Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia

## Harmony with nature and sustainable development

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Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive: food, clean water, medicine, and shelter. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Source: Lorin Hancock. (2025, March 26). What is biodiversity? Why it's under threat and why it matters. https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-is-biodiversity.

Photo credit: jonahveridianophotos



Water is vital to maintaining ecosystems. It supports plant growth, sustains wildlife, and contributes to ecosystem services like climate regulation.

Freshwaters cover the Earth's surface only 0.8% approximately

Yet freshwater ecosystems are essential for at least

126,000 species out of approximately

1.8
Million

Source: Michael Acreman, Kathy A. Hughes, Angela H. Arthington, David Tickner, Manuel-Angel Dueñas. (2019, December 02). Protected areas and freshwater biodiversity: a novel systematic review distils eight lessons for effective conservation. A Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology. https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12684



Water is a fundamental resource for all life forms on Earth. Its scarcity can have a significant impact on biodiversity

It can lead to the loss of habitats, a decrease in genetic diversity, a disruption of ecosystems, and increased competition between species

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reports that 1 in 4 freshwater species is at risk of extinction, primarily due to habitat loss and water quality degradation.

Source: Tutor Chase Article. What is the impact of water scarcity on biodiversity? https://www.tutorchase.com/answers/ib/geography/what-is-the-impact-of-water-scarcity-on-biodiversity

Photo credit: Kanur Ismail from Getty Images





Conservation efforts are key to preserving both biodiversity and water resources. Actions like restoring wetlands, sustainable water management, and protecting forests are essential, acting as nature-based solutions for climate change and ecosystem health.

The United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 recognizes that global action on land restoration will be needed if we are to meet the target of restoring 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030.

Source: Press release the International Resource Panel. (2019, September 05). Restore landscapes to push ahead on sustainable development, says International Resource Panel. https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/restore-landscapes-push-ahead-sustainable-development-says#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Decade%20of%20Ecosystem%20Restoration,million%20hectares%20of%20degraded%20landscapes%20by %202030.





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"Rivers are some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. Given the importance of rivers and other freshwater ecosystems for food security, resilience building and the world's biodiversity, their sustainable use and management is critical to ensure essential ecosystem services continue and meet the commitments of the Global **Biodiversity Framework.**"

Source: United Nation Environment Program. (2024, October 31). Here's how protecting freshwater ecosystems can help countries meet their biodiversity targets. https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/heres-how-protecting-freshwater-ecosystems-can-help-countries-meet-their#:~:text=Implement%20water%2Drelated%20nature%2Dbased,biodiversity%20around%20the%20city's%20river.

Photo credit: Australian Institute of Business