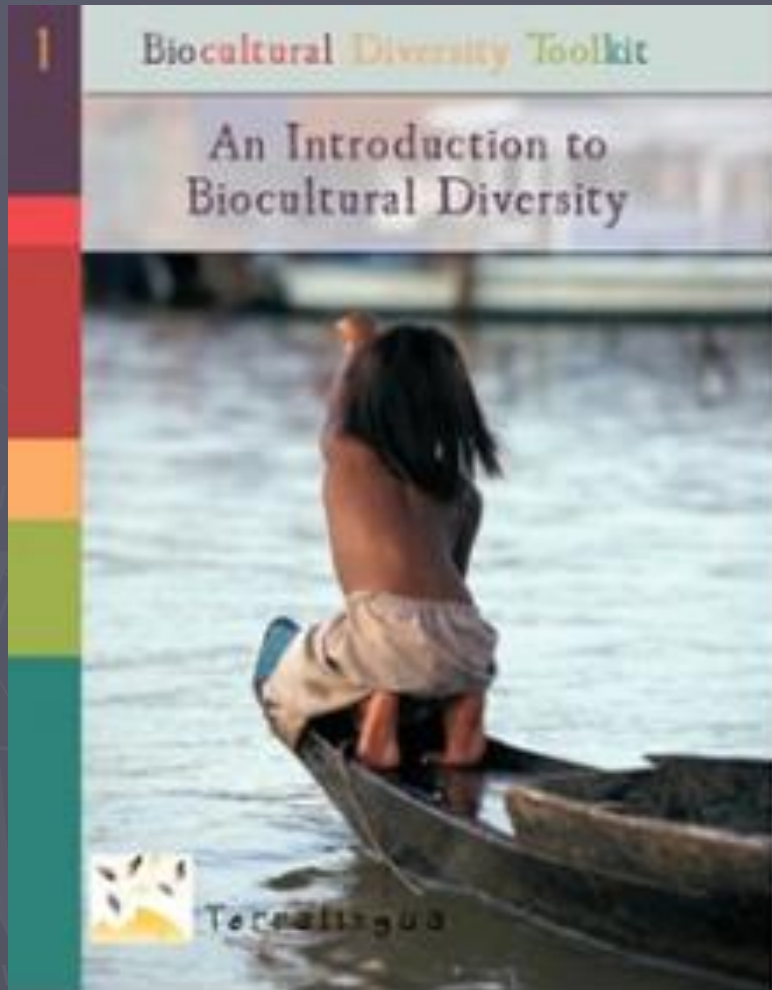
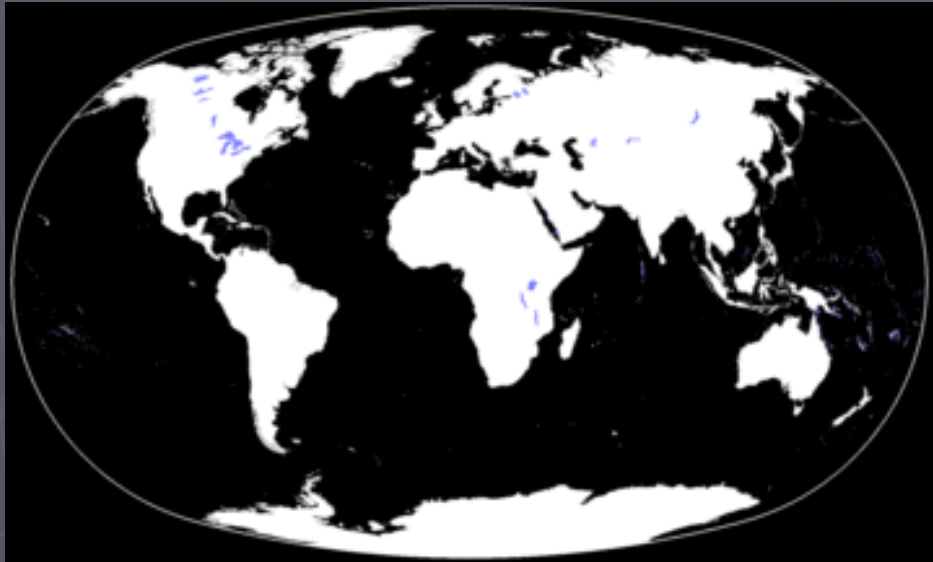


A look at diversity



- ▶ Biocultural Diversity
- ▶ Diversity in all its manifestations
- ▶ Three elements:
 - ▶ Biological
 - ▶ Cultural
 - ▶ Linguistic

