and cultural traditions worldwide.

Sources: [Britannica](#); [Time and Date](#).

BRIEFS & NOTES

Eco-Anxiety: How Climate Change Is Affecting Mental Health

What is Eco-anxiety?



In recent years, the term “eco-anxiety” has emerged to describe a growing psychological response to the global climate crisis. While not officially recognized as a clinical diagnosis, eco-anxiety is a term used to explain the persistent worries many individuals, especially younger generations, experience about environmental degradation and the future of the planet. This phenomenon is more than just a concern; it's a complex emotional state that blends fear, helplessness, and grief over the unfolding ecological catastrophe. Eco-anxiety, the chronic fear or distress about environmental doom, is becoming a global mental health concern, especially as climate change intensifies.

Eco-anxiety stems from the overwhelming evidence of climate change and its devastating effects, rising sea levels, more frequent and intense natural disasters, widespread habitat destruction, and the extinction of countless species. As news of wildfires, floods, droughts, and hurricanes regularly dominate headlines, it's no surprise that more people are feeling emotionally overwhelmed.

For many individuals, especially those who are deeply connected to nature or live in vulnerable regions, eco-anxiety can manifest as insomnia, panic attacks, depression, and a sense of hopelessness. Researchers have found that being exposed to climate-related news regularly can trigger psychological distress. Young people are reporting higher levels of eco-anxiety; many say they feel betrayed by institutions and are uncertain about whether it's ethical to have children in a world facing such instability.

Climate change is exacerbating mental disorders, which already affect almost one billion people and are among the world's most significant causes of ill health. [A global survey in 2021](#) found that more than half of people aged 16–25 felt sad, anxious, or powerless, or had other negative emotions about climate change. Altogether, hundreds of millions of people might be experiencing some negative psychological response to the climate crisis.

Mental health professionals are increasingly paying attention to this growing concern. Some therapists have begun incorporating climate-aware counseling into their practices, enabling individuals to process feelings of ecological grief and channel their fears into constructive action. Developing a sense of agency, such as participating in community-led sustainability projects or advocating for environmental policy, can be an effective coping strategy for individuals who feel powerless.

While awareness is growing, there's still a significant gap in support systems for those dealing with eco-anxiety. Many individuals report feeling isolated or dismissed when expressing their concerns, especially in communities where climate change is downplayed or denied. This lack of validation can further worsen feelings of anxiety and disconnection.

[New data from the American Psychiatric Association](#) (APA) reveal that more than half of adults (55%) believe climate change is impacting Americans' mental health. More than 40% of adults report personally experiencing effects on their mental health, including nearly one in five who report a significant impact. Additionally, one-third of adults (35%) worry about climate change every week, indicating that for many, this is a persistent source of stress.

Several countries are actively addressing eco-anxiety through education and policy, recognizing it as both a mental health concern and a barrier to climate action. Here are some ways they are responding:

Mozambique and Low- to Middle-Income Countries: In countries such as Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Colombia, youth report high levels of fear related to climate change. A World Bank initiative found that while 83% of youth in eight low- and middle-income countries are concerned about climate change, many lack the knowledge to take action.

United Kingdom: The UK has explored climate cafés and youth-centered forums to help young people process eco-anxiety. These spaces encourage open dialogue and emotional expression, while also promoting climate literacy. Studies show that 60% of youth in the UK and other countries feel “very” or “extremely” worried about climate change, and many feel betrayed by government inaction.

UNESCO Global Profiles: UNESCO's global review of climate education found that less than 40% of teachers feel confident teaching about climate change. Countries are being encouraged to integrate climate communication and emotional resilience into curricula. Effective programs combine cognitive learning (facts), socio-emotional support, and action-oriented strategies to help students move from anxiety to agency.

Studies have been carried out with young people around the world to understand how eco-anxiety manifests, and how they feel their respective governments are handling the crisis. [One particular study](#) surveyed 10,000 people aged 16-25 from ten countries around the world, including the UK, Finland, Brazil, and Nigeria. Across all the young people surveyed, close to 60% said they felt ‘very’ or ‘extremely’ worried about climate change. Approximately 75% find the future frightening, while 58% believe their respective governments are betraying them and future generations with their approach to the climate crisis.

