

You are an integral part of nature
Halting the biodiversity loss is now in our hands
Biodiversity is an insurance policy for the world's poorest communities

10 FAQ on Biodiversity

1. What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity or biological diversity is the variety of life on Earth. It comprises all living things including their unique genetic make-up and ranges from microscopic viruses to the largest animals on the planet such as the blue whale, small algae and big plants such as the giant sequoia, and the expansive landscapes comprised of a variety of ecosystems. Humans are also an integral part of biodiversity.

Biodiversity as a concept is both simple and challenging. We are familiar with the wide range of animals and plants that share our planet but are less familiar with the vital role biodiversity plays in maintaining our mutual life support system, and in both the physical and mental aspects of our well-being.

Biodiversity is the variety of life, at different levels. It is made up of all the genes, species, ecosystems and landscapes that comprise our world. Biodiversity includes genetic variation, which defines the unique nature of any living thing and brings about differences between any two individuals within a species. Humans have used genetic variation to breed thousands of varieties of food crops as well as domesticated animals. Biodiversity includes landscapes, with mosaics and clusters of interacting ecosystems such as farmland, forests and lakes. Biodiversity is therefore constantly interacting at all levels.

Biodiversity is about communities and relationships. All living things inhabit dynamic ecosystems where they share the same habitat and physical conditions linked through a web of life. In this shared environment their lives are interwoven in a web of relationships regulated by cooperation, competition, predation, symbiosis or parasitism. This delicately balanced interconnected system provides food and shelter, cycling of energy, and reproduction. Every member of this community plays an essential role in keeping this web in balance. People are very much part of biodiversity. No matter how far removed we may seem from the "natural" environment in our increasingly urban lifestyles, we remain intimately connected with ecosystems and their processes through our diets, recreational activities, use of materials, water and much more.

2. Where is biodiversity?

Biodiversity can be found everywhere on Earth, from extreme environments such as the North and South Poles, to deep rocks beneath the Earth's surface, to the deepest oceans and the highest clouds. Whether found in the wilderness or protected natural areas or even in areas altered by humans such as farms, forest plantations and cities, biodiversity surrounds us all. Distinctive patterns of biodiversity exist around the world, made up of recognized bio-geographic realms with a shared evolutionary and climatic history.

There are an estimated 13 million species on Earth (estimates vary from 2 to 100 million species!), but scientists have only identified around 1.75 million species. Only some groups of species, among them mammals, birds, amphibians and conifers are well documented and benefit from conservation status. We lack knowledge about many others, including deep-sea species, fungi or microorganisms.

Some geographical regions are centres of both high species diversity and endemism. These 34 "hotspots" represent only 2.3% of the Earth's surface yet concentrate 50% of the world's plants and 42 % of all terrestrial vertebrates. They are frequently concentrated in isolated or topographically variable regions (islands, mountains, peninsulas) and are particularly vulnerable.

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3. What has happened to biodiversity over time: extinction and evolution?

The Earth is estimated to be 4.5 billion years old. Scientists estimate that life on Earth first emerged 3.8 billion years ago. Biodiversity has continued to evolve in its nature, variety and quantity ever since. Due to drastic changes in the Earth's environment, species have evolved to survive and thrive; some have decreased or become extinct. Climatic changes and volcanic activity and the impact of asteroids on the Earth have led to major evolutionary changes in the Earth's biodiversity. Ecosystems have, as a result changed over time. From the fossil record we know of five major extinctions affecting biodiversity in the Earth's history. The most well known are the dinosaurs that became extinct during the Cretaceous-Tertiary period about 65 million years ago.

Unfortunately, over the past 50 years human activity has sharply increased the natural extinction rate, calculated at 100 to 1000 times that of the geological record, and much greater than the rate at which new species arise resulting in a net loss of biodiversity.

4. How does biodiversity serve us?

Our well-being depends on the state of our physical and emotional welfare. When we live healthy, contented, and secure lives, and when our social needs are met, our way of life and sense of community belonging add to the value we attach to our world.

