



**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**

c/o German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina  
Halle (Saale), Germany  
[www.globalyoungacademy.net](http://www.globalyoungacademy.net)

Press Officer: [James.Curtiss@globalyoungacademy.net](mailto:James.Curtiss@globalyoungacademy.net)

**NEWS RELEASE**

**4 January 2018**

## **GLOBAL YOUNG ACADEMY ISSUES POSITION STATEMENT ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

A significant proportion of the world's estimated ten million species of fungi, plants, and animals are at risk of extinction. To help address this problem, a group of young scientists has formed the working group [Biodiversity for Survival via Biomedicine](#) (Bio2Bio), which is a global, cross-disciplinary initiative to support scientists working to prevent the loss of biodiversity.

As part of these efforts, the [Bio2Bio](#) group has recently published a Position Statement titled '[Global Young Academy Position Statement on Conservation of Biodiversity: Protecting Molecular Diversity and Biomedical Discoveries](#)', which outlines key challenges and possible avenues for solving them.

The preservation of biodiversity highlighted by this Statement is perhaps the single most important building block for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations, for example, Zero Hunger, (SDG-2), Climate Action (SDG-13), Life below Water, (SDG-14), and Life on Land (SDG-15).

According to [Bio2Bio](#) Group Leader [Milica Pešić](#), 'This Statement calls upon action from the perspective of the biomedical value of Earth's species, and biodiversity for the survival of humankind.'

Mirroring this sentiment, a portion of the statement reads as follows: 'The GYA believes that collecting, curating, and disseminating knowledge on biodiversity as it relates to the treatment of human diseases will promote the conservation of bio- and molecular diversity while creating the international cooperation needed to safeguard well-being for all communities.'

The [Bio2Bio](#) working group is an good example of such cooperation, as it focuses on protecting the molecular diversity needed for novel biomedical discoveries and development through the following activities: creating open interdisciplinary international dialogue; establishing best practices and codes of conduct; promoting the

fair and equitable sharing of benefits obtained from drug discoveries among stakeholders; and standardizing high-capacity biological assays to test natural products against cell-based disease models.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, output from group members recently appeared in *The Journal of Global Health*, which published a viewpoint article titled '[Biodiversity, drug discovery, and the future of global health: Introducing the biodiversity to biomedicine consortium, a call to action](#)'.

For more information on biodiversity conservation, or to schedule an interview with any of the [Bio2Bio](#) participants, please contact GYA Press Officer James Curtiss at [James.Curtiss@globalyoungacademy.net](mailto:James.Curtiss@globalyoungacademy.net).

### **About the Global Young Academy**

The Global Young Academy (GYA) was founded in 2010 with the vision to be the voice of young scientists around the world. The GYA empowers early-career researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogue by developing and mobilising talent from six continents. The GYA's purpose is to promote reason and inclusiveness in global decision-making. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and commitment to service. Currently, there are 200 members and 134 alumni from 70 countries. The GYA is hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and received its seed funding from the Volkswagen Foundation. Since 2014, the GYA has been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and supported by the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). The GYA also benefits from project-specific funding from a variety of donors and partners.