

Activity 01: What is biodiversity?

Environmental Protection and Media



Objective: To know the concepts of diversity, wealth and equitability

Learning outcomes: Understand and apply the concept of biodiversity

Previous knowledge: None

Duration: 30 min.

Materials / Conditions: sheets of paper and pencil

Methods / Techniques: Analyze and discuss

Learning subject: Biodiversity / Module 01: Introduction to biodiversity / Level: Expert Learning

Introduction:

“Bio” means “life” and diversity means “variety.” Therefore, biodiversity or biological diversity comprises all the variety of living beings on Earth or a place, including animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms. However, the concept of diversity, besides including the concept of wealth (number of species), also incorporates the concept of equitability, that is, the relative abundance (number of individuals of each species) equitably distributed. Thus, a site or an ecosystem has greater biological diversity not only because it has more species, but also greater equitability. This means that two sites, each with, for example, 20 species of living beings, will be less diverse, one in which one or few species have a high relative abundance and the other species have a relative abundance. And more diverse, the one in which each of the species has a number of individuals or relative abundance not very different from the other. In summary, greater diversity represents greater species richness and greater equitability in the distribution of the number of individuals per species.

Instruction:

1. Read the introductory text above and discuss with your colleagues the concepts of biodiversity, wealth and equitability.
2. Search the internet, using a search engine, different marine and / or terrestrial ecosystems, and their respective diversities (list of known species and relative abundances). Register to discuss which are the most diverse.

Resources:

none

Possible results / Results:

Understand the concepts of biodiversity, wealth and equity.

More diverse: tropical forests, coral reefs

Less diverse: tundra, coniferous forests, deserts, estuaries

Related activities:

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