

Biodiversity is connected to so much more than we can ever think. It provides us with medical and pharmaceutical medications, agriculture, construction, fashion, tourism, and hospitality. Diversity can be categorized into many categories, from diversity of regions, to variety of ecosystems, and also can mean genetic diversity. Biodiverse areas are generally stronger and more resistant to disaster and disease. So if we stopped our monoculture society of growing just one thing then we wouldn't need the chemical pesticides and fertilizers that poison us and the environment. We are allowing a mass extinction to occur due to our carelessness. Creating pollution, overfishing, and destruction. Creating protected areas for wildlife to thrive, collecting seed reserves and working with nature like in the film *My Africa* by Conservation International is an essential tool to making sure that the diversity that provides for us is saved before it's too late. We have lost, for ecosystem services from 1997 to 2011, approximately \$4.3–20.2 trillion/yr. This is huge. If we invest our money now we won't be losing so much money later. Having things like the seed food bank will make sure that the diversity in the plant field isn't destroyed. If we end up in a situation where multiple plants die at once, then we will be able to supply ourselves for years to come. The idea that 75% of our food is made of just a dozen crops and five animal species, this leaves supplies very vulnerable to disaster. If just one of these crops goes down I can only imagine how much hunger people might be stuck with and for sure the economy would be devastated. What I find really ironic is the idea that most business investors choose to ignore the importance of nature. They truly don't understand how nature affects their markets and money. I'm happy to say that I live in an area that has such diverse ecosystems and species. Many of the species can only be found here because California is a hotspot of amazing diversity. That's why it's called the California Floristic Province. Here are some of the ecosystems in my county alone:



