

Edexcel IAL Geography

Biodiversity Under Threat

Definition Flashcards



Afforestation



Afforestation

Planting trees and vegetation with the aim of increasing forest cover.



Biodiversity Hotspot



Biodiversity Hotspot

An area of extremely high species diversity that are valuable to the global system.



Biome



Biome

A region of land, often large in size, categorised by its climate and conditions



Carnivore



Carnivore

A species whose diet is predominantly meat.



CITES Biodiversity Action Plan



CITES Biodiversity Action Plan

An international agreement to protect species being traded for scientific or economic gain.



Debt-for-Nature Swaps



Debt-for-Nature Swaps

Indebted countries have some of their debts written off in return for protecting their local ecosystems.



Deciduous



Deciduous

Vegetation that loses their leaves annually.



Decomposition



Decomposition

The process of breaking down complex organic compounds from a dead organism into simple compounds back into the soil.



Deforestation



Deforestation

The loss of trees and vegetation from temperate forests and rainforests.



Desertification



Desertification

The process through which fertile land loses water moisture, nutrients and becoming more eroded.



Ecosystem



Ecosystem

The combination of the species and the physical environment they live within



Ecosystem Biodiversity



Ecosystem Biodiversity

The number of ecosystems or habitats within an area



Endemism



Endemism

The uniqueness of a species to a location.



Energy Flow



Energy Flow

The cycle of energy through an ecosystem, travelling through a food chain.



Enhanced Greenhouse Effect



Enhanced Greenhouse Effect

The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, reducing the amount of solar radiation reflected into space.



Fauna



Fauna

Animals found within an ecosystem



Flora



Flora

Vegetation found within an ecosystem



Food Chain



Food Chain

A series of consumption of species, starting with primary consumers.



Genetic Biodiversity



Genetic Biodiversity

Variations within the genetics and DNA
of a species



Herbivore



Herbivore

A species whose diet consists of only plant-based material.



Inorganic Compound



Inorganic Compound

Compounds sourced from the soil or natural gases from the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide or phosphate.



Kuznet's Curve



Kuznet's Curve

A theory describing the correlation between economic development and environmental degradation.



Legislation



Legislation

Laws and government policies.



Non-Native Species



Non-Native Species

Species from other ecosystems that have been introduced to an ecosystem, often competing with native species.



Non-Perennial River



Non-Perennial River

A river that flows seasonally, so doesn't have a river flow during the entire year.



Nutrient Cycle



Nutrient Cycle

The transport of minerals between the ecosystem and species, through consumption and decomposition.



Omnivore



Omnivore

A species whose diet consists of both plant and meat.



Organic Compound



Organic Compound

Complex mineral compounds produced within organisms, such as carbohydrates or protein



Photosynthesis



Photosynthesis

The process of converting carbon dioxide and water into glucose and oxygen. All plants and some organisms rely on this process to survive.



Primary Consumer



Primary Consumer

Species who consume primary producers, forming the second stage of a food chain.



Primary Producer



Primary Producer

Species who produce their food through photosynthesis, and form the first stage of any food chain.



Secondary Consumer



Secondary Consumer

Species who consume primary consumers and primary producers and form the third stage to a food chain.



Species Biodiversity



Species Biodiversity

The variety in species within an area.



Sustainable Yield



Sustainable Yield

The amount of a resource that can be consumed/harvested before it threatens the self-renewability of the resource.



Tertiary Consumer



Tertiary Consumer

Species that consume secondary and primary consumers, forming the fourth stage to a food chain.



Turning Point



Turning Point

The point of irreversible change or a change in attitudes.



UNESCO Biosphere Reserves



UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

Areas of similar biomes, covering several countries, that cooperate in the protection of their ecosystems.



Wildfire



Wildfire

Fire that rapidly spreads through woodland or grasslands.

