



BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY



Definition:

Biocultural diversity is the total variety the world's natural and cultural systems exhibit. It includes:

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY at all its levels, from genes to populations to species to ecosystems;

CULTURAL DIVERSITY in all its manifestations (including linguistic diversity), ranging from individual ideas to entire cultures;

ABIOTIC OR GEOPHYSICAL DIVERSITY of the Earth, including all other inorganic components and processes that provide the setting for life and the interactions amongst all of them.

Biocultural diversity is central to the nutrition, resilience, and adaptive capacity of Indigenous (and ultimately us all).

They collectively maintain the longest ongoing human experiences with the provision of food under environmental change.



The History

All of us are the beneficiaries of processes that began 4,000-12,000 years ago when many cultures around the world became increasingly interdependent with the plants and animals they interacted with through the biocultural processes of domestication.



The food we eat connects us to those who cultivated it, the seeds they planted, and the diverse places around this planet where the crops and livestock that nourish us originated from.

(Larson et al., 2014; Khoury et al., 2016)

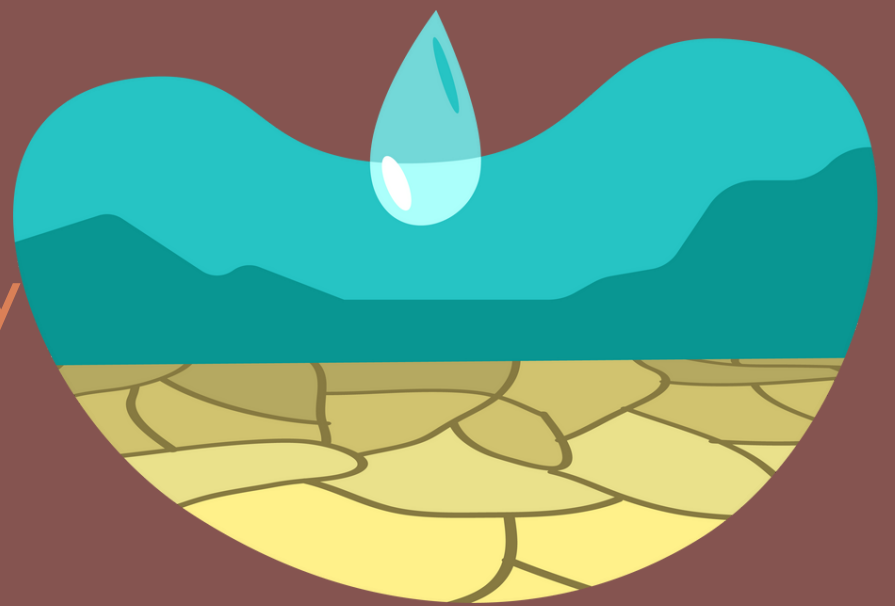
This biocultural diversity provides the foundation of peoples' nutrition and food systems' resilience and adaptive capacity.



It is important to explicitly recognise the role played by human diversity in biodiversity conservation because biodiversity represents a source of raw material on which evolution processes depend.

The Problem

Modern agriculture and food systems are now among the most significant contributors to environmental degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss globally, with health and ecological impacts disproportionately affecting marginalised populations.



These forces have likewise led to widespread and ongoing losses in food-related biocultural diversity, including crop landraces, traditional livestock breeds, and their wild relatives (Khoury et al., 2021).

Indigenous and traditional peoples' food systems, knowledge, and biocultural processes must receive the acknowledgement and attention they deserve.

This must change

Humans are part of their environment, not separated; therefore, their practices and culture must be an essential **consideration** for any environmental campaign.



A key pathway to greater food security, nutrition, sustainability, resilience, and adaptation outcomes in food systems is through diversification, from food products to processes and actors.



Join us in our mission!

Coalition of Health Professionals
for Regenerative Agriculture