



### **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



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### **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



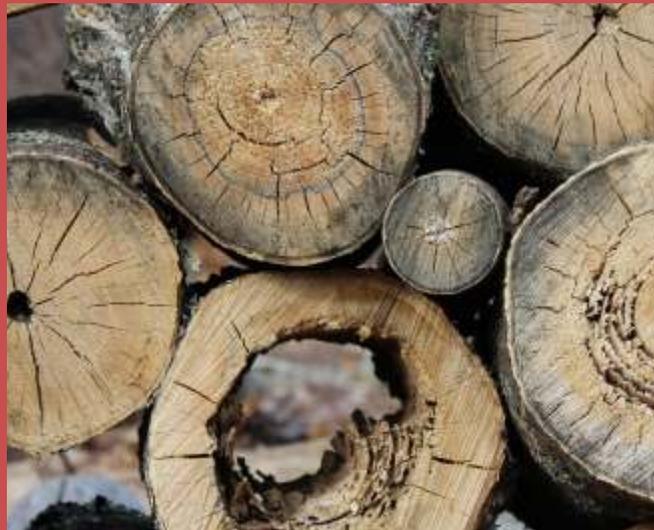
### **Food**

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



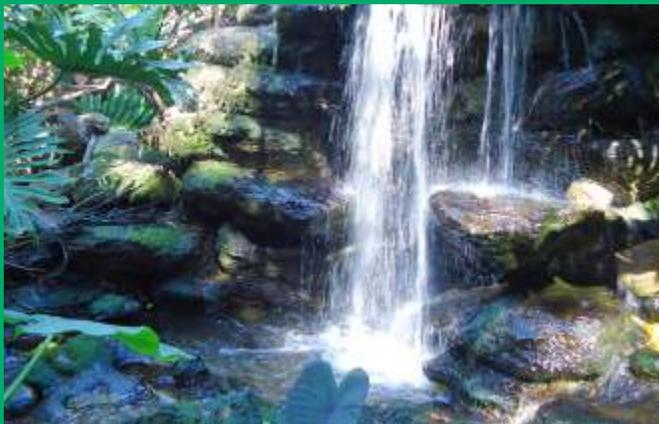
### Spirituality

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



## Recreation activities and tourism in nature

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



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