

# The Ecological Society of America

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## RESOLUTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

WHEREAS, biological diversity is an important component of the functioning of ecosystems, provides raw materials, products, and ideas for human civilization, and provides pleasure and emotional well-being for many;

WHEREAS, the Earth's biological diversity is now being reduced at a rate without precedent in human history and this rate appears likely to increase greatly over the next several decades;

WHEREAS, the deterioration of the Earth's biological diversity is a significant concern of scientists, and a serious problem for humanity;

WHEREAS, The United States is being asked to take a leadership role internationally, but does not have a Federal policy toward conservation of biological diversity;

WHEREAS, scientific understanding of the components of biological diversity must be increased for their conservation and sustainable utilization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Ecological Society of America asks the Congress of the United States to approve legislation that will:

1) make the conservation of biological diversity a national goal and a national priority;

2) require biological diversity to be a paramount consideration in land-use planning;

3) support efforts to develop a coherent scientific program for research on biological diversity;

4) put scientific knowledge to use in developing a Federal Biodiversity Strategy by coordinating the policy efforts of federal agencies;

5) increase support for public education on the importance of preserving biodiversity.

Adopted by the membership of the Ecological Society of America at the Business Meeting, 17 August 1988.