Biodiversity contributes to key aspects of our well-being, which we cannot live without and include:

- Basic goods - sufficient food of good quality, building materials for shelter, clothing, fibre and access to fuel such as firewood;
- Security - secure access to natural and other resources, personal safety, and security from natural and human-made disasters.
- Health – a sense of wellness and strength that comes for a healthy physical environment that provides us with clean air, water and medicines;

Good social relations and freedom of choice and action – conservation of biodiversity, fair access to it and the equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from its use enhance mutual respect for others and a sense of purpose and ability to provide for children, and to contribute to the social cohesion of the community as well as to individual and collective freedom of choice and action;

Ecosystem services: provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural

Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems and all their components. Ecosystems provide us with such benefits as food, water, disease management, climate regulation, spiritual fulfilment, aesthetic enjoyment and many others. Our well-being depends on the ability of ecosystems to continually provide these benefits for our use, which in turn relies on ecosystem resilience and their capacity to quickly recover from adverse changes. It is the effect of human action that is driving the changes in ecosystems and ecosystem services, which are gravely affecting our well-being. It is therefore our responsibility to think wisely about our attitude and behaviour towards the environment, and in particular to the conservation of biodiversity.

Provisioning services

Ecosystems provide us with the basic elements for life including food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources, medicines, and ornamental and cultural products. These services are provided by biodiversity, which forms the basis of the provisioning services of ecosystems. They are essential for sustaining and securing livelihoods, and they ensure the health of communities, their security and well-being.

Medicines, including traditional medicines and the pharmaceutical industry greatly rely on plant biodiversity, which is a valuable source of genetic resources. As the human population grows,

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together with an ever-increasing demand for food and other resources, pressure on ecosystems has severely affected the quality of these services, a situation which has worsened over the past 50 years.

Regulating services

Healthy ecosystems and their biodiversity help maintain air quality, purify water, treat waste, and protect us from natural hazards, erosion, pests and diseases. For example, the unique biodiversity of wetland ecosystems assists in the natural purification of water, trees in cities reduce air pollution, and mangrove forests and coral reefs protect coastal communities and their coastlines from erosion and the full force of tsunamis and storm surges. Vegetation cover helps prevent landslides and soil erosion. The spread of diseases such as cholera is controlled by access to clean water, a product of ecosystem services. The regulating services of ecosystems therefore make an important contribution to the natural equilibrium of our planet, which in turn benefits human security and well-being.

Supporting services

The supporting services of ecosystems such as nutrient cycling are the fundamental but often invisible processes, on which all the other ecosystem services depend, including the production of food and water, and climate regulation. They create the basic conditions for life on Earth.

For example, food production depends on soil formation, which itself greatly depends on climatic conditions as well as chemical and biological processes carried out by bacteria and fungi, which decompose waste and make nutrients available to food crops. Human-induced reduction in biodiversity therefore disrupts the way ecosystem processes function causing the supporting ecosystem services to degrade, which ultimately affects our well-being.

Cultural Services

Cultural services are the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences. Our various spiritual and religious beliefs and customs are often connected to nature. Stories around biodiversity shape our legends and ground our sense of belonging to a distinct place or community. Many communities around the world have a spiritual relationship with nature. Biodiversity has greatly contributed to, and inspired our cultures, history, and arts. Our cultural heritage, our knowledge and educational values are all rooted in our natural environment.

Biodiversity has measurable economic value in relation to recreation and ecotourism, but its value in terms of spiritual enrichment and aesthetic enjoyment is beyond measure.

5. Why are we losing biodiversity?

We are losing species at an alarming rate. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) notes that 1 species of bird out of 8, 1 mammal out of 4, 1 conifer out of 3, 1 amphibian out of 3, and 6 marine turtles out of 7, are all threatened with extinction. In addition, 75% of genetic diversity of agricultural crops has been lost and 75% of the world's fisheries are fully or over-exploited.

With increasing population, aspirations for better living conditions and economic development leading to environmental changes, biodiversity is being lost through direct causes such as habitat loss and land use changes, climate change, invasive species, over exploitation and pollution, and underlying causes such as poor governance and legal and institutional frameworks with respect to its conservation. All these causes interact with each other.

