

Glossary

BIODIVERSITY

B

biodiversity the variety of organisms in a given area, the genetic variation within a population, the variety of species in a community, or the variety of communities in an ecosystem

Biodiversity Treaty an international agreement aimed at strengthening national control and preservation of biological resources; associated with the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or Earth summit) in 1992

E

ecotourism a form of tourism that supports the conservation and sustainable development of ecologically unique areas

endangered species a species that has been identified to be in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range, and that is thus under protection by regulations or conservation measures

Endangered Species Act an act that the U.S. Congress passed in 1973 to protect any plant or animal species in danger of extinction

endemic species a species that is native to a particular place and that is found only there

exotic species a species that is not native to a particular region

G

gene a segment of DNA that is located in a chromosome and that codes for a specific hereditary trait

germ plasm hereditary material (chromosomes and genes) that is usually contained in the protoplasm of germ cells

H

habitat conservation plan a land-use plan that attempts to protect threatened or endangered species across a given area by allowing some tradeoffs between harm to the species and additional conservation commitments among cooperating parties

K

keystone species a species that is critical to the functioning of the ecosystem in which it lives because it affects the survival and abundance of many other species in its community
future

P

poaching the illegal harvesting of fish, game, or other species

T

threatened species a species that has been identified to be likely to become endangered in the foreseeable