



**Biodiversity is life  
Biodiversity is our life.**

## Biodiversity in your garden

By Jeanie Clark

Starting website: <http://www.cbd.int/2010>  
(Education manual: [iyb-waza-manual-en.pdf](#))

### What is biodiversity?

The logo and theme for this international year (at the above website) provide a starting place for considering:

- the meaning of the term
- what features it covers
- what relationships there are between these
- how we humans fit into biodiversity.
- How much biodiversity matters

### How diverse is my garden?

There could be a number of approaches, for example:

Go for a walk around your garden to find out its lifeforms. Look for the big groups of living things that are present. For example: mosses, grasses, shrubs, trees, evergreens, deciduous, mammals, birds, frogs, insects, snails, worms, and bacteria!

Later you can learn their common names.

### With younger children, collect samples of plants.

Sticky tape leaves/flowers/gumnuts onto a big poster.

Talk about their shapes and sizes and their greens and textures.

What do these plants produce?.

Observe if creatures use them in any ways.

Add to the poster, including common names.

### If older, what more can you learn about what lives here?

Observe and record birds so you can identify them later and be able to name them in future. Find out what they need to live?

If you want to encourage them as visitors or residents, what could you change in your garden to make it more attractive to them?

Plan it, consider any side effects that may negatively impact on other species, then do it!



Observe and record repeatedly over time.

### Rate the biodiversity is in your garden.

How sustainable is your garden's biodiversity?

Are you happy with the level of biodiversity, given the wider environment your garden is in?

Look for how you can improve its biodiversity.

If it is poor, is there anything you can do to improve it?

If you can't, what can you do to keep what you have?

### Share this biodiversity with others

Communicate what your garden has to offer in its biodiversity: talk, and be creative, draw, paint, write, photograph what you like.

### Follow your own trail

Now you know what life is in your garden, and the role your garden's biodiversity plays as part of your life, where can you go to next in environmental education for your children in this IY of Biodiversity?

Have fun and go there!

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As the International Year of Biodiversity unfolds there will be many resources available at <http://www.cbd.int/2010/resources/>