



Biodiversity is essential to the quality of human well-being. It is a crucial element to sustain the social, economic and spiritual life of all people. But the rural poor often suffer most from the effects of environmental degradation, as they depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods, and they often have little opportunity to adapt.

In low-income countries, 25% of the total wealth generated is directly linked to resources provided by the environment. Yet, the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005 and of the Global Biodiversity Outlook in 2006 highlight that most ecosystems, the services they render and the biodiversity they support, are being eroded. For example, over 99% of incidences of unsafe water

biodiversity should be set explicitly as a priority in the objectives of

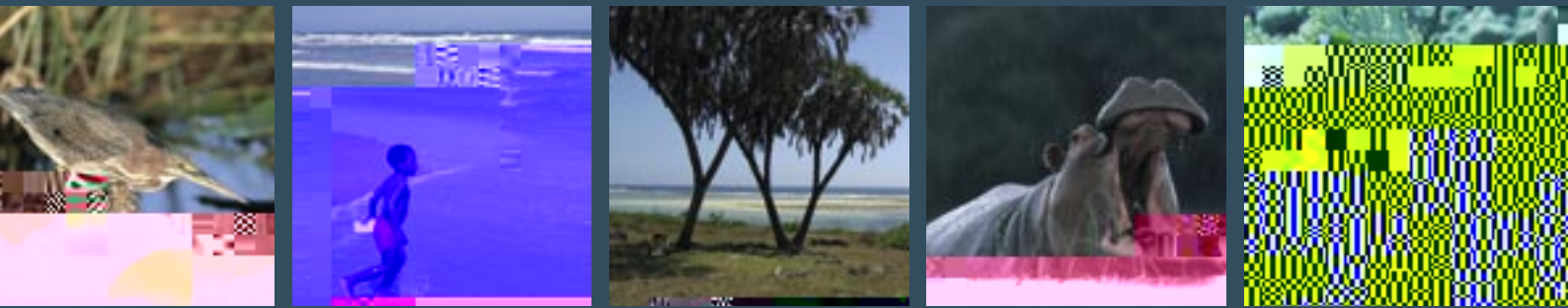


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