

-The convention on biological diversity and its contribution to sustainable development.

- **Introduction:**

Argentina is located in southern South America (also known as the Southern Cone), bordering the Andes to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. It is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, whose economy derives significant financial gains from large-scale agriculture, primarily in soybean, and livestock production. The country is also one of the world's largest beef exporters. Yet it is faced at present with major environmental problems associated with the fragmentation and loss of native forests due to agricultural expansion. Meanwhile, the remnants of forests are being impacted by a high degree of degradation. Moreover, in recent decades, the transformation of natural environments has been accelerated due to an increase in agricultural expansion. This process of transformation has been particularly dramatic in the forest environments of Chaco, the Atlantic Forest and the Yungas where it is estimated that over 1 million hectares have been deforested in the last 5 years. In consequence, animal and plant species associated with these environments face serious threats to their long-term conservation. Although 18.4% of the Upper Paraná Atlantic Forest, 6.4% of the Dry Chaco and 32.5% of the Yungas are now protected, large areas of these ecosystems are found in the productive landscape where unsustainable human activities pose threats to biodiversity.

- **Body:**

In 1997, 18% of Argentina's mammals were listed under a category of threat (i.e. vulnerable, threatened, endangered or critically endangered), a figure which rose to 24% in 2000 then fell to 21% in 2012. Between 2000 and 2012, the percentage of amphibians listed under a category of threat fell from 32% to 29%. Between 2000 and 2012, the percentage of lizards and amphisbaenians listed under a category of threat rose 70 points, from 8% to 78%, while snakes rose from 27% to 36% and turtles from 55% to 64%. A conservation success story relates to the country's caimans, 100% of which were listed under a category of threat in 2000. However, as a result of conservation efforts, including economic incentives at the local level, data collected in 2012 revealed that caimans in the country were no longer threatened. Data collected in 2008 indicated that 26% of Argentina's bird species were listed under a category of threat.

- **Conclusion:**

Over the past decade, a paradigm shift has occurred regarding biodiversity conservation. Today, conservation in Argentina is undertaken from the perspective of the Ecosystem Approach and sustainable use, so that conservation goes hand in hand with economic growth and inclusive development. A

comprehensive Fair Trade Policy coordinated among different government agencies is promoted as a fundamental tool for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with social inclusion.

The Law on Minimum Standards of Environmental Protection for Native Forests adopted in 2007 establishes rules for the sustainable management of native forests, and provides for financial incentives to the provinces in exchange for actions undertaken towards forest conservation and management in Argentina.

Thank You !