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Proceedings

The continued growth of human populations and of per capita consumption has resulted in unsustainable exploitation of global biological diversity, exacerbated by climate change, ocean acidification, and other anthropogenic environmental impacts. Therefore, the effective conservation of biodiversity is essential for human survival and the maintenance of ecosystem processes. Despite some conservation successes especially at local scales and increasing public and government interest in living sustainably, biodiversity continues to decline. There are few data on the status, trends, or functional importance of microbes, invertebrates, and many plant groups, or of wild genetic diversity. How different components of biodiversity contribute and relate to the provision of services or create resilience to environmental change is poorly understood. Existing knowledge, often including extensive traditional knowledge, is generally underused in decision-making at local, national, and international levels. There is an urgent need both to learn from practical experience and to disseminate research findings to practitioners. In addition, scientific capacity is not equally shared across the globe, and in particular is concentrated in rich developed countries rather than in the regions that face the most substantial challenges to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. However, this proceeding will be of interest to students and researchers of conservation biology, ecology and environment.

Conservation strategies also seek to educate and improve the lives of local children. Ultimately, local people must benefit from healthy ecosystems.
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