

# **International Biodiversity Day**

**Theme: “From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity”**

**22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2023**

First coined by Walter G. Rosen in 1985, biological diversity or biodiversity is defined as the “*variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms*”.

In 2000, the UN General Assembly officially proclaimed May 22 to be the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB). The date was chosen to celebrate the initial text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on May 22, 1992. This day is observed to spread awareness about the importance of biodiversity as well as focus on global issues including biodiversity loss.

## **What is Biodiversity?**

- Biodiversity is derived from two words “biological” and “diversity”.
- It is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth, including humans. With a wide range of animals, plants, and microorganisms, we can have a healthy ecosystem.

## **Why Biodiversity is important?**

- Biodiversity boosts the ecosystem where each species big or small, all have an important role to play.
- A healthy ecosystem provides:
  - (a) Soil formation and protection
  - (b) Protection of water resources
  - (c) Pollution breakdown and recycling
  - (d) Contribution to climate stability
  - (e) Maintenance of ecosystems.



- **Clean air and water:** Plants use solar energy to grow. Shellfish purify the water and trees turn CO<sub>2</sub> into oxygen. Without all these living organisms, humans would not be able to survive. The greater the biodiversity, the more of these valuable and essential ecosystem services we can safeguard for the future.
- **Economically,** the services provided by biodiversity are estimated to be double the world's annual GDP.

### **DID YOU KNOW? •**



**Human activities have significantly altered 66% of marine environments.**

## **How Biodiversity is threatened?**

- ◆ **The single biggest threat to biodiversity is habitat loss.** It needs space to survive and when we remove their wild lands and convert them into industrial places, it decreases the landscapes needed for life production.
- ◆ **Overexploitation for things like food, medicines, and timber causes a threat to biodiversity.**
- ◆ **Climate change, as warming and changing rainfall patterns alters species ranges causes a threat to biodiversity.**

## **Few reasons why Government should take steps to promote Biodiversity**

- 1. Prevent disease and regulate poisonous animals:** When we preserve biodiversity, we also preserve trophic chains. Thus, predatory animals can control the population of animals that present a risk to human health.



- 2. Promote thermal comfort:** With the presence of biodiversity, it promotes milder temperatures and greater air humidity, ensuring a greater sense of well-being.
- 3. Support sustainable urban food systems:** Insects such as bees, are responsible for pollination. This process guarantees the production of fruits, seeds, and other foods that can be consumed by both wild animals and people.
- 4. Raise awareness about coexistence with other living beings:** Currently more than 50 percent of the world population live in cities. Therefore, it is important to promote an environment of harmonious coexistence with biodiversity in order to reinforce its importance for human beings.
- 5. Minimize the risk of extreme events:** Biodiversity is extremely important for climate regulation. The roots of the plants allow greater water infiltration in the soil and help retain moisture in the soil over time. These factors, among many others, can help mitigate extreme events such as droughts, fires, and floods.






## Important Acts for Biodiversity

- Fisheries Act, 1897
- Indian Forest Act, 1927
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- Environment Protection Act, 1986
- Biological Conservation Act, 2002

## Policies related to Biodiversity

- National Water Policy, 1987
- National Policy and macro-level action strategy on Biodiversity, 1999
- National Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009
- National Forest Policy, 2018



We can find an estimated one-fifth of all known species of birds, mammals, and plants in Africa.

**Did you know?**

