

Section 2 : Conservation and Management of Resources for Development

Chapter 15 : Conservation of biological diversity

Our planet's functioning, and the ability of the environment to produce essential goods and services depends on the variety and variability of genes, species, populations and ecosystems. The current decline in biodiversity, largely due to human activity, is a serious threat to human development.

Biological resources are a capital asset with great potential for yielding sustainable benefits. Urgent and decisive action is needed to conserve and maintain genes, species and ecosystems, with a view to the sustainable management and use of biological resources. Effective national and international cooperation along with the participation and support of local communities is essential.

Objectives

Governments should:

- implement the Convention on Biological Diversity
- develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources
- share fairly, benefits arising from the development and use of biological and genetic resources between sources and users of the material
- foster traditional methods and knowledge on the conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources
- take account of the potential of biotechnology in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of biological resources.

Activities

Governments should:

- plan for the conservation of biological diversity and biological resources
- integrate these plans with other relevant plans, programmes and policies
- ascribe values to biological and genetic resources
- promote public participation, especially that of indigenous people
- undertake long term research into the importance of biodiversity for the functioning of ecosystems
- take conservation and rehabilitation action both on site and off site
- establish a national inventory of biological resources and management systems
- promote awareness and education on the value of biological diversity

- promote national and international technical and scientific cooperation
- develop efficient methods for baseline evaluation, conservation and sustainable use of biological resources
- strengthen the capacity of organisations involved in existing biological diversity.