

HOW HUMAN HEALTH DEPENDS ON BIODIVERSITY

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What is Biodiversity?

The diversity and number of many species of flora and fauna in any given nature area are called the biodiversity of that particular place. Biodiversity is the most complex feature of our planet and it is the most vital. "Without biodiversity, there is no future for humanity". Says Prof David Macdonald, at the Oxford University.

Human health depends on Biodiversity.

There are many things for which we depend on biodiversity and it is important for us to conserve it. Take for example- agriculture is incredible dependent on invertebrates, they help maintain soil health. while many fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by insects.

Pollinators such as birds, bees and other insects plays an important role in one-third of the world's crop production. Microbes are important for releasing nutrients into the soil. In the oceans, fish and other forms of marine life provide the main sources of the protein for approximately one billion people.

People depend on Biodiversity in their daily lives in way that are not always apparent or appreciated.

Human health ultimate depends upon ecosystem products and services (such as available of fresh water, food and fuel sources) which are requisite for food human health and productive livelihoods.

Biodiversity loss can have significant direct human health impacts If ecosystem services are no longer adequate to meet social needs. Indirectly, changes in ecosystem services affect income, livelihood, local migration and on occasion, may even cause or exacerbate political conflict.

Also, biological diversity of microorganism, flora and fauna provides extensive benefits for biological, health and pharmacological sciences. Significant medical and pharmacological discoveries are made through greater understanding of the earth's biodiversity. Loss in biodiversity may limit discovery of potential treatments for many diseases and health problems.

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in human nutrition through its influence on world food production, as it ensures that sustainable productivity of soils and provides the genetic resources for all crops, livestock and marine species harvested for food. Access to a sufficiency of a nutritious variety of food is a fundamental determinant of health.

