B"H
Eitz Chayim Hee: A Torah Commentary for Environmental Learning and Action
Hebrew/English Source Sheet
Torah Portion of Emor
“Biodiversity”
by Ora Sheinson

The sources are presented in the order they appear in the commentary

Genesis 1:31
31. And God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good, and it was evening and it was morning, the sixth day.

Vayikra 22:28
28. An ox or sheep you shall not slaughter it and its offspring in one day.

Deuteronomy 22:6
6. If a bird's nest chances before you on the road, on any tree, or on the ground, and [it contains] fledglings or eggs, if the mother is sitting upon the fledglings or upon the eggs, you shall not take the mother upon the young.

Ramban- Commentary on Deuteronomy 22:6
When you chance upon a bird’s nest- This mitzvah is also understood along with the mitzvah of “oso v’es b’no” (not to slaughter an animal and its offspring on the same day – Leviticus 22:28). Because the reason for both mitzvot is to prevent us from becoming cruel and unmerciful. Moreover, scripture does not allow slaughter that would uproot a species, even though slaughter is permitted of individuals of that species. And one who kills the mother and her children on the same day, or who takes them from the wild where they are free to fly, it is as if that person is cutting off that species. (trans. Sareet Benayahu)
וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶת-חֻקֹתִי, תִּשְׁמֹרֵךְ לֹא-תַרְיעַ כִּלְאִיָּמָךְ שֶׁדֶךָ לֹא-תִזְרַע כִּלְאָיָם;
בֶּגֶד כִּלְאִיָּם שַעְטְנֶּז לֹא יַעֲלֶה עָלֶיךָ

Leviticus 19:19
19. You shall observe My statutes: You shall not crossbreed your livestock with different species. You shall not sow your field with a mixture of seeds, and a garment which has a mixture of sha’atnez shall not come upon you.

Unless otherwise noted, all English Translations from Judaica Press, available online at www.chabad.org

Sources not included on source sheet:
Ben Sira 23B, Otzar Midrashim 47