

BIODIVERSITY



The term biodiversity describes the diversity of life on earth. There are three areas of biodiversity:

Diversity of ecosystems

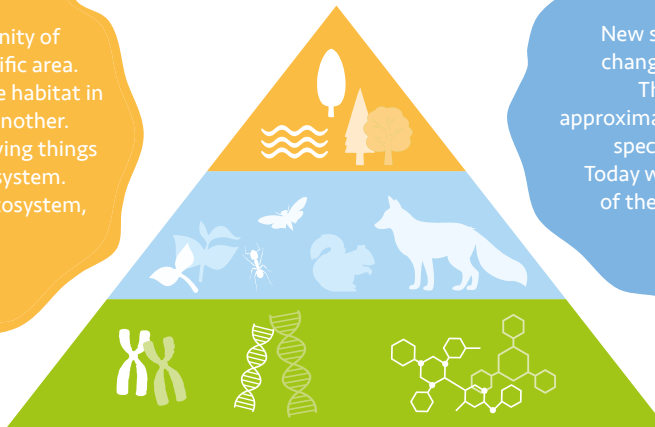
An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals in a specific area. The plants and animals and the habitat in which they live affect one another. These interactions between living things in the habitat form an ecosystem. A dead tree can be its own ecosystem, but also a forest, a lake or an ocean.

Variety of species

New species are created by changing living conditions. There are currently approximately 1.75 million different species known on Earth. Today we only know a fraction of the species that actually exist on earth.

Genetic diversity

Animals and plants can be exactly one special assign type. In this special way the individuals differ through their genetic information. This is the blueprint for every plant and animal. This blueprint is different for everyone, including us humans.



Why is biodiversity so important?

Our environment is changing. Climate change will make it warmer, for example there may be less rain, more storms, etc.

The greater the biodiversity, the better the chances that the species will be able to adapt to the changed living conditions.

And we need the animals and plants to live. They provide us with important things for our daily life: drinking water, food, clean air, energy, building materials, medicinal agents, ...

Why is biodiversity becoming less?

There are many reasons why fewer and fewer animal and plant species survive on our earth. A lot has to do with us humans.

- Due to the **construction of roads**, houses and power grids, many areas can no longer be inhabited by living beings.
- In agriculture, the same plants are often grown over large areas (soy, palm oil, wheat, ...) or the same animals are kept (cattle, pigs, chickens, ...). Other species can then no longer use this habitat.
- Also through the **uncontrolled hunting of animals** on land and in water species can become extinct (overfishing).
- **Pollution of the environment** can also destroy the habitat of animals and plants. Especially when a lot of nutrients (over-fertilization) are introduced into the ecosystem, only very few species can usually survive.
- **Climate change** makes it warmer on earth, changing the habitats of plants and animals and the ecosystems. Many species cannot cope with the changes and die out.

Example

From all known plant species we humans have only cultivated approx. **150 species for the cultivation of food**. 90% of the food we humans eat worldwide comes from **15 plant species and eight animal species**.

How can I help preserve biodiversity?

Pay attention to the organic seal of approval when shopping for groceries.

Fewer pesticides are used to grow organic food. This protects the habitat for animals and plants.

Help the pollinators!

80-90% of all plants depend on pollination by bees. Many of them are wild bees that do not live in the beehive, but mostly in small niches, holes or in the ground. An insect hotel is a great home for these bees.

Do not mow all areas regularly.

Try to mow some areas only 1-3 times a year. This is how plants come to bloom and the pollinators are happy about the nectar!

If you have a garden try to cultivate it without pesticides.

There are natural home remedies and beneficial insects for many problems with growing fruits and vegetables.

