

Biodiversity

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What is Biodiversity?



[Biodiversity](#) refers to the differences in living things in an ecosystem. It is the result of [evolutionary processes](#), and a diversity of roles in ecosystems.

Definition

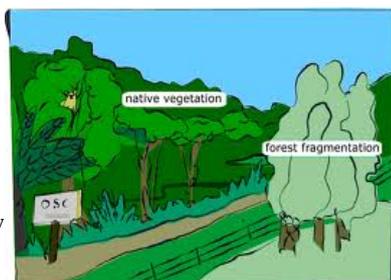
Biodiversity is the degree of variation of [life](#) forms within a given [ecosystem](#), [biome](#), or an entire [planet](#). Biodiversity is a measure of the health of [ecosystems](#).

Diversity of Species



The stability of the ecosystem increases if biodiversity increases and it creates more genetic variation among species. The diversity of species increases the chance of some living things survival in the changes in the environment.

The Earth's variety of life and its biological diversity is commonly referred to as biodiversity.



Different species know diversity of genes in them.

n to us are the plants, animals, and [microorganisms](#), may have

The different ecosystems are deserts, rainforests and coral reefs. These are all part of a biologically diverse Earth.

Proper conservation and increasing sustainability strategies attempt to recognize this as being integral to any approach to preserving biodiversity. Declining biodiversity is therefore a concern for many reasons.

The Need for Biodiversity

Biodiversity is not evenly distributed. Flora and fauna diversity depends on [climate](#), altitude, [soils](#) and the presence of other species.

Why is Biodiversity Important?

Biodiversity boosts ecosystem productivity.



For example,

- A larger number of plant species means a greater variety of crops
- Natural sustainability for all life forms ensured if we have greater number of new species.
- Healthy ecosystems can better withstand and recover from a variety of disasters.
- We need to preserve the diversity which offers many natural services.

A healthy biodiversity:

It provides a number of natural services for everyone:



• Ecosystem

services:

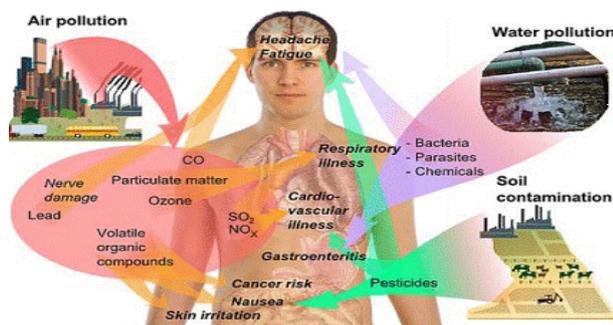
- o Protecting water resources
- o Formation of soil and protecting it
- o Storage of Nutrient and recycling it
- o Breaking down Pollution and absorption
- o Maintaining climate stability
- o Ecosystem Maintenance
- o Quick Recovery from sudden events

- **Biological resources:**

- o Food
- o Medicinal resources and pharmaceutical drugs
- o Wood products
- o Ornamental plants
- o Breeding stocks, population reservoirs
- o Future resources
- o Diversity in genes, species and ecosystems

- **Social benefits:**

- o Research, education and monitoring
- o Recreation and tourism
- o Cultural values



Human Health

It has a close relationship with the climate change. The increase in pollution is happened because of the decline in forest only.

Notable health issues are

- dietary health
- nutrition security
- infectious disease
- medical science
- social and psychological health

Uses of Biodiversity

- Added an aesthetic beauty added to the world by many different organisms
- Non-material benefits include spiritual and aesthetic values, knowledge systems and the value of education.
- As diversity is lost, potential sources of these materials may be lost with it.

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Reference Links:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity>
- <http://www.eolss.net/ebooks/Sample%20Chapters/C09/E4-27-02-01.pdf>
- <http://www.globalissues.org/article/170/why-is-biodiversity-important-who-cares>
- <http://www.globalissues.org/issue/169/biodiversity>
- <http://www.regentsprep.org/regents/biology/units/ecology/biodiversity.cfm>

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