



# How the notion of biodiversity changes life sciences

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# Introduction: Is biodiversity just a buzzword?

There are strategical & educational uses of biodiversity  
but  
the notion changes life sciences

## Outline

- I. The framing of biodiversity**
- II. Its influence on life sciences**



# I. The framing of biodiversity

1. Biodiversity encompasses all life forms and organization levels
2. Biodiversity and humans have ambivalent relationships
  - Human activities = generally harmful, potentially beneficial
  - Biodiversity = indispensable to humanity
3. Biodiversity is the provisional outcome of a complex and agitated history and is currently at risk
4. We know little but still enough to take action



## II. Consequences on the life scientists' work

1. From small science to big science
2. From fundamental science to operational and actionable science
  - Modelling and scenario-building
  - Researching conservation issues
  - Becoming involved in science-policy interfaces
3. Towards a more collaborative science
  - Interdisciplinarity
    - Within life sciences
    - Between life and social sciences
  - Transdisciplinarity
    - With nature managers
    - With amateurs
4. Towards a neoliberal science?



# Conclusion

- Biodiversity changes what it is to be a life scientist.
- But it leaves many options open.
- Need and room for a diversity of approaches
- Important choices to be made, individually and collectively
- Other ways of doing life sciences also have virtues in an era of biodiversity loss.

Thank you for your attention!