Degraded ecosystems and a fall in the numbers of species erode the natural capital and the genetic resources from which we derive all our crops and domesticated animals, leading to lesser

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resilience and an inability to adapt to future environmental changes. Loss of biodiversity also leads to loss of cultural diversity.

Habitat change

Habitat loss, can occur naturally through drought, disease, fire, volcanoes, earthquakes, slight changes in seasonal temperature or rainfall, but it is the changes in land use through human activities particularly agriculture, but also cattle rearing, construction of infrastructure, logging, mining and rapid urbanization, which are the main drivers of habitat fragmentation, deterioration and loss. Croplands account for more than 25% of land surface excluding Antarctica.

In recent times, the Earth's forest surface has been reduced by 40%, wetlands by 50%, coral reefs by 20% and mangroves by 35%. Deep-sea fishing is causing considerable damage to sea beds and seamounts with the potential loss of millions of species and their genetic resources.

Climate change

Biodiversity is being affected globally by climate change as the average Earth temperature becomes warmer, with more frequent extreme weather events negatively affecting biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ultimately the provision of ecosystem services and human well-being.

The distribution of wild and domesticated animal and plant species is sensitive to such climatic conditions as temperature and humidity. Due to increases in ocean temperature and changes in sea water chemistry due to carbon sequestration, Australia's Great Barrier Reef could lose up to 95% of its living coral by 2050. In Africa, elephants have become highly vulnerable to climatic change with longer dry periods and shrinking habitats. In Asia, projected rises in sea levels could result in the disappearance of mangrove forests, threatening livelihoods. Temperature fluctuations affect the life cycles of crops and domesticated animals.

Invasive species

The introduction, whether accidental or intended, of alien invasive species of plants, such as water hyacinth in the tropics, or animals such as the grey squirrel in Europe, can have a devastating impact on natural and cultivated species and ecosystems.

After habitat loss, invasive alien species are the second most important driver of species extinction. Invasive species interfere with the web of relationships and distort the services provided by the ecosystem particularly in isolated ecosystems such as rivers and islands. The rate and risk associated with the introduction of alien species have in recent years significantly increased due to human population growth and activities, as well as the opportunities for species to spread due to travel, trade and tourism.

The economic and human costs can be considerable. The introduction of the Nile perch in Lake Victoria in Africa caused the extinction of 200 native fish species along with the loss of cultural practices related to traditional fishing of the extinct species.

Over exploitation and pollution

The over exploitation of biodiversity on the Earth's ecosystems by humans through unsustainable hunting, fishing and the extraction of raw material is increasing the ecological footprint, a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems. Overexploitation erodes the natural capital, disrupts the relations in the ecosystem, decreases the number of species and the diversity of the genetic pool and can lead to species extinction.

Pollution occurs when humans emit more waste than the absorption capacity of the ecosystem. Greenhouse gases, fertilizers, agricultural and toxic waste all disturb interactions impacting on

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biodiversity. For example, agricultural waste leads to the eutrophication of rivers and the widespread death of fish species.

Underlying causes of biodiversity loss

Biodiversity loss is directly caused by habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, over-exploitation and pollution, which are the consequences of other root or underlying causes which ultimately drive biodiversity loss. These include population and economic growth, the social and political context, and scientific, technological, cultural or religious factors.

The rising global population from today's 6.8 billion people to around 9 billion by 2050 increase pressure on ecosystems with a projected loss of biodiversity. While economic activity is expected to multiply by a factor of 3 to 6 by 2050, the status of biodiversity will improve only if future economic growth is sustainable and resource-efficient. Our culture, ethics and perceptions of the world influence the way in which we consume and the importance we attribute to biodiversity.

6. Why is biodiversity conservation important for the economy and development?

Estimate the value of biodiversity is a challenge, particularly the economic value in terms of the ecosystem services to which it contributes, such as the provision of food, the regulation of climate, the formation of soil and to cultural and spiritual fulfilment. Studies such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) draw attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity and highlight the growing economic costs of environmental degradation. They estimate the total value of biodiversity and its services at US\$ 33000 billion/year, or twice the value of the world economy.

