Regulation of the climate
Forests help to regulate the climate

Purification of the air
Plants retain greenhouse gases and contaminant particles in the air

Regulation and water purification
Forests on riverbanks provide natural protection against flooding

Water regulation and purification
Many plants are able to purify water, retaining contaminating particles

Water regulation and purification
Ecosystems help to retain, filter and purify water

Erosion prevention
Tree roots hold the soil and prevent erosion and desertification
Erosion prevention
A forest is an effective wind break and prevents wind erosion

Erosion prevention
Mangroves protect the coasts from the effects of hurricanes

Pollination
Without bees and other insects we would not enjoy the variety of fruit we eat

Conservation of habitats for singular species
Cloud forests are the only place where mountain gorillas live

Conservation of habitats for singular species
Without the Mediterranean forest the Iberian Lynx would disappear
Soil fertility
Lichen and moss begin to break down the rock to create incipient soil.

Soil fertility
The fallen leaves from trees, dead wood, and the tireless work of fungi and micro-organisms fertilise the soil.

Food
All of our food comes from nature.

Food
Certain animals are domesticated for meat, milk, eggs, etc.

Raw materials
Wood is used for furniture, construction of houses, ships, etc.

Raw materials
Coal, gas and oil, currently essential to generate energy, are the result of the biodiversity of the Earth.
Raw materials
Cotton, esparto, el lino, silk, wool...are natural fibres we use in our daily lives

Genetic variety
Peru is the country with the greatest variety of potatoes in the world, with 8 cultivated native species and 2,301 of the over 4,000 varieties in Latin America.

Genetic variety
The cow of Guadarrama is one of the Avila breeds native to the Guadarrama mountains

Genetic variety
There are over 10,000 varieties of Oryza sativa, a basic food in Asia and a large part of Latin America. It is commonly called rice

Natural medicines
The bark of the Willow tree is a rich source of a product called acetylsalicylic acid, the origin of aspirin

Natural medicines
60% of the global population depends directly on plants for the production of medicines
Natural medicines
Penicillin was developed from a bacteria accidentally discovered by Dr. Fleming.

Environmental education
Nature classrooms, Visitor centres, routes in protected spaces help people to know and be aware of the importance of biodiversity.

Environmental education
The Network of Environmental Education Centres of the Community of Madrid allows people to know the most unique ecosystems in the region.

Scientific knowledge
A large number of marine organisms are being investigated to cure cancer.

Scientific knowledge
BIOMIMETICS is the study of nature as a source of inspiration. For example, the design of modern bathing suits is based on shark skin.

Identity, culture and belonging
The lakes of Covadonga are a special place in the memory and history of Asturians.
Identity, culture and belonging

The first schools of rock climbing in Spain were created in the Guadarrama mountains.

Spirituality

The Gran Himalaya is a very important place for Hinduism.

Spirituality

The Montserrat Natural Park is a Christian monastery with ancient hermitages that have been pilgrimage sites since the 14th century.

Spirituality

In Madagascar, some local villagers believe their ancestors inhabit the local trees, water and rocks.

Aesthetic enjoyment

Niagara Falls, the Sahara desert, Antarctica... are some of the places that overwhelm us with their natural beauty.

Aesthetic enjoyment

Many artists look for inspiration in nature.
Recreation activities and tourism in nature
Each time we go for a walk in nature, ride a horse, go camping or skiing... we use (directly or indirectly) ecosystems

Ecotourism or ecological tourism seeks a balance between conservation and sustainable development.

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