Benefits and Maintenance of Biodiversity

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What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the **variety of life** found in a particular area, including the number of different organisms and types of organisms.

It exists at three main levels:

1. Genetic Diversity: The different traits within a population (e.g., different flower colors of the same plant species).





2. Species Diversity: The number of different species (plants, animals, fungi) in a community.

3. Ecosystem Diversity: The variety of different ecosystems (like deserts, wetlands, and forests) within the biosphere.





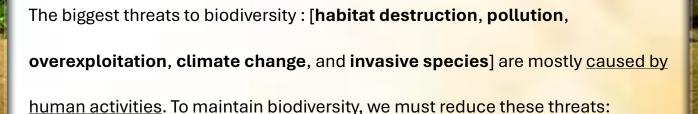
Benefits of Biodiversity: Ecosystem Services



Biodiversity is essential for the **stability** and **resilience** of ecosystems. A healthy ecosystem, one with high biodiversity, is more stable and can recover faster from natural disasters. Healthy ecosystems provide crucial benefits to living things called **ecosystem services**, which fall into four main types:

Service Type	Definition and Example	
Provisioning	Services that provide natural resources like food, fresh water, and wood.	
Regulating	Services that control natural processes and maintain the environment, such as plant pollination and climate regulation.	
Cultural	Services that offer non-material benefits like recreational, spiritual, and educational experiences (e.g., hiking in nature).	
Supporting	Services that are necessary for all other services to exist, like photosynthesis (creating oxygen) and nutrient cycling.	

Maintaining Biodiversity: Solutions (



Reduce Pollution: Clean up existing waste (like oil spills) and stop releasing contaminants (like harmful chemicals and plastic waste) into the environment.



- Restore Habitats: Use methods like reforestation (replanting trees) and reclamation (restoring land damaged by mining) to bring back natural ecosystems.
- Control Invasive Species: Manage species that outcompete native life
 using methods like mechanical control (physical removal) or chemical
 control (using pesticides).
- Reduce Climate Change: Switch from burning fossil fuels (which release greenhouse gases) to renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.
- Sustain Populations: Protect endangered species by regulating human use to prevent overexploitation.





I. Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the best answer for each question.

- 1. What is the best definition of biodiversity?
- A. The number of non-living things in an ecosystem.
- B. The total number of trees in a forest.
- C. The number and types of organisms found in a particular area.
- D. The study of only animals in a biome.
- 2. At which level of ecological organization is biodiversity generally considered the highest?
- A. Species
- B. Population
- C. Community
- D. Ecosystem
- 3. Which of the following is NOT one of the three main types of biodiversity?
- A. Genetic diversity
- B. Species diversity
- C. Ecosystem diversity
- D. Biotic diversity
- 4. Why is biodiversity crucial for an ecosystem?
- A. For the stability of the atmosphere.
- B. For the creation of new populations.
- C. For the stability and resilience of ecosystems.
- D. For increasing the amount of sunlight.



- 5. Which ecosystem is known for having very high biodiversity?
- A. A simple wheat field.
- B. A tropical rainforest.
- C. A high-altitude mountain tundra.
- D. A desert with only two species of cactus.
- 6. Providing fresh water and medicinal plants are examples of which type of ecosystem service?
- A. Cultural services
- B. Regulating services
- C. Provisioning services
- D. Supporting services
- 7. Plant pollination and water purification are examples of which type of ecosystem service?
- A. Supporting services
- B. Cultural services
- C. Provisioning services
- D. Regulating services
- 8. Which type of service is considered the most important because it is needed for all other services to exist (e.g., photosynthesis)?
- A. Provisioning services
- B. Regulating services
- C. Cultural services
- D. Supporting services



9. What term describes the ability of an ecosystem to stay balanced after repeated disturbances?

- A. Equilibrium
- B. Conservation
- C. Diversity index
- D. Resilience

10. What is the number of different traits found within a single population called?

- A. Species diversity
- B. Genetic diversity
- C. Ecosystem diversity
- D. Population diversity

11. Which of the following is an example of overexploitation?

- A. Removing trees to build a shopping mall.
- B. Acid rain falling into a lake.
- C. Introducing an invasive species of fish.
- D. Overfishing a type of marine fish to the point where its population declines rapidly.

12. What is the main result of eutrophication (excess algae growth) in a river?

- A. An increase in species biodiversity.
- B. A decrease in biodiversity because lack of oxygen kills living things.
- C. The river becomes healthier for all living things.
- D. The layer of algae provides food for all species.



13. Which of the following is an example of climate change?

- A. Trash on land.
- B. Polar ice melting.
- C. Stormwater runoff into the ocean.
- D. Cutting down trees.

14. What are the gases, such as carbon dioxide, that are released from burning fossil fuels and cause climate change called?

- A. Natural gases
- B. Pollutants
- C. Greenhouse gases
- D. Ozone gases

15. What is an invasive species?

- A. A species native to the area that helps maintain biodiversity.
- B. A species that is introduced to a new area and outcompetes native species for resources.
- C. A species that is nearly extinct and needs protection.
- D. A species that provides a new provisioning service.

16. How does reforestation help protect and maintain biodiversity?

- A. It provides a chemical control for invasive species.
- B. It provides more habitats and food sources for different species.
- C. It controls air pollution but does not affect habitats.
- D. It only restores land that has been mined.



17. What is the difference between reforestation and reclamation?

- A. Reforestation reduces air pollution, while reclamation reduces water pollution.
- B. Reforestation restores trees that have been cut or burned, while reclamation restores land that has been mined.
- C. Reforestation uses chemical control, while reclamation uses mechanical control.
- D. There is no difference; they are two names for the same process.

18. Which solution helps reduce the impact of climate change?

- A. Increasing the burning of fossil fuels.
- B. Increasing the use of solar and wind power.
- C. Allowing harmful chemicals to run off into water.
- D. Building more roads through forest ecosystems.

II. Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

Fill in the blank with the correct term.

- 19. A to biodiversity is something that causes a decrease in the number of species or individuals in an ecosystem.
- 20. The removal of trees in a forest is an example of for animals that live there.
- 21. Scientists use to measure biodiversity over a larger area from a distance.
- 22. Biodiversity can be maintained by cleaning up and pollution from the environment.



III. Short Answer Questions
Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

23.	Describe one provisioning service and one cultural service that a coastal (beach/ocean) ecosystem provides to humans.
24.	Explain how an invasive species affects the biodiversity of a native ecosystem. Use the example of how Kudzu affects a forest.
25.	Identify and describe two ways that humans can directly help protect and maintain ecosystems in their local community.



Answer Key

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(Or Planting more trees (reforestation) to restore local habitats)	25	control) invasive plants from local parks or bodies of water to stop them from outcompeting native plants. Reducing Pollution: Humans can choose to properly dispose of trash, recycle waste, and avoid flushing chemicals down the drain to keep local water sources