We can estimate the economic value of services such as food, wood and pharmaceutical products by taking into account their market value. For example, we can calculate the cost of wood from a logged forest, but how can we measure other valuable ecosystem services such as soil retention, climate regulation, water purification, pollination, and food sources for local communities? These services, if diminished, need to be compensated, sooner or later, by investment. Attributing market value to these undervalued services can help understand their real value and can facilitate decision-making. Disregarding their value today could prove extremely costly in the future.

Green economy is a business case for biodiversity. The 'green economy' describes the recent business trend towards the production of environmentally-friendly goods and services that are more sustainable in the long-term and can thus moderate climate change and biodiversity loss. Examples of green economy industries include: renewable energy production, green transportation, carbon capture, green building practices, organic agriculture and eco-tourism. It is a rapidly growing and increasingly important sector of the global economy.

Biodiversity is the source of raw materials for a lot of the world's industries. New market opportunities are emerging with private equity firms investing in natural capital, and buying rights to environmental services generated by tropical rainforest reserves. They recognize that services such as water storage, biodiversity maintenance and rainfall regulation provide an excellent return on investment. For example, the estimated market value of coral reefs ranges from US\$ 10000 to US\$ 60000 per hectare/year, while the conservation cost is equal to only 0.2 % of this value.

Biodiversity and innovation

What do Velcro, infrared, sonars and self-cleaning surfaces all have in common? They are examples of biomimicry, a growing scientific field of study where modern engineers, scientists and architects are turning to biodiversity, not to extract products from nature, but for inspirational, innovative and sustainable solutions to technically challenging problems. This is vitally important to such industries such as biomedicine, nanotechnology and materials science.

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For example, the Eastgate Centre building in Zimbabwe is modeled on termite mounds which can maintain a stable inner temperature even when outside temperatures fluctuate between 3°C and 42°C. The building uses only 10% of the energy consumed in a conventional air-conditioned building, thus reducing energy costs and CO2 emissions. Losing biodiversity means losing the potential to find innovative solutions

Biodiversity and development

Most of the world's poorest people, particularly in rural areas, depend directly on biodiversity for as much as 90% of their needs including food, fuel, medicine, shelter and transportation. Bushmeat, fish and plant products are traded to obtain such basic items as soap, clothing and school equipment. Conserving biodiversity is just one way of providing these communities with income security in the short-term, and the raw materials for development in the long-term.

Biodiversity is the basis on which to build local industries such as the perfume industry in Madagascar which uses ylang ylang, vetiver, vanilla and a local forest orchid, Angraecum. Losing biodiversity also means losing genetic variability in crops and livestock, which threatens the food security of one billion of the world's most vulnerable people. It is predicted that the loss of biodiversity, the disruption in ecosystem services, and the effects of climate change will result in 200 million eco-migrants by 2050.

Biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established by the United Nations in 2000 to promote development by 2015 in eight specific areas of human well-being. Ensuring environmental sustainability is Goal 7 and includes a specific biodiversity target that aims to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 – the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Biodiversity is also an important factor in achieving the other development goals.

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1) depends on sustainable and productive agricultural practices, whereby crop varieties, fertile soils and abundant water provided by healthy ecosystems are available. Healthy mangroves and coral reefs with their biodiversity intact can provide fish to local communities. Improving health and sanitation requires adequate supplies of clean water that can be provided from healthy ecosystems. Securing resource access and rights as well as recognizing the important role that women already plays in managing biodiversity resources, such as water and fuel woods, contributes to the empowerment of women and gender equality. (MDG3)

7. How can we reconcile biodiversity conservation and development

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) launched in the early 1970s aims through the ecological and social sciences, including the knowledge of indigenous and local communities, to reconcile humans and nature by promoting sustainable development and human well-being.

The MAB programme promotes biodiversity conservation, economic and social improvement, and respect for cultural values. Sub-programmes and activities focus on specific ecosystems: mountains, drylands, tropical forests, urban systems, wetlands, island and marine and coastal ecosystems and savannas. It uses its World Network of Biosphere Reserves as vehicles for knowledge-sharing, research and monitoring, education and training, and participatory decision-making.

