

## SAVING BIODIVERSITY – WHY AND HOW ?

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Mother Earth is a spaceship in the Universe carrying vast diversity of life – surely much greater than Noah’s vessel. But Earth’s diversity of life is facing fast decline and extinction due to modern development and, sheer pressures and demand of the growing human population. Noah’s vessel had saved the variety of life after the great flood, whether that of earth will be saved – is a big question today.

The beginning of human history at Africa was the beginning of exploiting nature and depleting resources. As our species expanded our influence over the world, we caused species and populations to vanish at an alarming rate. Despite all attempts to reduce biodiversity loss, the trend is likely to continue. It is high time to take measures with a goal that human-caused extinction is wrong in a civilized human’s history like slave trade and child labour.

### *Understanding Biodiversity*

Biodiversity of Biological Diversity is the total richness of all living forms and life processes of our planet. The official; definition of biodiversity as forwarded by the United Nations is “ the variability among living organisms including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic systems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity among species, between species and of ecosystems.”

If we have to eat one type of food everyday? If there is only one kind of tree or flower or bird around us? The life would be surely boring like listening same story everyday. So all of us like variety which makes life interesting and exiting.

Biological diversity is the very heart of environment. It is a large web that includes full-range of ecosystems, their component species and the genetic variety of those species. It includes plants, animals and microorganisms and the processes and inter-relationships that sustain these components.

### *Why does Biodiversity matter?*

Fossil records reveal that extinction of species is a natural phenomenon till the origin of life on Earth. So why should we worry about extinction of species in recent times? Yes, we should worry because the pace of extinction and its causes are entirely different from the past extinctions. Firstly, in our time, species vanish at a rate that is hundred times faster than natural rate. Secondly, the cause of vanishing of species is another species that is us. Extinction of species due to