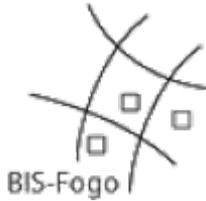


Activity 04: Data and research area

Influence of environmental factors on living organism distribution on Cape Verde, using the example of: Aipo Lavandula Rotundifolia



Objective: This learning unit is an introduction, which shows the direct correlation between environmental influences on the development of plants population.

Learning outcomes: After working with this unit, learners will be able to understand and to explain correlations of physical geographic factors in geographical areas and the development of plants population. The example of the plant Aipo Lavandula Rotundifolia will help to illustrate this topic.

Previous knowledge: none

Duration: 60 min

Materials / Conditions: literature provided

Methods / Techniques: textual work, description, creative thinking, transfer task, (teamwork possible)

Learning subject: Biodiversity / Module 3: Collection, Analysis and Preparation of Biodiversity Data / Level: First contact

Introduction:

You may know several kinds of specific plants and animals that grow on one island but not on others. The following learning unit will show you one possible explanation for this..

Instruction:

Task 1.

Read text one and write down the differences between the three eastern and the other islands.

Task 2.

Read text two. Consider under which conditions the plant develops best.

Task 3.

Now take a look at your previous results. On which islands do you think does the plant develop? (teamwork possible)

Task 4.

Do you know any other examples of plants or animals, which prefer areas with special conditions, for example precipitation or altitude? (teamwork possible)

Task 5.

Can you imagine that the plant could completely disappear from one of the islands, because of environmental influences? Justify your opinion. (teamwork possible)

Resources:

Text 1. Comparison between the Islands of Cape Verde

Cape Verde is an archipelago in the Central Atlantic with different natural conditions on the individual islands; nine its islands are inhabited. You can find two seasons in Cape Verde - the windy (October till mid July) and the rainy (August till September) season.

The geological and geographical structure of the eastern islands Sal, Boa Vista and Maio is similar. They are rather flat and dry islands with less vegetation.

Contrarily, the islands Santo Antão, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Santiago and Fogo are characterised by a mountainous landscape. Precipitation is more common - therefore you can find there a wider variety of vegetation than on the other islands. Nevertheless, there are still long periods of drought, which prevent even wider vegetation - these would require more regular precipitation. All together you can say that the archipelago has low vegetation in comparison to other areas in the world.

(Source: <http://www.kapverden.de/kapverdische-inseln/flora.html> and <http://www.thecapeverdean.com>, retrieved 21 July 2015)

Text 2. Aipo Lavandula Rotundifolia

Aipo Lavandula Rotundifolia (vernacular name: Aipo, aipo-da-rocha, gilbão) is one type of the lavender plant. In Cape Verde you can find the shrub in areas higher than 800 meters. Its height comes up to 70 centimetres. It needs a climate which is part time moist and part time dry. The plant will not survive in only dry or only moist areas. The climatic mix is important. It blooms in the colours white or blue and with small spikes.

(Source: http://www.iict.pt/ev/plantas/Textos/fichaCV6_en.pdf for a picture and more information see <http://www.caboverde.com/nature/plant-00.htm>, retrieved 21 July 2015)

Possible results / Results:

1. Eastern Islands: - flat, dry and less vegetation

Other Islands: - mountainous landscape, more precipitation, wide variety of vegetation

2. Areas: - higher than 800 meters, - partly moist, partly dry

3. Santo Antão, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Santiago and Fogo

4. For example: - Cape Verde Swamp Warbler (likes areas with wide vegetation)

5. yes/no: learners' opinion is wanted

Related activities:

Author: Jessica Flegler and Janine Neghabian
Aus dem Deutschen übersetzt von Jana Prokaka

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