Biosphere reserves are 'learning sites' that innovate and demonstrate site-specific approaches to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. They are under national sovereign jurisdiction yet share their experience and ideas nationally, regionally and internationally within UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. There are over 550 biosphere reserves in over 100 countries.

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8. How is biodiversity linked to cultural diversity?

Since their first appearance on Earth, humans have engaged in a creative dialogue with biological diversity. People shape and manage the living world, contributing to the diversity of its species, ecosystems and landscapes. Cultures have in turn been shaped by their natural environments – a process that has contributed to an astounding variety of practices, ways of life and worldviews. This is particularly evident amongst indigenous and local communities, who have elaborated and continue to maintain complex systems of knowledge and practice as a result of their long-standing histories of interaction with their natural surroundings.

Indigenous and local communities: biodiversity management

Indigenous and local communities play a key role in biodiversity conservation. Many of their territories are among the most biologically diverse on the planet. Traditional indigenous territories are estimated to cover up to 24% of the world's land surface and contain 80% of the Earth's remaining healthy ecosystems. Many of the world's protected areas are located on indigenous lands.

This remarkable spatial convergence is due in part to indigenous peoples actively managing the biodiversity of their lands, and protecting them from outside exploitation. This presents an enormous opportunity and a considerable challenge to conservation managers. They must learn to work with indigenous peoples as full partners and to understand and respect indigenous ways and worldviews. Indigenous and local communities have developed a vast array of social arrangements for biodiversity management. Indeed, virtually all modern management techniques have equivalents in traditional practice.

Sustainable harvests are ensured through social controls on the types of resources that can be taken in specific seasons or places. In some cases, indigenous management extends across entire landscapes. Examples include Australian Aboriginal use of fire to create and maintain vast habitat mosaics rich in biodiversity. Aboriginal firestick management has become part of national park policy in Australia. Forest biodiversity in Sumatra, Indonesia, is also managed by local communities, creating 'agroforests' where a selection of species are carefully maintained or cultivated.

Creating the diversity of domestic plants and animals

Indigenous and local communities have in-depth knowledge and know-how about the living world. Their intimate understanding of genetic biodiversity has allowed them to create and maintain an astounding array of plant varieties, animal races and bacterial cultures. The peoples of the South American Andes are guardians of thousands of varieties of potatoes, ocas, mashuas, ollucos and quinoa. This biodiversity serves both practical and symbolic ends. A higher diversity of crops ensures resilience and flexibility in the face of climate change, while some varieties are cultivated exclusively for use in festivities or rituals.

Biodiversity, ecosystems and worldviews

The worldviews of many indigenous peoples are founded upon the co-existence of people and nature, whereby relationships of reciprocity and respect interlink ecosystems and social systems. This fundamental difference from 'Western' conservation philosophies, which tend to separate humans and nature, deserves recognition as a pathway towards successful collaborative ecosystem management.

Landscapes reflect the human relationships and attachments that create them. Local communities may confer special status on animal and plant species, mountains, lakes or forest groves by identifying them as sacred sites. These may serve as important reservoirs of genetic and species diversity, which can help protect ecosystems from future environmental degradation.

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Biodiversity and Languages

Nearly half of the 7000 languages spoken in the world today are in danger of disappearing during this century. Languages are vehicles for knowledge transmission, but they also demonstrate the way the speaker views and understands the world. Useful and meaningful knowledge of biodiversity may be carried in complex terminology that will be lost when a language dies.

By monitoring the vitality and diversity of indigenous languages, we may be able to identify trends in traditional knowledge relevant to biodiversity conservation. There is a visible overlap between the global mapping of the world's areas of biological 'megadiversity' and areas of high cultural and linguistic diversity. For example, in 9 countries, which together account for 60% of human languages, 6 of these are centres of cultural diversity and contain exceptional numbers of unique plant and animal species.

Since 2002, the status and trends in the numbers of speakers of indigenous languages and linguistic diversity has been designated as a 2010 Biodiversity Target Indicator in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. What can we do to halt biodiversity loss?

