# Our endangered world

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

## 1 Match each precise term with its definition.

| | |
|---|---|
| **1** biodiversity hotspot ____ | **a** a region with an exceptionally high concentration of unique species |
| **2** habitat fragmentation ____ | **b** the breaking up of a habitat into smaller, isolated patches |
| **3** IUCN Red List ____ | **c** an internationally recognised system classifying species by extinction risk |
| **4** umbrella species ____ | **d** a species whose protection indirectly protects many other species sharing its habitat |
| **5** ex-situ conservation ____ | **e** conservation carried out away from a species' natural habitat, such as in a zoo |
| **6** flagship species ____ | **f** a species chosen to represent a conservation cause because of its public appeal |
| **7** genetic bottleneck ____ | **g** a sharp reduction in genetic diversity following a dramatic population decline |
| **8** ecological corridor ____ | **h** a strip of habitat connecting separated populations to allow movement between them |
| **9** conservation status ____ | **i** the official classification of a species' extinction risk |
| **10** anthropogenic extinction ____ | **j** extinction caused by human activity |

## 2 Choose the word with the most suitable connotation.

1 For a region with exceptional species concentration: biodiversity hotspot / uniform habitat.

2 For a habitat broken into isolated patches: habitat fragmentation / continuous habitat.

3 For a species representing a conservation cause: flagship species / obscure species.

4 For conservation carried out away from a natural habitat: ex-situ conservation / in-situ conservation.

5 For a sharp reduction in genetic diversity: genetic bottleneck / genetic diversity.

6 For a strip connecting separated habitats: ecological corridor / a dead end.

7 For extinction caused by human activity: anthropogenic extinction / natural extinction.

8 For a species whose protection indirectly protects others: umbrella species / isolated case.

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**3** **Complete the conservation collocations with one word.**

1 a biodiversity _____ (= region with exceptional species concentration)

2 habitat _____ (= breaking into isolated patches)

3 _____ conservation (= carried out away from natural habitat)

4 a _____ species (= represents a conservation cause publicly)

5 a genetic _____ (= sharp reduction in genetic diversity)

6 an ecological _____ (= connects separated habitats)

7 conservation _____ (= official extinction-risk classification)

8 _____ extinction (= caused by human activity)

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## 4 Complete the case notes with words and phrases from the box.

**anthropogenic extinction | biodiversity hotspot | conservation status | ecological corridor | ex-situ conservation | flagship species | genetic bottleneck | habitat fragmentation | IUCN Red List | umbrella species**

Case A: The region is recognised as a 1 _____, home to an exceptional concentration of unique species found nowhere else.
Case B: Road construction caused significant 2 _____, isolating populations that previously interbred freely.
Case C: The species' 3 _____ was recently updated on the 4 _____, reflecting a worsening outlook.
Case D: A breeding programme relying on 5 _____ helped maintain a small population, though researchers remain concerned about a resulting 6 _____.
Case E: Conservationists chose the panda as a 7 _____ to raise public awareness, while protecting the tiger as an 8 _____ that indirectly benefits many other forest species.
Case F: A new 9 _____ was established to reconnect fragmented forest patches.
Case G: Scientists confirmed the extinction was clearly 10 _____, driven by hunting and habitat destruction.

## 5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

**The politics of conservation priorities**

Conservation funding is finite, forcing difficult decisions about which species and habitats receive priority. Flagship species, chosen partly for their public appeal, often attract disproportionate funding relative to their ecological importance, while less charismatic but ecologically critical species can struggle for attention and resources. Some conservationists defend this approach, arguing that flagship species can function as umbrella species, indirectly protecting entire ecosystems and generating public support that benefits conservation broadly. Critics counter that prioritising charisma over ecological significance risks neglecting biodiversity hotspots that lack a single compelling species to rally support around, potentially allowing quieter ecological crises to worsen unnoticed.

1 What forces difficult decisions in conservation? _____

2 What often happens to flagship species in terms of funding? _____

3 What can struggle for attention and resources? _____

4 How do some conservationists defend prioritising flagship species? _____

5 What do critics argue this approach risks? _____

6 What might this allow to happen, according to critics? _____

## 6 Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.

1 The region has an exceptional concentration of unique species. BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

_____

2 The habitat was broken into small, isolated patches. HABITAT FRAGMENTATION _____

3 The panda was chosen to represent the conservation cause publicly. FLAGSHIP SPECIES

_____

4 The extinction was clearly caused by human activity. ANTHROPOGENIC _____

## OVER TO YOU

Write a 120-150 word account analysing how conservation priorities are chosen, distinguishing observation from ethical argument.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Control connotation carefully. [ ] Avoid unsupported assumptions.

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## ANSWER KEY

### 1 Precise terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

### 2 Connotation

1 biodiversity hotspot 2 habitat fragmentation 3 flagship species 4 ex-situ conservation 5 genetic bottleneck 6 ecological corridor 7 anthropogenic extinction 8 umbrella species

### 3 Collocations

1 hotspot 2 fragmentation 3 ex-situ 4 flagship 5 bottleneck 6 corridor 7 status 8 anthropogenic

### 4 Case notes

1 biodiversity hotspot 2 habitat fragmentation 3 conservation status 4 IUCN Red List 5 ex-situ conservation
6 genetic bottleneck 7 flagship species 8 umbrella species 9 ecological corridor 10 anthropogenic extinction

### 5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Finite conservation funding.
2 They often attract disproportionate funding relative to their ecological importance.
3 Less charismatic but ecologically critical species.
4 By arguing flagship species can function as umbrella species, indirectly protecting entire ecosystems and generating public support.
5 Neglecting biodiversity hotspots that lack a single compelling species to rally support around.
6 Quieter ecological crises worsening unnoticed.

### 6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The region is a biodiversity hotspot. 2 The habitat suffered fragmentation.
3 The panda is a flagship species. 4 The extinction was anthropogenic.

### Over to you

Answers will vary. Check lexical precision, appropriate connotation and separation of fact from inference.