

# Biodiversity— RIGHT NOW!

You'll find it everywhere—from the largest ocean to the smallest puddle, from the densest forest to the driest desert. It marches in vast parades across the African savanna and lurks in the merest pinch of city-lot soil. It's a living bank account, providing the 'capital' that underlies all human enterprise and prosperity. And its beauty, abundance, and complexity continually fascinate and inspire us—as it has since the first flicker of human consciousness more than 1.5 million years ago. What it is, is biodiversity—the wonderful variety of life on Earth.

**Biodiversity—Right Now!** is a lively new traveling exhibition that will tell the important story of biodiversity using science, humor, and creativity. Developed by World Wildlife Fund and a creative team including Jeff Kennedy and Associates, the Institute for Learning Innovation, Aardman Animations (the folks who created Wallace and Gromit™), and Billy B. (an environmental singer and entertainer), this interactive exhibition highlights the urgency of the issues and how the public can get engaged. Supported by the National Science Foundation and the Mars Foundation, *Biodiversity—Right Now!* will begin traveling to science centers, zoos, aquariums, and museums in 2001.

The centerpiece of this 2,000-square-foot exhibition will be the Biodiversity Object Theater, a three-screen, multimedia introduction to biodiversity. Set in a hospital ER, the theater experience will introduce visitors to the world of biodiversity through the eyes of a diverse crew of animated characters. The characters will be wheeled in on stretchers and, through witty dialogue, video clips, and special effects, explain what biodiversity is, why it's important, and what people can do to protect it.

Hands-on exhibits will complement the Object Theater and provide a more in-depth look at biodiversity issues. Built around the characters in the theater production, these exhibits will range from low-tech interactives to high-tech simulations, providing a wide range of learning opportunities for all ages.

A core of ancillary materials, activities, and programs for use by the host institutions—classroom and community investigations, teacher and community education workshops, speaker events, live performances, and resource guides—will provide more opportunities to get involved.

**For information on Biodiversity—Right Now!** contact the Education Department at World Wildlife Fund (1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, 202.778.9769, [nicole.ardoin@wwfus.org](mailto:nicole.ardoin@wwfus.org)) or ASTC's Exhibition Services (1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005, 202.783.7200, [exhibits@astc.org](mailto:exhibits@astc.org)).

