



Press Brief

Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development

Why is this important?

The benefits provided by biodiversity are important to all people. Some benefits of biodiversity are especially important to indigenous peoples, the poor and vulnerable groups. These groups, including the rural poor, are in many cases most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems. To them, the goods and services provided by ecosystems underpinned by biodiversity often constitute social safety nets. Women and men may use ecosystem goods and services in different ways. Examples of the benefits of biodiversity include:

- Almost one billion people in developing countries depend on fish for their primary source of animal protein
- As many as 80 per cent of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant-based medicines for basic healthcare
- Large populations in South and East Asia are dependent on complex rice-fish agro-ecosystems, where fish and other aquatic animals, serve as a source of nutrition to local communities, and provide essential services for rice productivity in the flooded fields
- A range of ecosystems act as buffers against natural hazards, providing valuable yet under-utilized approaches for climate change adaptation, enhancing natural resilience and reducing the vulnerability of people, for example to floods and the effects of land degradation. These ecosystem services improve the sustainability and economic efficiency of built infrastructure, and are critical for sustainable and resilient urban areas

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- Access to green space is an important determinant of physical and mental health for many urban dwellers.

Ultimately, the loss and degradation of biodiversity impact negatively on all people. However, the impacts are particularly severe, and more immediate, on the poor and vulnerable, women, children and indigenous peoples.

What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

Six years after the launch of the Convention on Biological Diversity's initiative on 'Biodiversity for Development', at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), COP 12 provides an opportunity to clarify how biodiversity can serve as a source of solutions for poverty eradication and development. Expected actions include:

- Presentation of the main results of the "Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development" meetings. (Side event: 'Biodiversity in development cooperation'), Monday 13 October
- Set of important decisions as encouragements to Parties, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to ensure that, in their efforts to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development strategies, initiatives and processes, they identify and promote policies, activities, projects and mechanisms on biodiversity and development that empower indigenous and local communities, the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, directly dependent on biodiversity
- Support to the Dehradun/Chennai Recommendations for the integration of biodiversity and poverty eradication
- Diffusion of the assessments of barriers to the implementation of the decision of the Convention related to Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (information document)
- Consideration of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development during the High-Level Segment and in the Pyeongchang Roadmap
- Press conference organized by the CBD Secretariat on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Friday 17 October.

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