

# 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING AND THE LAW

Getting to know ecosystems, biodiversity and the law in ten points

1

Every day, people around the world **depend on rich and varied ecosystems** for their livelihoods, health and well-being.

**1.6 BN**  
people depend on forests for jobs, livelihoods, food and fuel

Fish provide about 3 BN people with almost **20%** of their intake of animal protein

**3**  
crops - wheat, rice and maize - supply more than half of humanity's calories



**PROVISIONING**  
**REGULATING**  
**SUPPORTING**  
**CULTURAL**



Many of the **benefits are hard to value**, but ecosystems are critical for the welfare of people, the environment and the economy, **providing many types of services.**

2

3

Our **ecosystems are at risk**, with biodiversity loss getting out of control.

**36%**  
of known species are being threatened by extinction

Disappearing forests & grasslands are worth **US\$ 4.3-20.2** trillion in lost ecosystem services

Oceans are being polluted & depleted: **80%** of global fish stocks are fully exploited/collapsed

**75%** of agricultural crop genetic diversity has been lost

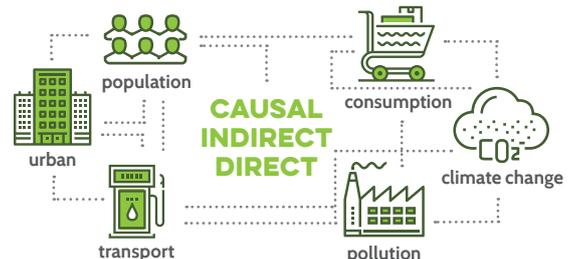


This could result in **job losses**, shocks to the local and global economy, plus **deterioration in public health**, affecting social equity and resilience.

4

5

Reversing the current trends can no longer be the responsibility of **environmentalists alone**. All sectors of the economy will be affected, which makes ecosystem protection **everyone's business.**





The Sustainable Development Goals have identified ecosystems and biodiversity as one of the main **crosscutting issues** affecting development.



Mainstreaming the protection of ecosystems at national and local levels means **raising awareness** of our dependency on ecosystems and **embedding responsibility for biodiversity in all sectors**.



Justice has been recognized by the SDGs as essential for sustainable development. **The rule of law, economic development and social justice** are closely related and mutually reinforcing.



At the national level, rule of law for **biodiversity mainstreaming** means to:



Mainstreaming biodiversity in laws and policies can **tip the balance for real change**



Read next about the new opportunities for **biodiversity mainstreaming** under the Sustainable Developments Goals and other global development agendas.