In conclusion, eco-anxiety is a profoundly personal and increasingly common response to our environmental crisis. As the planet continues to warm and extreme weather events become more frequent, addressing the emotional toll of climate change is as essential as reducing emissions and investing in clean energy. By acknowledging eco-anxiety and creating supportive environments to process it, individuals and communities can find purpose and hope amid uncertainty.

Sources: [Psychology Today](#); [BMC Psychiatry](#); [Nature](#).

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JUNE 2025)

June 2, 1946 – Italy: Republic Day or Festa della Repubblica (Festival of the Republic), commemorates the day Italians voted to abolish the monarchy and replace it with a republic.

June 3, 2006 – Montenegro: In a referendum held on May 21, 2006, Montenegrins voted to end the federation with Serbia and declared independence on June 3, 2006. The Serbian parliament recognized Montenegro's independence two days later.

June 4, 1970 – Tonga: After signing the Treaty of Friendship in 1900, the Kingdom of Tonga became a protectorate of the United Kingdom. Although Tonga retained its sovereignty and continued to self-govern, foreign affairs were handled by the UK. On Emancipation Day (June 4, 1970), Tonga achieved full independence from the United Kingdom.

June 6, 1523 – Sweden: On June 6, 1523, Gustav Vasa was elected king of Sweden, marking the abolition of the Kalmar Union between Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. From 1916 to 1982, the day was celebrated as Swedish Flag Day. Since 1983, June 6 has been celebrated as Sweden's National Day.

June 10, 1580 – Portugal: Portugal Day, also called Camões Day, is celebrated annually on June 10 and commemorates the day Portugal's greatest and most revered poet, Luís de Camões, passed away in 1580.

June 12, 1898 – Philippines: Although the Philippines declared independence from Spain during the Spanish-American War of 1898, Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States after the war ended. For nearly 50 years, the Philippines was a colony of the United States until achieving independence on July 4, 1946. In 1962, the date of Philippine independence was changed to June 12, 1898, honoring the day [General Emilio Aguinaldo](#) declared independence from Spain.

June 12, 1990 – Russia: Russia's national holiday, Russia Day, has been celebrated annually since 1992. It commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) on June 12, 1990.

June 14, 2025 – United Kingdom: Since 1748, when King George II decided to combine his birthday celebration with an annual military parade, the 'Trooping of the Color', has marked the official birthday of the British Sovereign. Due to Britain's unpredictable weather, King George II chose to hold the parade in June, and this tradition continues today. This year, the celebration will take place on June 14th.

June 17, 1944 – Iceland: After a two-part referendum in May 1944, the union with Denmark was dissolved on June 17, 1944. The date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Jon Sigurdsson, the leader of Iceland's 19th-century independence movement.

June 23, 1962 – Luxembourg: The celebration of the sovereign became an important patriotic public holiday during the reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte (1919- 1964). In 1962, National Day festivities were changed to June 23, to take advantage of the summer weather.

June 25, 1991 – Slovenia: The country declared independence from Yugoslavia.

June 25, 1975 – Mozambique: Since Vasco da Gama came ashore in 1497, and Portuguese settlers followed in 1505, Mozambique had been part of Portugal, first as a province and then as a colony. On June 25, 1975, Mozambique attained its independence from Portugal.

June 26, 1960 – Madagascar: Madagascar obtained its independence from France.

June 27, 1977 – Djibouti: Before 1967, Djibouti was known as French Somaliland and from 1967 – 1977 as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas. When the territory gained independence from France on June 27, 1977, it was renamed Djibouti.

June 29, 1976 – Seychelles: A British crown colony since 1903, the Seychelles became an independent republic.

June 30, 1960 – Democratic Republic of Congo: On June 30, 1960, the DRC gained its independence from Belgium.

ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

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