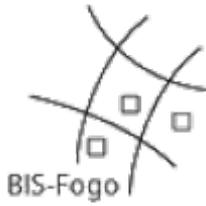


## Activity 16: Islands and Biodiversity

### Biodiversity at Cape Verde and its danger for nature



**Objective:** This learning unit shows the biodiversity at Cape Verde and the main causes concerning the danger of biodiversity on islands in general.

**Learning outcomes:** After working with this unit, learners know about the biodiversity at Cape Verde and islands in general. They learn about the main causes for the endangerment of biodiversity.

**Previous knowledge:** Activities first contact and advanced learner from this topic

**Duration:** 60 min.

**Materials / Conditions:** literature provided, internet access

**Methods / Techniques:** textual work, creative thinking, transfer task, brain storming, contact and ability to interview someone, teamwork possible

**Learning subject:** Biodiversity / Module I: Introduction to biodiversity / Level: expert learning

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#### Introduction:

Based on the work of the first and second level of this topic you will learn more about biodiversity at Cape Verde and islands in general. Moreover, you will get information about the main causes concerning the endangering of biodiversity.

#### Instruction:

Task 1.

Read the text which is provided on the following website: <http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/150896/>. Write down the most important information of the text.

Task 2.

Think about the main causes which endanger biodiversity of islands. Discuss your ideas with your neighbour or within a group. After collecting all your ideas, read text two and compare your notes.

Task 3.

Do research. Search the internet for public authorities which are dealing with the protection of species. After that, choose a public authority in your area (for example an agency, an association or a company) and think about questions that you could ask an employee of this organization. As an example, you could think about questions about goals, missions and problems.

#### Resources:

Text 1:

<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/150896/>, retrieved 25 august 2015

Text 2. The main causes which endanger biodiversity of islands

- Colonization of formerly uninhabited islands and unsustainable use of flora and fauna
- Domestic types of animals like dogs, cats, rats, pigs or weasels which are dominating the endemic types of animals on an island
- Non-resident species that are brought in
- Deforestation of mangroves and thus an increase of delicateness of storms and floods

- Ascent of the sea level and increase of frequency or intensity of extreme events (storms, heavy rain) by climate change
- Increase of sea temperature by climate change, which coral reefs are non-conformist
- Garbage which is washed ashore by the sea and which could be swallowed by animals or in which they could become entangled (nets)
- Overfishing of offshore stretch of water

(Source: in condensed form from:

[\*\*Possible results / Results:\*\*](http://www.google.de/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCIQFjAAahUKEwiBqZm80rLHAhUEWhoKHYIFCFs&url=http%3A%2F%2Fbiodiv.de%2Ffileadmin%2Fuser_upload%2FPDF%2FBiodiv-Infothek%2FBiodiversitaet_von_Inseln.pdf&ei=libTVYEGhLRpgoug2AU&usg=AFQjCNG9zC0c6VI1YFf6mlu9Gm4Kiyxu1w&bvm=bv.99804247,d.d2s, retrieved 25 august 2015)</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

According to Task 1.

- Four species of land bird are endemic to these islands and there are a number of endemic subspecies of birds
- 92 species of plants (14 percent) are endemic to these islands
- The introduction of exotic animals such as rats, sheep, goats, green monkeys and cattle has had devastating effects on the native flora and fauna

According to Task 2.

Have a look at text two.

According to Task 3.

Example for a public authority:

Ana Veiga = Evaluation of the State of the Baía Do Inferno's Biodiversity, Santiago Island with a Special Focus on Four Key Bird Species

Conduct an assessment of the current state of the site's biodiversity, with a particular attention on the key bird species; identification of the threats that are endangering and/or can endanger the sustainability of the natural values of the site.

cp.: <http://www.rufford.org/rsg/birds?page=4>, retrieved 25 august 2015

Possible questions:

- What are the goals of your organization?
- Are there any problems which make your work difficult?
- How did you get your job?
- Which qualifications do you need in order to work here?

Note to the teacher: Maybe you could arrange a meeting with some employees of different public authorities, so that your pupils have the opportunity to ask their questions and to get answers.

**Related activities:**

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