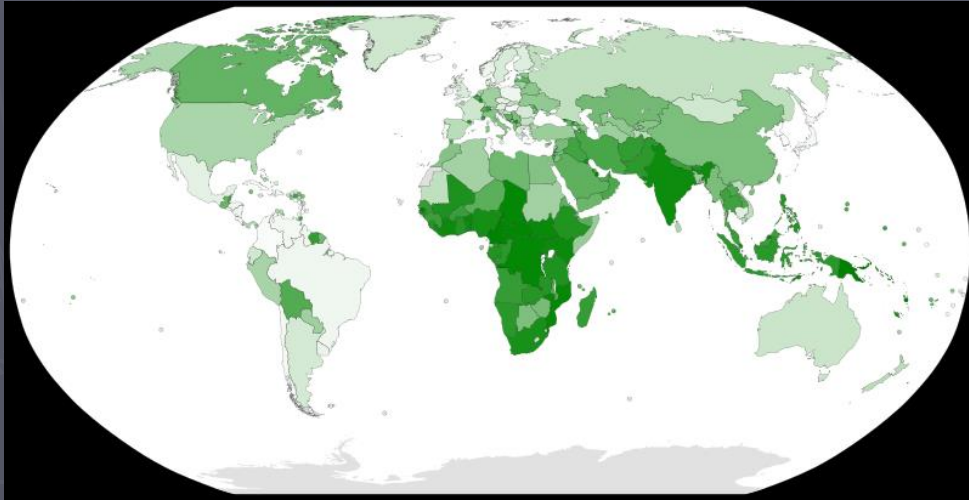
How many countries?



Approximately 200

- ▶ Africa: 54
- ▶ Asia: 50
- ▶ Americas: 25
- ▶ Australia/Oceania: 14
- ▶ Europe: 51

Linguistic Diversity: How many languages?

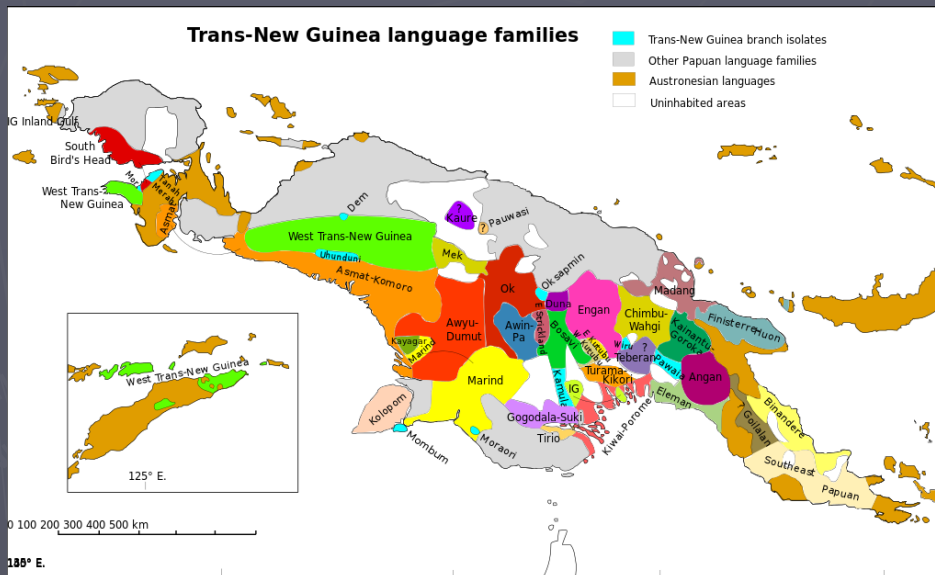


Approximately 6,500

- ▶ Africa: 31%
- ▶ Asia: 34%
- ▶ Americas: 14%
- ▶ Australia/Oceania: 18%
- ▶ Europe: 3%

Countries with most languages

- ▶ Papua New Guinea
- ▶ Indonesia
- ▶ Nigeria
- ▶ India
- ▶ China
- ▶ Mexico
- ▶ Cameroon



Languages with most speakers



- ▶ Mandarin (918m)
- ▶ Spanish (480m)
- ▶ English (379m)
- ▶ Hindi (341m)
- ▶ Bengali (228m)
- ▶ Portuguese (221m)
- ▶ Russian (154m)

Definitions of Culture

“that *complex whole* which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”

Edward Tylor (1871)

“Culture is a fuzzy set of basic assumptions and values, orientations to life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioural conventions that are shared by a group of people...”

