

The value of biological diversity¹

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Keywords: biodiversity, indirect value, direct value, nature conservation, aesthetic value, medical value, diversity of options, freedom, liberty

Abstract

As nature is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for biodiversity, I do not investigate: Why is nature as such ethically valuable? But: Why is *diverse* nature ethically valuable? First, I show that biological diversity will eventually have an indirect value, if nature is valuable, and that this is too little. Then I argue against an argument which defends the aesthetic value of biodiversity. After that I shortly defend the medical value of biodiversity. In the main part I argue that biodiversity – except in some parts – has a value because it supports freedom.

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¹ Publication: Schepers, Gesine (2010): Der Wert biologischer Vielfalt. In: Bundesamt für Naturschutz (ed.): Treffpunkt Biologische Vielfalt IX. Aktuelle Forschung im Rahmen des Übereinkommens über die biologische Vielfalt vorgestellt auf einer wissenschaftlichen Expertentagung an der Internationalen Naturschutzakademie Insel Vilm vom 24.-28. August 2009. BfN-Skripten 265. Bonn, p. 189 - 197.