

3. BIODIVERSITY, CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND ETHICS

UNESCO adopted an intersectoral approach to explore and enhance the linkages between different forms of diversity that are essential for their sustainability.

<u>Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity</u>	<u>Ethical Dimensions of Biodiversity</u>
LINKS Programme	Ethics of Science and Technology Programme
World Heritage Cultural Landscapes	Bioethics Programme
Sacred natural sites and Cultural Landscapes	Global Ethics Observatory
Biosphere Reserves	
Biocultural Protocols for access and benefit sharing	
Agro-cultures	
Science, methodology and experiences	
Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe	
Biodiversity and languages	
Cities of gastronomy	

3.a) Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity

UNESCO develops new perspectives on sustaining diversities, both cultural and biological, with the primary objective of demonstrating that linkages and synergies between cultural and biological diversities are key to sustainable development.

- [LINKS \(Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems\) Programme](#) enhances biodiversity conservation and secures an active and equitable role for local communities in resource governance, strengthens knowledge transmission between elders and youth, and explores

pathways to balance community-based knowledge with global knowledge in formal and non-formal education.

- [World Heritage Cultural Landscapes](#) we can learn about the relation between people, nature and ecosystems and how this shapes culture and identity, and enriches cultural and biological diversity.
- [Sacred natural sites and Cultural Landscapes](#) UNESCO's involvement in sacred natural sites and cultural landscapes as areas of biodiversity conservation. The results of 2005 [Tokyo Conference](#) is an obvious outcome of the shared work it carries out in the natural sciences and culture sectors.
- [Biosphere Reserves](#) contribute to better understanding and strengthening of the vital linkages between biological and cultural diversity for sustainability.
- [Biocultural Protocols for access and benefit sharing](#) provides various stakeholders with information, tools and resources to enable the culturally appropriate interaction between a variety of stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities.
- [Agro-cultures programme](#) is a work of reflection and collaboration on the sustainable development of agro-ecosystems as spaces interaction between biological and cultural diversity.
- [Expert work on the links between biological and cultural diversity](#) followed by the 2010 [Montreal Conference](#) aimed to contribute to transforming political commitments into concrete actions by developing recommendations towards effectively integrating biological and cultural diversity into development cooperation strategies and programmes.
- [Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe](#) are part of the intangible heritage domains safeguarded under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- [Biodiversity and languages](#) In order to use cultural diversity as a measure or biodiversity trends, UNESCO is developing a Linguistic Vitality Index to be used as the 2010 Target Indicator on the “Status and Trends of Linguistic Diversity and Numbers of Speakers of Indigenous Languages”.
- [Cities of gastronomy](#) aim at promoting gastronomy as a means to encourage conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in relationship to food and cooking.

3.b) Ethical Dimensions of Biodiversity

UNESCO recognizes that societal values, norms and traditions shape our relationships with the living world, and that ethics can help us to better understanding and re-orient these relationships. Ethical questions related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing are among the issues to be addressed in the coming years.

- [**Ethics of Science and Technology Programme**](#) aims to promote consideration of science and technological progress in a context of ethical reflection rooted in the cultural, legal, philosophical and religious heritage of the various human communities.
- [**Bioethics Programme**](#) addresses the ethical, legal and social concerns stemming from advances in the life sciences, particularly in genetics. One of its major successes is [**Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights**](#), which was adopted at UNESCO's General Conference in 1997 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1998.
- [**Global Ethics Observatory \(GEObs\)**](#) is a system of databases with worldwide coverage in bioethics and other areas of applied ethics in science and technology such as environmental ethics, science ethics, and technology ethics.