

Biological diversity or biodiversity maintains a balance of natural processes and the functioning of the Earth's biosphere. It is the main output of the evolutionary process. Despite the many important roles in sustainable development, biodiversity and ecosystem services that support people's lives and livelihoods continue to be degraded and lost at unprecedented rates. The recent regional assessment reports by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) found that biodiversity is declining in all regions of the world.

The Russian Federation understands the deep-rooted connection between achieving sustainable development and preserving biodiversity. Russian long-term development policy is based on a balance of three key dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental, and is also focused on broad partnerships in the implementation of development tasks. Protected biodiversity reserves occupy about 2% of Russia's total territory. In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation each person has the right to a favourable environment, each person is obliged to preserve nature and the environment, to be mindful of natural wealth which is the basis for sustainable development, life and the activities of the peoples living on the territory of the Russian Federation.

The current federal law determines the legal basis of state policy in the area of environmental protection, ensuring the balanced solution of socio-economic tasks, preservation of a favourable environment, biological diversity and natural resources to satisfy the demands of current and future generations, strengthening environmental law and order and ensuring ecological security.

The ecological aspects of sustainable development require a complex of measures directed at conservation of the environment and rational use of natural resources; protection of the atmosphere; rational use of land resources; conservation and rational use of aquatic resources; conservation of forests; conservation of biological diversity; ecologically safe use of biotechnologies, and solution of waste problems. Leaving critical wildlife habitats undisturbed, especially nesting and denning sites and promoting wildlife use by setting up bird and bat houses is essential in conserving biodiversity. Digitization can reduce the need for middlemen, facilitate a greater share of profits going back to farmers, build resilience to shocks, and reduce inefficiencies, supporting sustainable agriculture. Debt financing is also critical for development. Used wisely, it can help countries finance investments and achieve sustained and inclusive growth.

Thus, the Russian Federation strongly believes in focusing on challenging economics and other activities, developing the Network of Specially Protected Natural, Historical and Cultural Territories and establishing a modern environmental management system that would match new economic and social realities.