



Biodiversity is our past, present, and future

The web of life took millions of years to evolve
The variety and scope of life on Earth is both our inheritance and our responsibility, and the decisions people make affect this web of life

Only through understanding the relationships between species and their environments can we ensure that our decisions will preserve Earth's biodiversity for our children and grandchildren

Biodiversity—the variety of all forms of life, from genes and species to ecosystems—is our living natural heritage, our natural resource base