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Terminality

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Conceptualizing Biodiversity

In an overview of topics relating to mass extinction, there is a lack of clarity by way of explaining the impact of a less diverse biodome, which is readily becoming a very serious concern, though for reasons, not even the United Nations' Intergovernmental Science-Policy on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), is certain. In order to expound upon its importance, we must first delineate what biodiversity entails. Why is biodiversity important, and why does it matter to us?

First we must understand what biodiversity is. Biodiversity includes the genetic diversity within a species, the diversity of species themselves, the diversity of entire ecosystems, and the diversity of functionally distinct species (the way species behave, obtain food, and use natural resources of an ecosystem).¹

Biodiversity has been understood as something that can be preserved, maintained, and destroyed. The United Nations' organization of the IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) was in order to create a cohesive panel to assess scientific and local knowledge on the state of the natural world.² In 2016 the IPBES announced a strong desire for social scientists to join their platform and engage with studies of biodiversity.³

¹ <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/biodiversity/>
and <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1872203214000055#!>

² <https://www.ipbes.net/>

³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/532313c>

Above all, there seems to be an understanding of a human responsibility to maintain a system dependent on biodiversity in order to preserve both human means and current realities of many species that are being impacted by numerous human/and nonhuman actions. It is misguided to believe that biodiversity “is a purely natural phenomenon which can be studied with subordinated or even without reference to social and normative issues”.⁴

⁴ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1348933>