Helen Spencer-Oatey (2012)

Cultural Diversity: How many cultures?



“How many different cultures there are in the world is difficult to quantify, because cultural boundaries are permeable, and many cultural traits overlap across multiple social groups.” Luisa Maffi

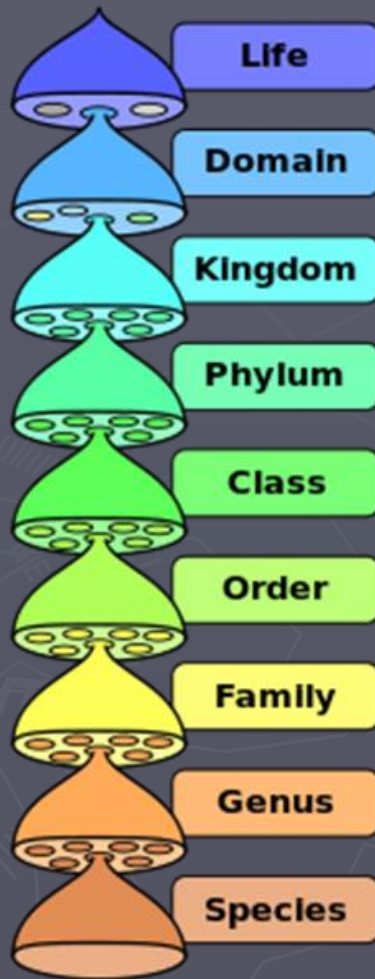
Languages and Cultures



- ▶ Hereditary information is transmitted through the genes
- ▶ Cultural information is transmitted through learning, but:
- ▶ Our *capacity* to learn is genetically transmitted
- ▶ We are naturally “born to learn”

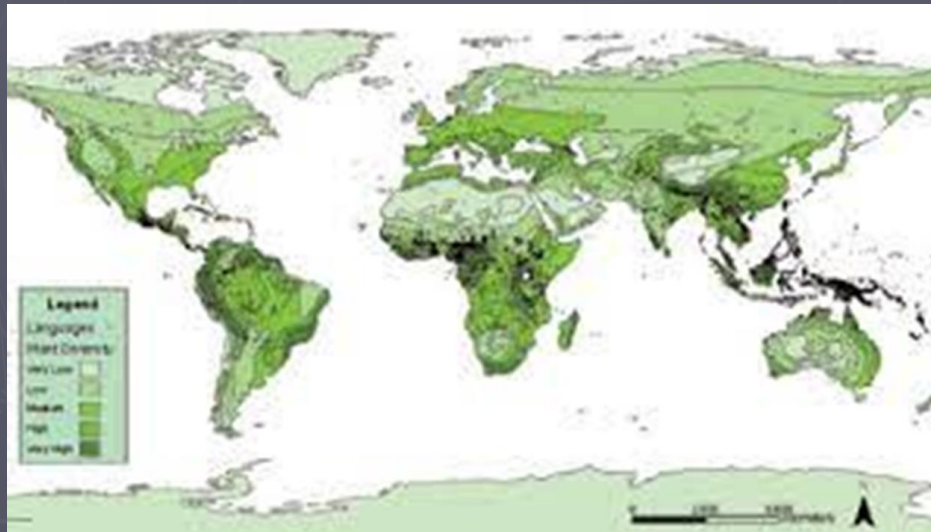
Biodiversity:

How many species?



- ▶ Mammals: 6,500
- ▶ Amphibians: 6,500
- ▶ Reptiles: 9,000
- ▶ Birds: 10,000
- ▶ Fishes: 30,000
- ▶ Insects: 1,000,000
- ▶ Plants: 300,000
- ▶ Fungi: 100,000

Common Threats to Diversity



- ▶ Languages: 40%
- ▶ Amphibians: 40%
- ▶ Conifers: 33%
- ▶ Reef Corals: 33%
- ▶ Mammals: 25%
- ▶ Reptiles: 19%
- ▶ Birds: 14%
- ▶ Heritage Sites: 5%

Linguistic Diversity: Does it matter?



- ▶ Multilingualism:
curse or blessing?
- ▶ Monolingualism:
curse or blessing?
- ▶ Equality of
opportunity, or an
act of linguistic
vandalism?

Conclusion



- ▶ A specifically human communication system
- ▶ Enables transmission of cultural information
- ▶ Comes in a wide variety of forms
- ▶ Changes through time and space
- ▶ Shares parallels with other forms of diversity