



BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE

Biodiversity or **Biological Diversity** refers to the “Variety of life on earth”. It is assessed at three different levels: Genetic diversity, Species diversity, and Ecosystem diversity.

The Philippines is “Mega Biodiverse”

This means our country is home to majority of the Earth’s species as well as high numbers of endemic species—unique species that cannot be found anywhere else. In fact, according to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Philippines houses around two-thirds of the earth’s biodiversity and between 70% and 80% of the world’s plant and animal species.

The Challenge of Biodiversity Conservation

Housing the bulk of biodiversity in the planet also implies that our country bears the crucial task of conserving and protecting these life forms not only for Filipinos but for the global community. Philippine biodiversity, however, is disappearing at an alarming rate due to destructive human activities. The country is now one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots—a term used to define an area that contains at least 1,500 endemic species of vascular plants but which has lost at least 70% of its primary vegetation.

Why does Biodiversity matter?

The diversity of life, including the ecological complexes of which they are part, ensures that we have sources of food, fresh water, medicine, clothing, shelter, fuel, and livelihood. It also provides ecosystem services like cleaning the air, regulating climate, purifying water, regulating diseases, or preventing erosion. Human diversity is part of biodiversity. Without biodiversity, human life will not be possible. Biodiversity is Life!



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