

Unit 4: Biodiversity and Conservation

Lecture 1

Introduction

Definition holds that biodiversity is a measure of the relative diversity among organisms present in different ecosystems. "Diversity" in this definition includes diversity within a species and among species, and comparative diversity among ecosystems.

The word 'biodiversity' is a combination of two words: biological and diversity. It refers to the variety of life on Earth. Biodiversity encompasses all the living things that exist in a certain area, in the air, on land or in water: plants, animals, microorganisms and fungi.

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- ❑ **Species diversity** refers to the variety of different types of living things on Earth, such as bacteria, fungi, insects, mammals, plants and more
- ❑ **Genetic diversity** refers to the variations between individuals of a species — characteristics passed down from parents to their offspring
- ❑ **Ecosystem diversity** refers to the great variety of environments produced by the interplay of the living (animals and plants) and non-living world (earth forms, soil, rocks and water).