# 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 focus area I's most important technical terms. Those are 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.** !

### 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).

**What is new/different about the term biodiversity?**

### Biodiversity

The term **"biodiversity"** is a young concept that originates from 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 polypeptide or an RNA molecule as the end product with a function.

### Ecosystem

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

Author: Lotte Schmerbach, 2021