

## Mini-Deliberation

### Are Connections between Cultural Diversity and Biological Diversity Significant for Policy?

*Background:* There is growing evidence that cultural diversity is linked to biological diversity, as the decline in both is correlated.<sup>1</sup> There is also evidence that indigenous populations in many parts of the world have been effective in preserving biodiversity. For example, in the Brazilian Amazon indigenous lands are a more effective barrier to deforestation than parks, regardless of the density of these populations.<sup>2</sup> However, these observations have rarely been spelled out in systematic policy frameworks for relating these two forms of diversity in pursuing sustainable development.

We would like to know your view about the notion that biodiversity and cultural diversity are interdependent and a key aspect of sustainable development. Please discuss the following questions at your table for ~30 minutes and mark your individual responses as indicated. In the last ~10 minutes of our session, please *develop a brief statement individually or as a group* about a specific situation where the connection of cultural and biological diversity is important, and/or a brief proposal for integrating them in policy. Please write your statement on 4X6" note cards that will be distributed at your table. If you choose to include your name(s) we may follow up with you for further ideas as we design this segment of WWViews on Biodiversity.

Thank you!

To what extent do you believe cultural diversity is a critical factor in successfully addressing biodiversity loss? (circle one) a. not at all b. somewhat c. very

Is this issue important for addressing biodiversity loss in the United States? (circle one)  
a. not at all b. somewhat c. very

At what level of governance would the integration of biological and cultural diversity be most effective? (circle one) a. local (municipal – county) b. regional (watershed) c. state  
d. national e. all levels

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<sup>1</sup> L. Maffi, 2005. Linguistic, cultural and biological diversity. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 34: 599-617

<sup>2</sup> L. Gorenflo et al., 2012. Co-occurrence of linguistic and biodiversity in biodiversity hotspots and high biodiversity wilderness areas. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 109: 8021-8037.