

Focus area I

AB 1 – Suggested solution for teachers

1

Before dealing with the effects of the loss of biodiversity and the extinction of species in the next focus areas, **focus area I** defines and explains some basic terms. There are a lot of further information, explanations, illustrations and videos on the learning platform.

2

On this worksheet, add definitions and English translations (possibly other languages?) of the most important technical terms in focus area I. Those terms are shown in the mind map below. If you think other terms are important, always feel free to add them.

The mind map will help you to keep an overview while working on the other focus areas and can be supplemented at any time.



What is new/different about the term biodiversity?



Biological diversity

Biological diversity is the variability among living organisms.

This includes: the diversity of species, the diversity of genes (**or:** the genetic variability between individuals within a species) and the diversity of ecosystems (**or:** of habitats).

Biodiversity

The term "**biodiversity**" is a recent concept that originated in the English-speaking world and concomitantly includes a new political dimension.

Or: It was an endeavor to establish a politically effective term, also taking into account scientific, economic, social and political interests in order to counteract the detrimental destruction of nature worldwide. Otherwise, the term is defined in the same way as biological diversity.

Gene



A gene is a part of a living organism's blueprint. Together with all other genes, the living organism's complete blueprint, the genome, is then created.

or: A gene is a DNA region that can be expressed, producing either a

Ecosystem



An ecosystem consists of animate (biotic) components, i.e. the organisms that live in a habitat, and inanimate (abiotic) components, e.g. the soils, the air, or the temperature. The animate components all together form the biocenosis of the inanimate habitat (biotope).

Biocenosis
Living community (animated)

Biotop
Habitat (inanimate)

Species



According to the biological species concept, a species represents "a group of populations whose members can reproduce with each other under natural conditions and produce viable, fertile offspring" (Campbell 2016: 650:).