

## **BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE**

### **A. Definitions**

1. Genetic Diversity
2. Species Diversity
  - a) what is a species?
  - b) how many species are there?
  - c) species extinction

### **B. Causes of Today's Extinctions**

1. Habitat Destruction
2. Pollution
3. Introduction of Foreign Species
4. Overuse of Plants and Animals and Resources

### **C. Value of Biodiversity**

1. Foundation of Agriculture and Forestry
2. Source of medicines and drugs
3. Provide Ecosystem Services
4. Aesthetics and Recreation

## 5. Ethical Considerations

- a) anthropocentric
- b) biocentric

## **D. Maintaining Species Diversity**

### 1. Legislation

### 2. Wildlife Refuges

### 3. Saving Individual Species

- a) gene banks
- b) zoos
- c) botanical gardens
- d) aquariums

### 4. Whole Ecosystems