

Committee: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Agenda: The Convention on Biological Diversity and its Contribution to Sustainable Development

Country: Denmark

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“ Without Nature’s help,
we cannot thrive or even survive on this planet Earth. ”

~UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Biodiversity is the variety of animal species found in an area. It is the centre of many of many economic activities, especially those directly related to the animals, like cattle, cow etc for poultry farming, forestry, fisheries etc. Thus, nearly half of the human population is directly dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. A recent UN report on biodiversity found that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction and biodiversity is deteriorating faster than at any other time in human history.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out an ambitious framework of universal and indivisible goals and targets to address a range of global societal challenges. Here’s how biodiversity plays an essential role in achieving the SDGs:

1. **End Poverty**, because of the employment generated.
2. **End Hunger**, by improving nutrition and also food security.
3. **Ensure Healthy Lives**, because agricultural biodiversity contributes to increased sustainable production.
4. **Achieve Gender Equality**, because women play a vital role in agriculture and nutrition of families across societies.
5. **Ensure availability of water and suitable management of sanitation**, by supporting healthy functioning of watersheds by vegetation, such as grasslands and forests.

And so biodiversity plays a vital role in achieving the SDGs.

In 2015, world leaders met in a significant conference by the UN, held in New York to end poverty, stop environmental destruction and boost well-being by multilateral diplomacy. They signed up to the 17 SDGs which had to be achieved till 2030.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is also an organisation, which was established on the occasion of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. Another major convention is Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Another Union formed is the International Union for CONservation of Nature (IUCN).

All of these unions and conventions have a somewhat similar aim which is to protect biodiversity on our Mother Earth, which contributed to the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. And as far as Denmark is concerned, it is the fore-front runner in achieving many of the SDGs, especially towards becoming a green economy and sustainable use of natural resources. Denmark is also an active member in all of the unions, conventions and organisations.

Denmark initiated the SDGs implementation by setting up an Inter-Ministerial Group, and focussing mainly on the 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 & 15 Sustainable Development Goals in the country. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for coordinating the national implementation of SDGs.

The Danish Action Plan is complemented by 37 national targets along with measurable and quantifiable national SDG indicators. A major achievement of Denmark is that it has produced an annual progress report on the Action Plan and its 37 national targets too.

If every country fulfils the promise which they have taken in different organisations, unions and conventions, it is very likely that we would be able to stop the illegal trade of animals and also stop the extinction of animals at this speed. This will continue our Earth to be our home and a very beautiful and peaceful place.