



How can you contribute to preserve biodiversity?



- ▶ Don't buy, trade or hunt wild species, either declared threatened or endangered species or not.
- ▶ Join an organic agriculture cooperative in your community or start your own food garden.
- ▶ Buy only what you need and, preferably, buy local and from small suppliers.
- ▶ Reduce meat and fish consumption as much as possible.
- ▶ Use the bike, public transport or walk. If you have to use the car, try to share the ride.
- ▶ Reduce the use of electricity, heat and air conditioner. You will save money, energy and CO₂ emissions.
- ▶ Substitute the plants in your garden that require constant watering to other species that consume less water. Stop using pesticides and invasive species also.
- ▶ If you are going to buy property, take into account its location and proximity to public transport, as well as the possibilities of transportation by bike or other means of transport. Also, consider which materials were used for its construction.
- ▶ Join the campaigns advocating for the defense of biodiversity. Signing a petition can help to save species or ecosystems.
- ▶ Promote new measures for preserving biodiversity at home and in your community.
- ▶ Join or collaborate with local organizations that fight to protect biodiversity.

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with the support of:



All living species on our Planet, including human beings, depend on biodiversity.

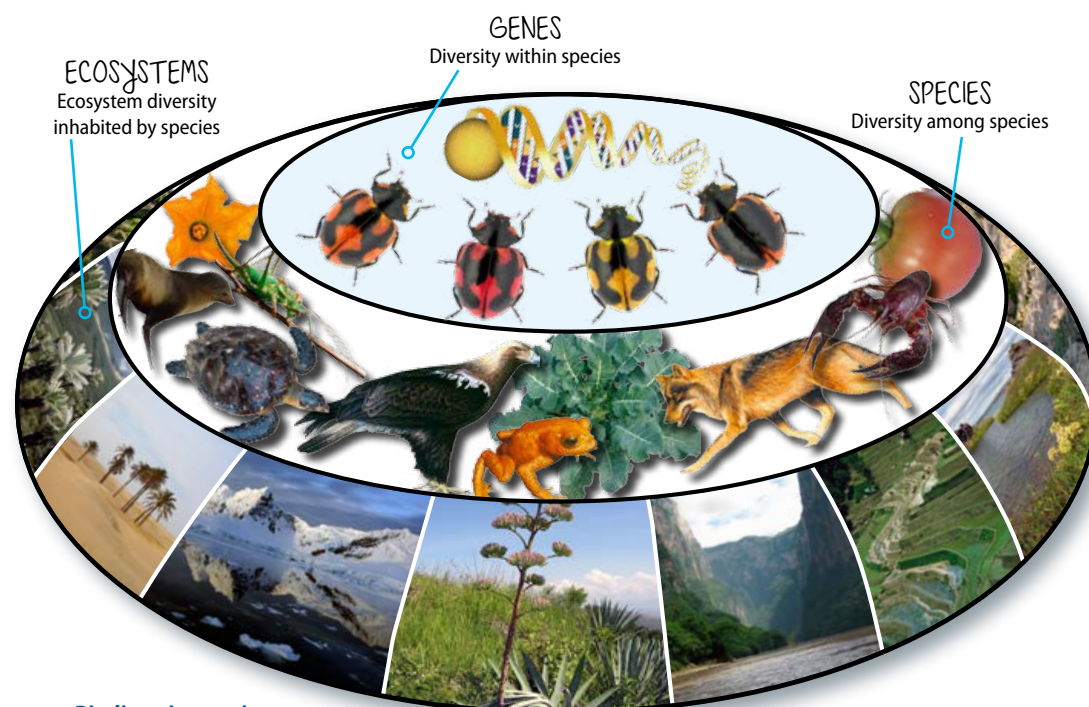
It provides us with food and health remedies, the air we breath and the water we drink. Although we need it, it is at high risk under the current consumption model and lifestyle. By sticking to the present model, we are threatening our own future.



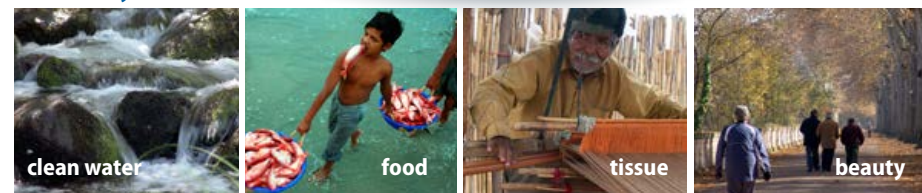


What is biodiversity and why is it important?

Biodiversity, biological diversity, comprises all living species on the Planet, the environment where they live and the interactions between them. Because of that, the concept of biodiversity includes all animals, plants and organisms, as well as all eco-systems, and their interdependency.



