

15 LIFE ON LAND



3.2

BILLION PEOPLE  
NEGATIVELY  
AFFECTED BY  
LAND  
DEGRADATION &  
DESERTIFICATION

90%

OF GLOBAL  
DEFORESTATION  
IS DUE TO  
AGRICULTURAL  
EXPANSION

1

MILLION  
SPECIES ARE  
AT RISK FOR  
EXTINCTION  
WITHIN  
DECADES

## PROTECT, RESTORE & PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT & REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

### NOTICING

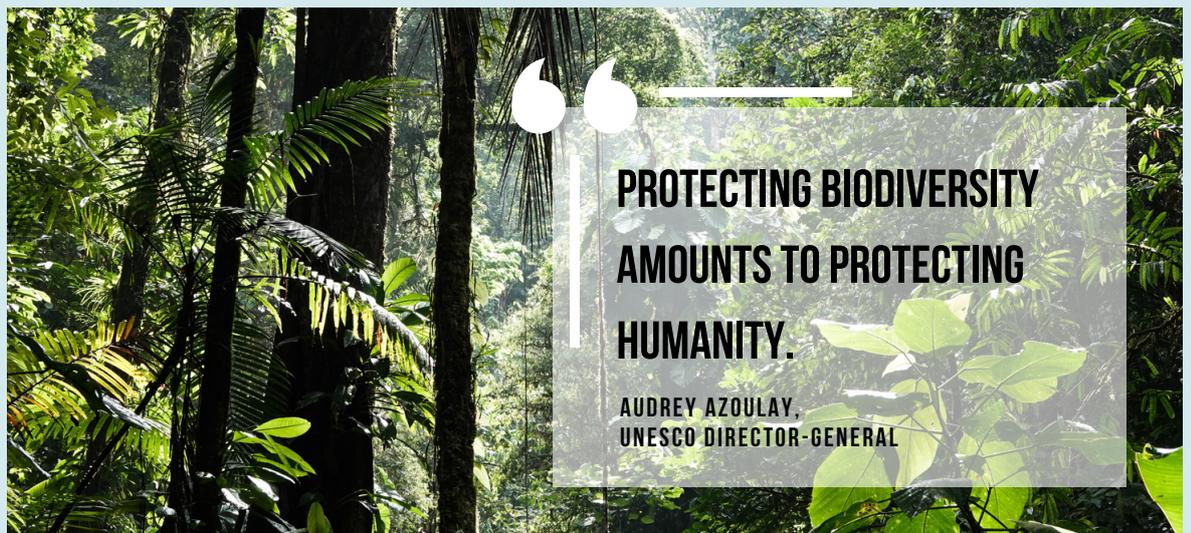
Current biodiversity loss is 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than the natural extinction rate, and humans are almost entirely responsible. Every year we lose 13 million hectares of forest, primarily due to industrial agriculture; forests are home to more than 80% of all land-based species and provide livelihoods for 1.6 billion people. Land degradation, desertification, and loss of ecosystems increase greenhouse gas emissions and reduce fresh water availability.

### INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Humans are using 25% more natural resources than the planet can sustain. Compassion helps us realize that to relieve suffering for all sentient beings, we must only use enough resources to sustain ourselves. It also helps us cultivate gratitude for the ecosystem services we receive from the natural world, from air and water purification, to soil generation, to climate stabilization, to food security, to medicines. When we destroy Earth's resources and the biodiversity that sustains us, we inflict harm on ourselves.

### TAKING ACTION

Compassion provides the motivation and understanding to end land exploitation so that we may promote human health and ensure human flourishing. Multi-stakeholder alliances must support inclusive governance approaches that promote a balance between conservation and sustainable development. For example, the [Climate-Smart Villages](#) program demonstrates how smallholder farmers can adapt their agricultural practices to secure dependable food supplies while also decreasing CO2 emissions and increasing carbon sequestration.



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY  
AMOUNTS TO PROTECTING  
HUMANITY.

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