



Activity – Case Study - Madagascar

Madagascar has incredibly high biodiversity, and the number of species discovered on the island is still rising.

The link below is to an article in The Guardian newspaper which describes the continued discovery of species in Madagascar over the last decade.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jun/06/madagascar-biodiversity-600-species-discovered>

Another source of information on the biodiversity of Madagascar is the island's page of the World Conservation Society (this website has lots of other useful information too, and is well worth a browse):

<https://www.wcs.org/our-work/regions/eastern-africa-madagascar-and-western-indian-ocean>

HINT: The Guardian biodiversity website contains lots of interesting articles, and regular news updates on stories relevant to biodiversity:

- <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/biodiversity>
Other national newspaper websites and the BBC website have similar pages. They are an excellent way to keep in touch with this topic, and collate up-to-date relevant examples and case-studies.

Use the information in these two articles, along with the understanding of the patterns of biodiversity you developed from studying the paper by Gaston, to think about possible reasons why the biodiversity of Madagascar is so high. There are likely to be many contributing factors – think about ecological, climatic, evolutionary and geographical influences!