

Teaching Material on Biodiversity Conservation

Title:

The IUCN

Author:

Melina Signo

Quality assurance:

Prof. Dr. Carsten Hobohm, University of Flensburg

Target group:

senior grades, college/university

Material:

text about IUCN, instructions for analyzing the data using the IUCN homepage, hyperlink

Objective:

understanding the functions of the IUCN

Teaching methods:

research

Time needed:

45 – 90 min

Demands on participants:

Good English skills, internet connection

Text:

The IUCN:

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
The IUCN was founded on the 5th of October 1948. Its head office is in Switzerland. Today (January 2014), the IUCN consists of 1226 members. Besides governmental institutions such as ministries of the EU, members include non-governmental organizations (e.g. WWF). Every four years, a World Conservation Congress takes place in one of the member states; and every decade a World Parks Congress is held. At the latter congress, strategies concerning the protection of the environment in reserves are decided on.

IUCN's functions:

- Valuing and conserving nature
- Effective and equitable governance of nature's use
- Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development

Biodiversity glossary

Biodiversity:

The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

An ecosystem:

A community of plants, animals and smaller organisms that live, feed, reproduce and interact in the same area or environment.

An ecosystem service:

A service people obtain from the environment. Ecosystem services are the transformation of natural assets (soil, plants and animals, air and water) into things that we value. They can be viewed as provisioning, such as food and water; regulating, for example, flood and disease control; cultural, such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; or supporting, such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth. Ecosystem 'goods' include food, medicinal plants, construction materials, tourism and recreation, and wild genes for domestic plants and animals.

Conservation status

EX	Extinct
EW	Extinct in the Wild
CR	Critically Endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near Threatened
LC	Least Concern
RE	Regionally Extinct
DD	Data Deficient
NE	Not Evaluated

Research the conservation status on the IUCN Red List

The students have to check the conservation status of different animals and plants using the online IUCN search tool (visit <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> and click on „other search options“ at the top of the page). A new window will open and you will see several criteria on the left (Taxonomy, Location, Systems [terrestrial, freshwater or marine], Habitat etc.). Start with “Taxonomy” and choose the appropriate kingdom, phylum, class. Then hit the arrow-button on the screen and move on to the next criteria. Hit the “run search” button once you have gone through all the criteria.

The results will provide you with the conservation status of those animals that are recorded in the IUCN database. There is a profile for each species with information about the taxonomy, geographic range, assessment information, population, habitat and ecology.

References:

- HERDEN, C. et al. 2008. Ersterfassung der Waldbirkenmaus (*Sicista betulina* PALLAS 1779) in Schleswig-Holstein. Faunistische-Ökologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft FÖAG. Schleswig-Holstein.
- ANONYMOUS. 2014. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Wikipedia - Die freie Enzyklopädie. [Online; Stand 4. Februar 2014]