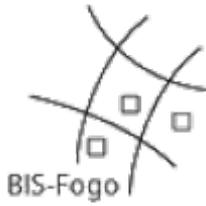# Activity 09: Outfall from species

Describing effects of the loss of species in an ecosystem

Objective: Applying technical terms and knowing their implications and interrelations
Learning outcomes: Learners are able to reproduce, depict and explain interrelations of technical terms related to ecosystems and describe dysfunctions of an ecosystem.
Previous knowledge: Advanced Learning, adding or removing species to ecosystems
Duration: 60 min.
Materials / Conditions: internet access
Methods / Techniques: creating a concept map, creative thinking, individual learning, describing and explaining
Learning subject: Biodiversity / Module I: Introduction to biodiversity / Level: expert learning

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Introduction:
There exist different living environments (biotopes) in an ecosystem where communities (biocenosis) between species can develop. Additionally, several biotic (e.g. competition, predator-prey relationships etc.) and abiotic factors (climate, temperatures, exposition etc.) influence the animals' lives in a biotope.

Instruction:
1. Research the internet for information on the ecosystemt „forest", helpful websites are:
http://www.insights.co.nz/magic_habitat_fe.aspx
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/edresources/TeachersKitBiodiversity.htm

a) Create a concept map (explanation cf. Resources section) and use the technical terms you have learned so far.
b) Explain why there's a dysfunction in an ecosystem when single species are removed

Resources:
Concept Map:

A concept map or conceptual diagram is a diagram that depicts suggested relationships between concepts. It is a graphical tool that designers, engineers, technical writers, and others use to organize and structure knowledge. A concept map typically represents ideas and information as boxes or circles, which it connects with labeled arrows […]. The relationship between concepts can be articulated in linking phrases such as causes, requires, or contributes to.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concept_map

Possible results / Results:
1a) http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/images/forest/ecosystem_fig2.gif

1b) A dysfunction comes up because every species has a certain function within an ecosystem and if one species is removed, the entire system becomes imbalanced. If the ecosystem des not manage to re-organize, entire species will be lost and the system might collapse.

Related activities:

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