

**BONN.**

# A Global Biodiversity Research Hub

## Where Science Drives Global Change

Bonn is a leading hub for biodiversity research, offering an exceptional combination of excellent research facilities, international organizations, major United Nations Agencies, and thus also proximity to global policy actors. Researchers based in Bonn contribute directly to tackling global challenges — from biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation to sustainable land use and climate adaptation.

## Research Excellence and Global Relevance

The **Bonn Research Alliance (BORA)** brings together leading institutions dedicated to interdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer on urgent global issues, including biodiversity and environmental change.

At its core is the **University of Bonn**, one of Germany's top research universities. With strong units such as the **Center for Development Research (ZEF)** and the **Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation (INRES)**, the university conducts pioneering work on international sustainable development, sustainable land use, ecosystems and resource protection. The **Bonner Institut für Organismische Biologie (BIOB)** conducts foundational research on the biology, behavior, and ecology of organisms in natural systems. At the heart of Bonn, the **Botanical Gardens** serve as both a living research infrastructure and a center for education, conservation, and species preservation. The university also hosts the **Transdisciplinary Research Area "Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Futures"**, a key platform for integrative sustainability science focusing on food, climate, and health.

Further enhancing this ecosystem is **Campus Klein-Altendorf (CKA)**, the University of Bonn's experimental site for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity. It combines ecological research with practice, such as cultivating diverse crops that support pollinators and developing biodiversity-friendly farming methods. Innovative features like solar-heated greenhouses, biomass heating, and an insect garden for wild bees showcase how agricultural landscapes can actively foster biodiversity.

## Institutions at the Biodiversity Frontier

Several BORA institutions focus explicitly on biodiversity. The **Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change (LIB)**,

**Museum Koenig** specializes in species discovery, systematics, and public science communication in the unique Research Museum Koenig. **LIB** also plays an important role in supplying data and expertise to conservation policies while engaging the public. The **German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)** focuses on environmental governance, while **bicc (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies)** investigates environmental drivers of conflict and resource governance. The **United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)** researches ecosystem resilience, linking biodiversity to human vulnerability. These BORA institutions collaborate in joint research initiatives and capacity-building, and engage in science-policy dialogues.



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## Locally connected, globally relevant

Given the exceptionally high concentration of local, regional, national and international players in the field of biodiversity research and conservation, the **Biodiversity Network Bonn/Rhein-Sieg (BION e.V.)** was established to link researchers, educators, and practitioners in the region, fostering collaboration across research, conservation, and policy implementation. Being led by colleagues from the University of Bonn, the Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS) and LIB, this network strengthens Bonn's status as a biodiversity hub.



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## From Science to Policy

Bonn and its scientific landscape stand out as a place where scientific research directly shapes international environmental policy. With the presence of key UN secretariats — including the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** — as well as the German **IPBES Coordination Office**, the city functions as a vital bridge between knowledge and action.

Bonn-based researchers regularly contribute to major global activities, e.g. through expert reports of the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** and delegations to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD)**. Institutions such as **IDOS** and **UNU-EHS** advise international policy, participate in and observe negotiation processes, and ensure that scientific knowledge informs sustainable solutions.



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