

What is biodiversity

Biodiversity is Nature, or that part of it that is alive! As nature is the physical world that we are living in and the untamed **landscape** that amazes us, biodiversity is the part that colors it, quite literally.

Biodiversity consists of the variety of all living **organisms** in all sources that nature provides, marine, freshwater, terrestrial, etc. It varies from the tiniest **microorganisms** such as bacteria, to the giant whales which are known as the biggest creatures inhabiting the planet and visiting our country, Albania.


biodiversity
is sustainability

More precisely, Biodiversity is the one thing that sustains our life on earth! Creating a food chain and interacting for their survival, species of planet Earth establish a perfect **balance** that provides us with irreplaceable services. The living creatures maintain functioning **ecosystems** that supply oxygen, prevent floods and erosions, clean **air** and **water**, pollination of plants, pest control,

wastewater treatment, and detoxification to plant and animal communities, as well as to human society.


By keeping the motor of life moving, biodiversity supports **economic sustainability** for humans by providing raw materials for consumption and production. Many livelihoods, such as farmers, fishers, and timber workers, are dependent on these creatures' maintenance. For sure, now you think about more communities that depend on biodiversity, don't you?

While grey touristic infrastructure is losing its value really fast, people are understanding that nature tourism is priceless and this market has created already the brand of elite **tourism**. Many recreational pursuits rely on biodiversity, such as birdwatching, hiking, camping, and fishing, thus making **local communities** managers of their **natural resources** and watchful protectors of our unique biodiversity.



biodiversity
is history

Lions, European bisons, bearded vultures, etc... are some of the species that are extinct in Albania. It

is not hard to imagine our country's landscape when it was suitable for such **species**. Cultural identity usually is closely connected to biodiversity.

Special events that include biodiversity are an important part of the history of each country. One of the most important manifestations of Albanian nature was when 8 giant whales washed ashore on Durres beach. This event marks a significant moment for our **natural heritage** and is represented in the National Natural Science Museum with the skeleton of one of these giant whales.

Cultural diversity in remote regions is closely linked to biodiversity, as there is a symbiotic relationship between habitats and cultures, and between ecosystems and **cultural identity**; indeed, religious rules and rituals often strengthen this relationship and are characterized by a **conservation** ethic.

Folklore, myths, poems, and identity, are some parts of culture where biodiversity could fit perfectly. In ancient times places or people would be named after biodiversity, such as the Lion Gate in our precious Butrint. Nowadays,

Albania is still called "The Land of the Eagles".

biodiversity

is the future



As the environmental catastrophes arises and we are currently facing the consequences of **climate change**, **humanity** has to act based on the lesson learned. Efforts to protect and to restore important biodiversity areas, will create stable **ecosystems** and buffer zones which prevent the disasters and provide goods. Although sometimes being in a considered distance from our homes, all the maintenance work **wildlife** implements for us should make understand that biodiversity is one of our closest collaborators and we should care for it as such.



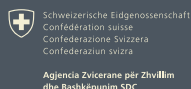
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