

Preface

Biodiversity or biological diversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is a measure of variation at the genetic (genetic variability), species (species diversity), and ecosystem (ecosystem diversity) level.

Biodiversity is not distributed evenly on Earth; it is usually greater in the tropics as a result of the warm climate and high primary productivity in the region near the equator. Tropical forest ecosystems cover less than 10% of earth's surface and contain about 90% of the world's species. Marine biodiversity is usually higher along coasts in the Western Pacific, where sea surface temperature is highest, and in the mid-latitudinal band in all oceans. There are latitudinal gradients in species diversity. Biodiversity generally tends to cluster in hotspots, and has been increasing through time, but will be likely to slow in the future as a primary result of deforestation. It encompasses the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life.ⁱ

In the present book, twenty-one typical literatures about biodiversity published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on biodiversity. We hope this book can demonstrate advances in biodiversity as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

ⁱ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity>