

HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION?

▶ **Learning about the value of plants and animals to their survival and well-being;**

▶ **Supporting national, regional, and local authorities in enforcing biodiversity regulations;**

▶ **Ensuring that community actions which do not support biodiversity conservation are minimized e.g. mangrove destruction along the foreshore, over-hunting, over-fishing, and over-grazing;**

▶ **Establishing community groups to oversee the protection of threatened and endangered species;**

▶ **Participating in local events, such as debating competitions among villages, to develop an appreciation for biodiversity;**

▶ **Establishing wildlife sanctuaries and reserves in local communities, particularly in areas rich in biodiversity; and**

▶ **Encouraging community members to actively participate in the observance of special international environmental events, such as Biodiversity Day and World Environment Day.**

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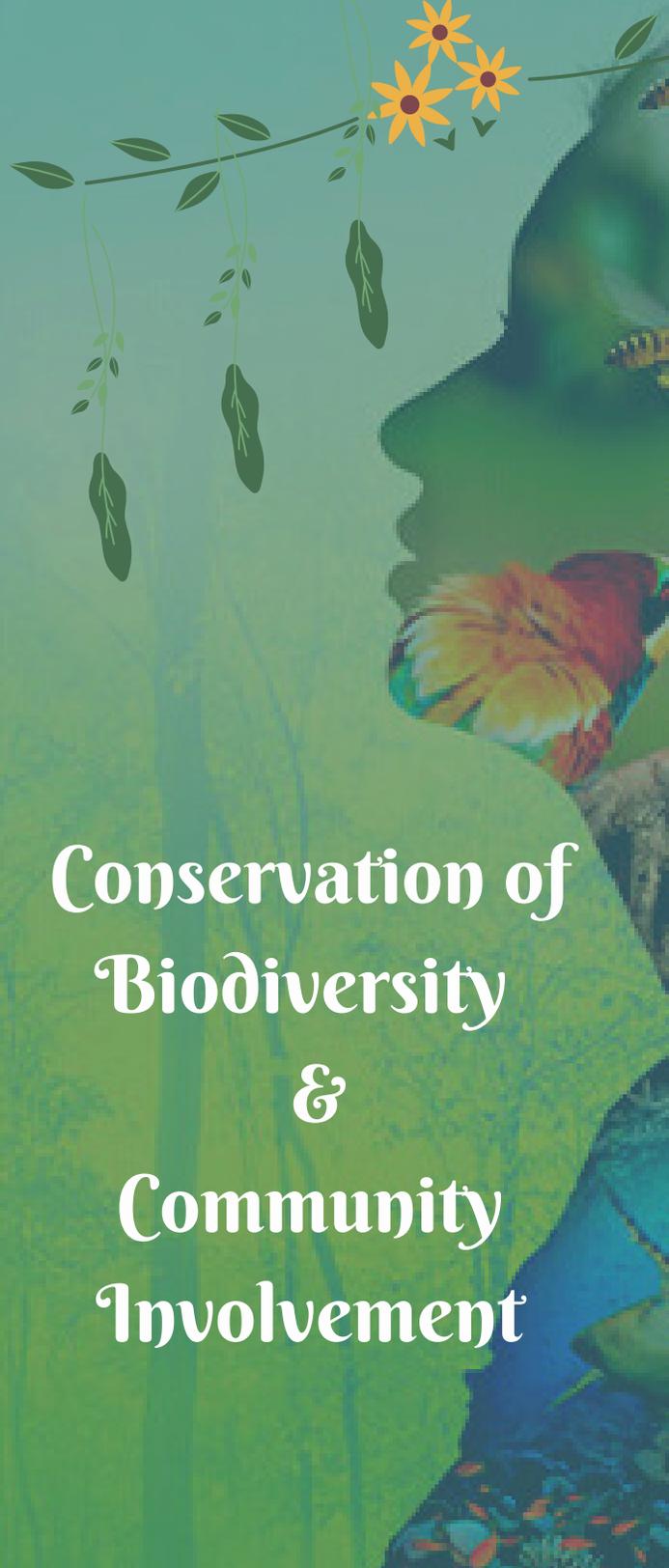
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Resilient nations.*



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Conservation of Biodiversity & Community Involvement

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?



Biodiversity refers to various species of living organisms both plants and animals which occupy, and are part of an ecosystem. This includes differences between and within species of plants and animals linked to their particular geographical location.

WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?

Biodiversity is important because it provides and supports many services that are important to human survival and well-being. Plants and animals are useful for the following main reasons:



PLANTS

-  Provide food, fiber, medicine, & shelter;
-  Purify the air we breathe by cleansing it of carbon dioxide;
-  Filter water supplies and hold soil together through their complex root systems;
-  Contribute to rainfall which replenishes water supplies in rivers, streams, lakes, and underground reservoirs.

ANIMALS

-  Provide food, clothing, and medicine;
-  Support agricultural systems through pollination;
-  Facilitate income through sustainable harvesting, ecotourism (e.g. sports fishing and safari tours), and other activities; and
-  Enhance people's appreciation and enjoyment of the environment.



THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



Climate change :
Changes in rainfall patterns could disrupt ecosystems.



Deforestation -
Species living in the forest could lose their natural habitats and some may die due to their inability to survive the change in environmental conditions.



Land degradation –
The ecological functions of soils, water, plants, and animals could be affected when land becomes degraded.

