



# Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out an ambitious framework of universal and indivisible goals and targets to address a range of global societal challenges. Biodiversity and ecosystems feature prominently across many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets. They contribute directly to human well-being and development priorities.

Biodiversity is at the centre of many economic activities, particularly those related to crop and livestock agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Globally, nearly half of the human population is directly dependent on natural resources for its livelihood, and many of the most vulnerable people depend directly on biodiversity to fulfil their daily subsistence needs.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity has been recognized as setting the global framework for priority actions on biodiversity. The SDGs and the Strategic Plan are mutually supportive and reinforcing, as implementation of one contributes to the achievement of the other.

Here's how biodiversity plays an essential role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:

## **SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

Biodiversity provides resources and income, particularly for the rural poor. Ecosystem services and other non-marketed goods make up between 50% and 90% of the total source of livelihoods among poor rural and forest-dwelling households.

## **SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition; promote sustainable agriculture**

Biodiversity is a key element of food security and a means of improving nutrition. Many of the most vulnerable people depend on food gathered from natural ecosystems, such as forests, grasslands,





oceans and rivers. Biodiversity also underpins ecosystem functions, such as pollination and the maintenance of soil fertility, and water quality, central to agricultural productivity.

### **SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

Nearly 1 in 4 deaths globally is attributed to environmental risk factors. Healthy ecosystems help mitigate the spread and impact of pollution by both sequestering and eliminating certain types of air, water and soil pollution. Agricultural biodiversity contributes to increased sustainable production, reducing the need for pesticides and other chemical inputs, resulting in benefits to human health. Further, a substantial proportion of the world's population depends on traditional medicines derived from biodiversity for their health care needs.

### **SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Women play a vital role in agriculture, nutrition and the well-being of families and communities. Recognizing women's roles as key land and natural resource managers is central to sustainable development. In addition, loss of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services can perpetuate gender inequalities by increasing the time spent by women and children in performing certain tasks, such as collecting valuable resources, including fuel, food and water.

### **SDG 6 – Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

Ecosystems help maintain water supply and quality, and guard against water-related hazards and disasters. For example, wetlands play a role in surface, subsurface and ground water storage, and reduce the risk of flooding. They also help capture, process and dilute pollutants. Similarly, vegetation, such as grasslands and forests, supports the healthy functioning of watersheds. Managing ecosystems to maintain these types of services is generally more cost-effective than employing built technologies.

### **SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

Biodiversity and ecosystems underpin many national and global economic activities, including those related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, energy, tourism, transport and trade. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use can lead to higher productivity, more efficient resource use, and long-term viability of resources.

### **SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems can provide reliable and cost-effective natural infrastructure. For example, coral reefs and mangrove forests protect coasts against flooding that are expected to increase with climate change. Natural infrastructure such as vegetation in cities can reduce the run-off of pollution into water bodies. Such green infrastructure can offer multiple benefits and are often more effective than built infrastructure in terms of cost, longevity and effectiveness.

### **SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Ecosystems and biodiversity underpin the day-to-day functioning of human settlements by delivering the basic services and conditions that enable, support and protect human production, consumption and habitation. Biological resources provide many of the foods, building materials, energy and medicines consumed in urban centres. Urban planning that integrates biodiversity considerations can contribute to more sustainable, cost-effective and healthy human settlements.



### **SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

Consumption and production of all goods and services require the transformation of many natural resources, which in turn impacts biodiversity. Current unsustainable consumption and production patterns can undermine the ability of ecosystems to provide services for industries and communities that rely upon them. Using cleaner and more resource-efficient approaches that minimize wastes and pollutants can bring about economic opportunities and better quality of life for consumers and producers alike, and at the same time benefit biodiversity.

### **SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

Forests, peatlands, wetlands, ocean and coastal ecosystems represent globally significant carbon stores, and their conservation and sustainable use is a critical element for avoiding dangerous changes to the Earth's atmospheric temperature and climate system. Efforts to protect and restore habitats offer cost-effective and proven ways to mitigate climate change. Such ecosystems can also serve as natural buffers against climate extremes and other disasters, and strengthen adaptation to climate change.

### **SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems is a key aspect of sustainable development. Biodiversity underpins all fishing and aquaculture activities, as well as other species harvested for foods and medicines. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity is essential to ensure that the world's oceans, seas and marine resources remain vital.

### **SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

The conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems is essential for sustainable development. Targets under this goal include a call to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local development planning, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

### **SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Conflicts over natural resources, environmental degradation and contamination can be one of the factors leading to social insecurity and violence. Vulnerable people are often disproportionately affected. Strengthening community rights over natural resources management, combating illegal exploitation and corruption, and ensuring transparent decision-making on social and environmental issues constitute an important process toward building an inclusive society based on justice.

### **SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity provides opportunities for strengthening global partnership on science, technology and innovation, dissemination of environmentally sound technologies, and for building national capacity for monitoring the progress of the 2030 Agenda.



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## Important links

- Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/Technical Note: [www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf)
- Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/Policy Brief: [www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-policy-brief-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-policy-brief-en.pdf)
- CBD Biodiversity for Development Initiative: [www.cbd.int/development](http://www.cbd.int/development)
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: [www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld)
- Sustainable Development Goals: [www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: [www.cbd.int/sp](http://www.cbd.int/sp)
- Aichi Biodiversity Targets: [www.cbd.int/sp/targets](http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets)
- Risks and Opportunities: [www.cbd.int/business/info/case.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/business/info/case.shtml)
- 2018 COP 14 Business and Biodiversity Forum: [www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2018.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2018.shtml)

1. All information for this press brief drawn from the policy brief: Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available at: [www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-policy-brief-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-policy-brief-en.pdf)

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