# Biodiversity and conservation

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **biodiversity** /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsɪti/ | A rainforest has high **biodiversity**. |
| **genetic diversity** /dʒɪˈnetɪk daɪˈvɜːsɪti/ | **Genetic diversity** helps a population cope with new diseases. |
| **species diversity** | **Species diversity** depends on how many species there are and how even their numbers are. |
| **species richness** /ˈspiːsiːz ˈrɪtʃnəs/ | A forest with ten kinds of tree has higher **species richness** than one with six. |
| **evenness** /ˈiːvənnəs/ | A field with almost only grass has low **evenness**. |
| **habitat diversity** | Rivers, forests and marshes give the park high **habitat diversity**. |
| **evolution** /ɪvəˈluːʃn/ | Darwin explained **evolution** by natural selection. |
| **natural selection** /ˈnætʃərəl sɪˈlekʃn/ | **Natural selection** means the best-suited animals survive and have young. |
| **speciation** /ˌspiːʃiˈeɪʃn/ | **Speciation** is the forming of a new species. |
| **geographical isolation** | A new river can cause **geographical isolation** between populations. |
| **tectonic plate** /tekˈtɒnɪk pleɪt/ | A **tectonic plate** moves slowly across Earth's surface. |
| **background extinction rate** | The **background extinction rate** is the normal rate at which species die out. |



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| **mass extinction** | A **mass extinction** removes many species in a short geological time. |
| **habitat loss** /ˈhæbɪtæt lɒs/ | Clearing forests causes **habitat loss** for birds. |
| **fragmentation** /ˌfrægmənˈteɪʃn/ | Roads cause **fragmentation**: the forest is split into small pieces. |
| **invasive species** /ɪnˈveɪsɪv ˈspiːsiːz/ | Rabbits became an **invasive species** in Australia. |
| **pollution** /pəˈluːʃn/ | Smoke from factories causes **pollution**. |
| **overharvesting** /ˌəʊvəˈhɑːvɪstɪŋ/ | **Overharvesting** of cod has made it rare. |
| **climate change** /ˈklaɪmət tʃeɪndʒ/ | **Climate change** makes some places hotter and drier. |
| **edge effect** | The **edge effect** means the border of a habitat has different conditions from its centre. |
| **Red List** | The **Red List** records species' risk of extinction. |
| **Data Deficient** | A species is **Data Deficient** when there is not enough information to judge its risk. |
| **biodiversity hotspot** | A **biodiversity hotspot** has many rare species and is under threat. |
| **endemic species** | An **endemic species** lives naturally in only one region. |
| **intrinsic value** /ɪnˈtrɪnsɪk ˈvæljuː/ | Wildlife has **intrinsic value**: it matters even if people never use it. |

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| **instrumental value** | A forest has **instrumental value** because it gives us wood. |
| **sweet wormwood** | **Sweet wormwood** gives a medicine used to treat malaria. |
| **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species** | The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species** controls trade in rare animals and plants. |
| **captive breeding** /ˈkæptɪv ˈbriːdɪŋ/ | **Captive breeding** in zoos helps save rare animals. |
| **reintroduction** | **Reintroduction** returns a species to part of its former range. |
| **seed bank** /siːd bæŋk/ | A **seed bank** stores seeds in the cold for many years. |
| **flagship species** | A panda is a **flagship species** that attracts conservation support. |
| **protected area** | Hunting may be restricted in a **protected area**. |
| **ecological restoration** | Planting native trees helps **ecological restoration**. |
| **rewilding** | **Rewilding** lets nature take over again, sometimes by bringing back lost animals. |
| **corridor** | A forest **corridor** lets animals move between protected patches. |
| **buffer zone** | A **buffer zone** around a reserve protects its centre. |



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