Biodiversity services



Biodiversity is relevant in itself, as an expression of the natural wealth of the Planet, but it is also fundamental for our existence. Human beings depend on the ecological processes of biodiversity, which create everything from the oxygen we breathe to the food we consume. It gives us the resources and materials that we use to build our homes. It creates active ingredients that alleviate our pain and cure our illnesses too. Without these goods produced by these ecosystems, we would not be able to live, since they are an essential part of various processes, such as the CO2 captivation process that mitigates climate change, the atmosphere and water systems, water treatment and the creation of fertile soil, among others. Biodiversity also offers us a healthy environment for the enjoyment of peace and tranquility, discovery and learning.

Everyone depends on nature to enjoy a decent, healthy life in the long term.

Biodiversity loss causes

There is a scientific consensus that biodiversity is being lost on Earth at a fast pace because of various causes that are directly related to human activities in the natural environment:

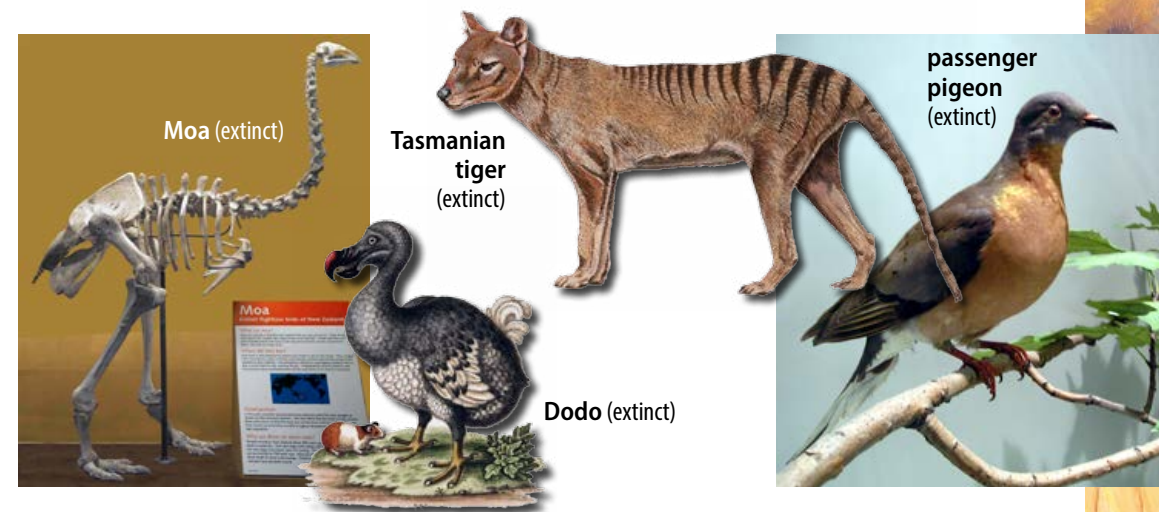
- ▶ Loss and degradation of habitats
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Pollution
- ▶ Exploitation of natural resources
- ▶ Invasive exotic species
- ▶ Intensive and illegal hunting and fishing

But, behind each of all these causes, there are indirect causes too that are responsible for the loss of biodiversity:

- ▶ The economic model that promotes exponential growth
- ▶ Human population growth
- ▶ Consumerism and the concept of materialistic individual wealth
- ▶ Growing international trade
- ▶ Cultural factors and religious beliefs

Thus, the ultimate cause of biodiversity decline is the global socioeconomic system, where materialist consumerist values and monetary wealth prevail over biodiversity, which is the source of natural resources for the society.

As long as public administrations do not take action to address these indirect causes, it will not be possible to stop the loss of biodiversity.



A new threat: the “commodification” of nature

Commodification is a process by which the value of nature is reduced to those aspects of it that have a monetary value and could be integrated into the global economy. This approach considers nature as a market commodity, with a monetary value that can be used in trade and speculation.

“Only a fool thinks price and value are the same”

Antonio Machado

The Environmental Assessment Law (Ley de Evaluación Ambiental) has recently been reformed in our country and it includes the creation of “Conservation Banks”. These are a system of “biodiversity offsets”, by which the destruction or loss of an ecosystem, habitat or species from a specific area would be compensated by the acquisition of credits for the restoration of that kind of ecosystem, habitat or species in another part of the world. Under this model, markets, even the secondary markets, would be the ones setting the credits’ price. In other words, the monetary value of the loss of a forest, a lake or endangered species will depend on the demand and supply of these credits. *This means speculating with nature, but money cannot buy life.*



Lince ibérico
(en peligro de extinción)
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