

## Biodiversity

An unrecoverable treasure

Biodiversity describes the variety of species, ecosystems and habitats. Systems can only be beneficial to humans if interaction between them works. Forests provide protection, for example, against flooding during heavy rains and regulate the water level, while mangroves ease the force of floods caused by storms. These are referred to as ecosystem services. But biodiversity is at risk because habitats are being destroyed or natural resources being over-used. Species are irretrievably lost and ecosystems thrown off balance as a result. To preserve biodiversity and safeguard its benefits for human beings over the long run, it is essential that habitats are protected and linked to one another.

### Context

It has not yet been possible to put a stop to species loss, rather it continues day by day. Climate change is likely to further accelerate the pace of this process. The recent report by the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IP-BES), published on May 6, 2019, paints a grim portrait of Earth's ecosystems. In response, the international community has passed various resolutions aimed at preserving biodiversity around the world: the UN Biodiversity Convention and the UN Sustainable Development Goals provide the political framework for this. Now that these ambitious targets have been adopted (such as halving the loss rate of valuable habitats by 2020), effective measures need to be taken to achieve them. To help partner countries meet their international obligations, during the Conference of the Parties to the UN Biodiversity Convention in Bonn in 2008, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel announced Germany's commitment to making EUR 500 million available every year

for the preservation of biodiversity starting in 2013. This pledge has been honoured since.

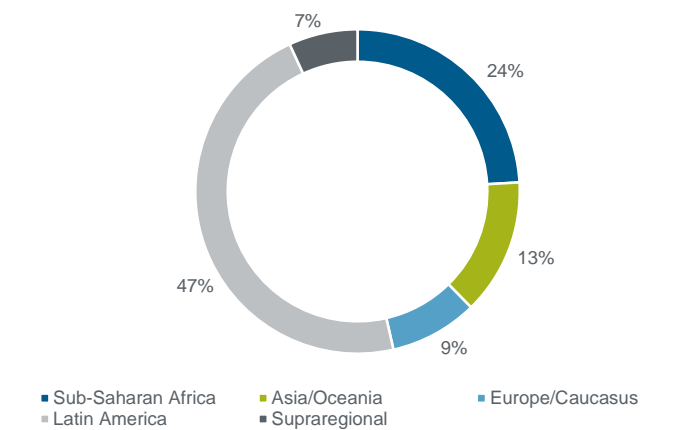
Outstanding natural treasures require special protection because they are part of a country's identity, culture, and history and because they benefit mankind. It is in everyone's interest to preserve the coral reefs in the Caribbean, the mountain gorillas in the eastern Congo, and the tropical forests of Sumatra for posterity. The best way to do so is by creating national protected areas. Germans' high regard for global nature conservation can largely be credited to the Frankfurt zoologist, Bernhard Grzimek. With TV series and films like "Serengeti darf nicht sterben" (Serengeti shall not die), he reached and influenced millions of people up to the 1980s. Since 2013, the KfW Foundation has therefore been awarding the KfW Bernhard Grzimek Prize. It honours people and organisations who contribute their creativity, energy, innovative drive or entrepreneurial activities to raising public awareness about biodiversity and preserving species diversity.

### The KfW development approach

Through KfW, Germany has become one of the world's largest donors to the conservation of global biological

### KfW commitments for biodiversity 2014-2018

Total: EUR 2.1 billion



Source: own data

diversity. KfW is currently supporting projects in 51 countries. Between 2014 and 2018 KfW committed a total of EUR 2.1 billion to projects for the conservation of biodiversity. At 46%, almost half of this amount benefits Latin America and the Caribbean, 24% Africa, 14% Asia and 9% Europe/Caucasus. Supra-regional projects receive 7% of the funds. In addition, KfW works intensively with non-governmental organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Frankfurt Zoological Society (ZGF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Their many years of project work have given them a great deal of experience in how nature conservation and sustainable economic growth can be intelligently combined.

As a rule, KfW pursues the goal of preserving natural habitats as extensively as possible. In nature conservation areas, which account for the majority of funds, the aim is to designate new areas, to improve the management of existing protected areas while taking the interests of local user groups into account, or to establish permanent financing mechanisms, thereby securing the protected areas as a whole in the long term. Further, KfW supports the sustainable management of natural resources, e.g. in forest management projects. Their aim is to create incentives for forest conservation, e.g. through remuneration systems such as those provided in the international REDD programme (REDD - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). The protection of marine ecosystems is also becoming increasingly important. Together with BMZ, KfW set up a new financing instrument in 2016, the Blue Action Fund, which is used to finance projects by non-governmental organisations for international marine conservation.



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Landscape in the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Source: Frankfurt Zoological Society

### Tanzania – Serengeti National Park

Tanzania has important ecosystems and populations of wild animals. Around 28 % of the country's land has the protected status. Tanzania's world famous natural environment, especially the Serengeti ecosystem with the national park of the same name, is a key factor in the country's tourism industry. It accounts for around 17 % of the Tanzanian gross domestic product and plays an important role in job creation.

The profits generated by the park, however, are not yet distributed equitably. Parts of the local population don't identify enough with the protection measures because they don't see any benefits from biodiversity protection. Poachers are not reported and professional; gang-based poaching in the region is fostered as a result. Dissatisfied sections of the population also drive herds of cattle into the national park. At the same time, the construction of a paved road that runs through the centre of the Serengeti has attracted support.

The FC measure is designed to help improve the economic and social infrastructure around the Serengeti, which in turn is intended to encourage people to be more involved in conservation and take more advantage of the benefits arising from the sustainable management of natural resources in the Serengeti ecosystem. In KfW's experience, this strategy will improve the living conditions in the neighbouring districts and thus help preserve biodiversity over the long run.