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy and the legal instruments needed to achieve "sustainable development". One of the key instruments established at Rio was the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which has three main objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity;
- the sustainable use of its components;
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

Today, the CBD has near universal acceptance around the world, with 192 countries that have ratified the Convention, but it is not uniformly implemented. It aims to integrate the three main objectives in decision-making, not only in environment ministries but also across all sectors of national government and relevant stakeholders.

In 2000, the CBD adopted a supplementary agreement known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which seeks to protect biological diversity from the risks posed by living modified organisms. It does this by creating the conditions to ensure that countries are provided with adequate information to make informed decisions about the transboundary movement of living modified organisms.

Financing biodiversity

In order to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 2010 Biodiversity Target, countries need adequate financial resources. The current funding gap estimates to achieve the three CBD global objectives range from 10 to 50 billion dollars per year. With GEF funding, more than 122 countries improved their biosafety capacities. Countries and concerned organizations are encouraged to promote replication and scaling-up of financial mechanisms and instruments and to explore new and innovative financial mechanisms to reduce the financial gaps that we face today.

Expanding the Coverage of Protected Areas and Strengthening their Management

Because habitat loss is a serious threat to biodiversity, establishing protected areas as safe havens for biodiversity is critical and recognized as effective mechanism to ensuring the survival of the Earth's natural heritage. Protected areas are tracts of forest, mountains, wetlands, grasslands, deserts, lakes, rivers, coral reefs, and oceans that are managed to maintain the

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Earth's biodiversity. Most protected areas are managed for multiple, yet compatible uses including biodiversity conservation, outdoor recreation, tourism, watershed protection, sustainable forestry, hunting or fishing, scientific research, and environmental education. Protected areas support livelihoods of local communities and strengthen economies. Today nearly 1.1 billion people depend on protected forest areas for their livelihoods. There are over 108,000 protected areas in the world.

Promoting Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that at least 40 per cent of our global economy is based on the use of biological resources. The sustainable use of renewable biological resources is the best way to ensure the continued conservation of biological diversity. In addition, conserving biological capital can create income opportunities for people.

For example, Georgia has over 350 local species of grain crops, more than 100 species of fruit-trees, nuts and wild berries, and 500 local varieties of grapes. During the past century, introduction of modern agriculture practice replaced diversified agricultural production. As a result, the cultivation of many valuable local plant varieties has been abandoned, with the loss of important native cultivars. Local farmer cooperatives have been formed to distribute seeds of local varieties which are more pest resistant and nutritious, adding to their market and consumer appeal. Diversified crop production will also ensure that crops are better adapted to climate change.

Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of biodiversity

The genetic resources of the Earth, whether from plant, animal, fungi or microorganisms, can be used for a variety of purposes that have the potential to generate tremendous benefits to all – new medicines, cosmetics and a host of other useful products. The benefits generated can be monetary benefits such as royalty payments, access fees or joint ownership of relevant intellectual property rights, and non-monetary benefits such as capacity-building, training and education, sharing of research and development results or the transfer of technology.

The third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, seeks to ensure that both users and providers of genetic resources provide for access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use. The Bonn Guidelines and the proposed international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing are tools that establish the principles to ensure the creation of this relationship.

Users of genetic resources should seek the prior informed consent of the country in which the resource is located. They must also negotiate and agree on the terms and conditions of access and use of this resource with relevant authorities in the provider country, in order to obtain permission to access the genetic resource and to use it.

10. What can the international community do to halt biodiversity loss?

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital for current and future human well-being. We need to do more. Now is the time to act. Action is being taken around the world:

- Inspired by the success of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in raising awareness about climate change, governments are now considering to create an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to evaluate biodiversity loss and its impact on ecosystem services and human well-being and to support related decision-making.

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- The Lifeweb Initiative of Germany is mobilizing resources for the creation and maintenance of protected areas worldwide. It has the potential to bring together billions in financing for the havens for biodiversity around the world.
- In 2010, governments will agree on the new strategic plan for the CBD, and set the next round of targets that will ensure that biodiversity is protected, and remains a resource for human well-being, and a buffer against the impacts of climate change.