

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PODCAST “BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE”

Male: “What is biodiversity and why is it so important to conserve it? How can climate change influence you? Let's start by understanding this concept”.

Female: “Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat. Is a concept that includes all the living beings that live in an area, their relationship between themselves and with the natural environment where they develop, their ecosystem”.

Male: “The greater the number of species of animals and plants, the greater the number of ecosystems and, therefore, our biodiversity will be richer and more varied”.

Female: “Biodiversity is vital to the existence of the humans on Earth. It brings us everything we need to survive: food, air, water and raw materials. Is our greatest source of wealth. The more natural resources we have, the richer we will be”.

Expert: “It has a direct effect on our species and our ecosystems and therefore has a direct effect on life on the planet... This means the functioning of the water cycle, which operates the climate cycle, has a direct effect on Social welfare, affecting biodiversity also affect crops, special animals, animal species and a/so has a direct impact on the economy which leads to repercussions in our society”.

Female: “But what is the relationship between biodiversity and climate change? Let us first understand the double aspect of this influence”.

Male: “On the one hand, biodiversity is a very important too! in the fight against climate change, since it plays an irreplaceable role in regulating the climate, the water cycle and the absorption of carbon dioxide through photosynthesis by plants”.

Female: “On the other hand, climate change is in turn one of the main causes that drive the loss of biodiversity on Earth. Prolonged floods and droughts or rising temperatures cause irreparable damage to ecosystems and, therefore, our quality of life”.

Male: “Addressing climate change is essential to protect our biodiversity. Its strength fights precisely the effects of global warming. You must be asking yourself how you get it and how does biodiversity acts to protect our planet?”.

Female: “Plants, for example, through photosynthesis and transpiration, performing the functions of a huge filter and providing the necessary moisture to the environment. Thanks to photosynthesis, plants absorb CO₂, and expel precious oxygen into the air”.

Male: “This feature is so important that forests and forest lands now preserve as much carbon as exists in the whole atmosphere. In particular, the soils represent the largest store of terrestrial carbon. Although we should not forget that wetlands and oceans also absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen”.

Female: “The Vegetation Kingdom's job, of the wetlands, seas and oceans regulates the climate, in such a way that it diminishes the accumulation of the carbon dioxide, the gas that produces the greenhouse

effect, achieving a decrease of the temperatures. In turn, forests and jungles fix and enrich the terrain and attract rainfall”.

Male: “On the other hand, as already mentioned, the plants, through perspiration, expel water vapor into the atmosphere, which has been absorbed from the soil and will return to the earth in the form of rain. Also, the evaporation of water from oceans, reservoirs and wetlands produces the same effect, ensuring the continuation of water cycle”.

Female: “Drought periods and heat waves caused by climate change can make plants, soil and oceans not so effective in carrying out these functions, leading to biodiversity loss”.

Male: “This will mean that certain types of plants will disappear or regress in their habitat, and herbivorous animals will find it more difficult to find food, migrating to other areas in order to survive. According to scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if the temperature continues to rise, 30% of plant and animal species may become extinct”.

Female: “If this were to occur, it would absorb less CO₂, and there would be less water evaporation, which would accelerate climate change and the effects of warming”.

Male: “As a result of rising temperatures, crops will also be affected, to the point that agricultural production could fall by 2 percent every decade, throughout this century”.

Female: “Experts warn that essential crops such as wheat, rice and corn will be affected. And this will have negative impact in tropical and temperate regions. Imagine, in Central America, where foods so common to the survival of many communities like beans, coffee and bananas would be the most harmed by these alterations”.

Male: “The oceans will also be degraded by the increase of greenhouse gases. The waters will acidify and the life of crustaceans and coral reefs will be much more difficult and complicated. Many of them may disappear and their ecosystem will be affected. According to the NGO Oceana, a quarter of all marine species depend on coral reefs”.

Female: “Without any doubt the loss of biodiversity of the seas will also affect humans, since many of the marine species that provide us almost 20% of the animal proteins that we ingest would end up disappearing”.

Male: “It has even been detected that certain botanical species and some butterflies and birds have already moved to higher areas to combat the heat and to have better food”.

Female: “We must bear in mind that certain tree species will become more easily sick, weaker and smaller trees will die, and others will show less growth. Even the salmon will not be able to spawn because it will not find waters with the proper temperature to safeguard its species”.

Male: “The fight against climate change can become a great opportunity to protect biodiversity, not forgetting that our ecosystems must also adapt to the predicted lack of water or excess heat”.

Male: “It is also important to tackle the energy transition to abandon the consumption of fossil fuels and transform our linear economy, into a circular one, where waste may be recycled and transform back into action”.

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Female: “This way we will save energy, water and raw materials used to produce new products which in many cases deplete our natural resources”.

Male: “But we should be optimistic, because surely the solutions proposed will boost an economy that protects biodiversity and helps us fight against climate change and global warming”.

