

INFORMATION PAPER
DOD BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

In 1995, DoD joined with The Nature Conservancy and the Keystone Center to explore the issue of biodiversity management on military lands. In a major national policy dialogue, more than 60 military trainers/operators, natural resource managers, representatives of other Federal and State management agencies, and several private sector interests, discussed the importance of biodiversity conservation on military lands and how to integrate it successfully with requirements of the military mission. The Initiative, which has just been completed, produced three major documents:

- * A Keystone Center Policy Dialogue on a DoD Biodiversity Management Strategy. This report contains recommendations for integrating biodiversity conservation activities that are compatible with the military mission.
- * A DoD Commander's Guide to Biodiversity. This brochure provides key DoD decision makers with a summary of the importance of biodiversity conservation, and how it can be successfully integrated with military mission requirements.
- * A Handbook for Natural Resource Managers: Conserving Biodiversity on Military lands. The Handbook, which will be released in October, provides DoD natural resource managers with background information and practical guidance they will need to practice biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management.

This Initiative represents the new generation of resource stewardship that requires military operators and natural resource managers to work together to find management solutions that optimize both operational objectives and natural resource management objectives.

DISCUSSION

Although the Handbook was prepared specifically for DoD land managers, TNC provided copies to its land managers as well. Other Federal agencies, including Interior and Agriculture, have also benefited from this document.