

## Biodiversity: What does it mean to us?

Our definition of biodiversity is based on the definitions of various Swiss environmental protection organisations and the Federal Office for Nature Conservation and includes:

- The different life forms (species of animals, plants, fungi, bacteria)
- The different habitats in which species live (for example forests, meadows, waters, etc.) and
- Genetic diversity within species in their natural and human cultural contexts.

Biodiversity reflects the life that exists on Earth in all its diversity. It is therefore the starting point and potential of all life processes and ecosystem services. Biodiversity is the NOW of evolution, characterised by the cosmos of our planetary reality and human-related uses, such as collecting and hunting, afforestation and deforestation, agriculture, medicine, aesthetics, settlement construction, and others. The expression of biodiversity is not only determined by us humans but is the result of interaction between man and nature. Through man and unexpected events, also the supernatural can enter this interaction.

## Values of Biodiversity: Why is it worth protecting?

Biodiversity is the basis for healthy and natural development of all living beings and ecosystems. It is the heritage that we and all living beings leave to future generations, and for which we as a society bear ethical and moral responsibility. At the same time, biodiversity is an experience of possibilities: only the diversity of an estimated 10 to 20 million species worldwide, their genetic variability and the sparsely classifiable variety of different communities and interrelationships makes adaption to a wide range of environmental conditions possible.

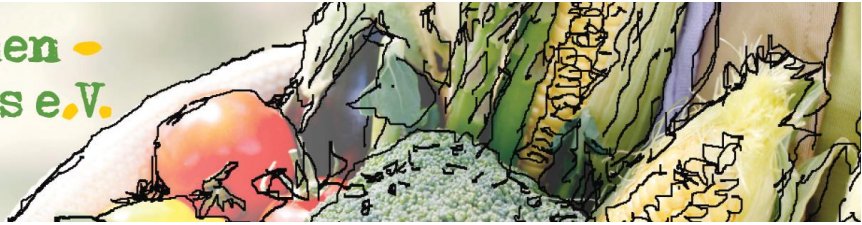
## Biodiverse ecosystems give, regulate, support, and inspire

**Resources for humans and all living beings.** Ecosystems and their biodiverse species are factors of production for many goods such as drinking water, food, energy sources, clothing fibres, building materials, and medicine. Genetic resources are the basis for the development of new crops, drugs, and raw materials. This includes pollination and pest repellents, the cleaning of our air and water as well as the formation of fertile soil.

**Regulation to increase security and resilience.** Natural, biodiverse communities in ecosystems store CO<sub>2</sub>, protect against avalanches and floods, prevent erosion, and regulate the climate.

**Supporting services:** Basic services of ecosystems, which humans do not use directly, but which make all other services possible in the first place, include the production of oxygen, the maintenance of nutrient cycles or water cycling. The global economic value of these services is estimated at \$16,000 to 54,000 billion dollars a year. Most sectors of our society, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hunting, sports, tourism, pharmaceuticals, perfume industry, textiles, construction, trade and health care, benefit from them. Where human intervention leads to destruction, biodiversity

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does not benefit. We ‘over-consume’. Great efforts are needed to align individual, commercial, and industrial in harmony with nature and our ecosystems — how we travel, how we do business, how we consume, and how we perceive and study our surroundings with respect. All this determines the performance of biodiversity and thus ultimately the quality of our life.

**Cultural achievements.** Ecosystems and species contribute to diverse landscapes and thus satisfy aesthetic demands of both humans and nature. The recreational power of biodiversity is amazing for all living beings. The development of diverse cultures and societies has been and is strongly linked to biodiversity, which is reflected, for example, in traditional knowledge of medicinal plants, but also in artwork inspired by nature.

### How does our association support biodiversity?

We at Living Seeds ensure that, through attentive observation and precise selection, seed is made available that celebrates the diversity of biological matter. In doing so, we rely on the natural memory of the plants, which is already programmed in their seeds. Can it defy droughts? How does it deal with too much or too little rainfall? Does it thrive on sandy soils? These memories are real and have not been crafted with genetic engineering. We focus our plant breeding on open pollinated varieties that are reproducible, and we train and spread our knowledge through close cooperation with farmers. Promoting biodiversity is hence one of the goals of our association. Do you want to support our work? Then feel free to spread the word to family and friends, [become a member of our association, and make a donation](#).