



# The Biodiversity of India

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The over 45,000 plant and 77,000 animal species that have been recorded in India make up 7 per cent of the total plant and 6.4 per cent of the animal species found in the world. The enormous variation in landscapes based on climate and topography has created different ecosystems that support and nurture this biodiversity, which is among the country's most distinctive features. From the majestic Himalayas in the North to the lush tropics of the South, the precious natural resources of the subcontinent are found in forest, grassland, desert and semi-arid, island, coastal belt and marine ecosystems.

Industrialisation and modern ways of life are pillaging these resources and posing a monumental threat to the natural world. It is estimated that as many as 50 per cent of the earth's species are likely to become extinct during the next two decades. With 1300 photographs, 400 illustrations, five animations, 21 videoclips and 26 bird calls captured in 62 of India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, which are among 566 protected areas that cover only 4.6 per cent of the country, this educational CD-ROM provides an interactive experience on biodiversity answering important questions like-How is biodiversity degraded? Why do we need to conserve it? An informative booklet provides detailed information on biodiversity and conservation in India. Includes CD-ROM.