



As part of our vision to be a positive force for change, we've produced a series of factsheets to help our customers better understand sustainability issues, and what we're doing about them.

Overview

Biodiversity is the term given to the wide range of living species – animals, plants, fungi, marine life, and micro-organisms, as well as the ecosystems they inhabit. The 'diversity' angle covers not only the varieties of species that exist, but genetic diversity within species and the diversity of ecosystems themselves. Biodiversity is essential for the health of ecosystems (which are the basis of all life, food and more!) – so its conservation should be a global priority. Biodiversity is absolutely essential, as it provides:

- Ecosystem stability – the more diverse an ecosystem, the more readily it can recover from challenges (e.g. extreme weather, disease, pollution, etc.)
- Ecosystem services – e.g. pollination of crops, clean air, pest control, regulation of climate
- Genetic resources – nature has been, and continues to be a source of material for medicines and biotech innovations
- Economic benefits – of fishing, agriculture, tourism etc.
- Aesthetics and culture – nature is needed for mental health, relaxation, holidays, art, sports etc.

The above are all needed to humans, but all species have a right to exist, so there's a moral obligation too.

What's the problem?

Food production has driven many aspects of biodiversity loss, through:

- **Overfishing**
Many species are overfished and are now threatened, plus fishing methods such as trawling can be very damaging to the seabed and other species
- **Over consumption of meat**
As more land is needed to cultivate the animal feed, and as grazing, so forests and grasslands are converted to farmland, so habitats are lost
- **Destruction of hedgerows**
To create more and more farmland – which destroys habitats
- **Palm oil and soya production**
Driving deforestation, to create farmland
- **Overuse of fertilisers and pesticides**
As farming gets more and more intensive, so our reliance on fertilisers and pesticides grows, and it becomes a vicious cycle as soil degrades.

Regenerative farming aims to address many of the above problems, so why not take a look at our regenerative farming factsheet?

Our Vision

To be the best foodservice provider
and a positive force for change

because we care about...

- OUR PEOPLE
- OUR PLANET
- OUR CUSTOMERS
- OUR COMMUNITIES
- OUR PRINCIPLES

Our targets and plans

Biodiversity is really challenging to measure, as it varies geographically, seasonally and by species characteristic. The rate of biodiversity loss is happening faster than the world's response to it, so this area is by no means as evolved as areas such as carbon emissions, but we have various measures in place:

- **Continuing our active participation in UK Hospitality sustainability expert group in biodiversity**, facilitating dialogues with our suppliers and other food organisations that are active in this area, to try and create some meaningful biodiversity measures for the foodservice sector
- **Continuing our approach of setting product policies in areas where there is known environmental degradation**, for example, overfishing (we have a fish sourcing policy), and deforestation (we have palm and soya policies), where it is commercially possible to do so. Please see other factsheets for details on individual policies and our progress in these areas.
- **Growing our understanding of supplier activity in this area-** we're currently scoping out our approach to this, working with our sister company Bidfresh, to establish best practice

What can you do?

This will depend on your business model and customer base; try to only offer fish that's rated 1-3 by the Marine Conservation Society (4 and 5 ratings are for most threatened species).

Our product sourcing policies for palm, soya, fish etc. cover all our own brand products.

For coffee, try to buy products with accreditations (e.g. Rainforest Alliance) and consider decreasing the proportion of animal-derived products in your menus.

Share your feedback

We hope you find this fact sheet helpful, we'd love your feedback using the QR code or by clicking [here](#)

