

# Teaching Material on Biodiversity Conservation (TMBC)

## Teacher's material

### Lesson plan: Tasmanian devil

**Title:** The Tasmanian devil and the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD)

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**Quality Assessment:** Carsten Hobohm (UF)

**Level:** Secondary level II (Ages 15-19)

**Materials:** Video, sheet with additional information, working instructions

**Aims:** The students should develop a better understanding of the threats to a species by a disease, in this case the Tasmanian devil and DFTD. They should also learn which measures can be undertaken in order to save the Tasmanian devil and how effective those measures are.

The sheet with additional information should be handed out to the students either at the start of the lesson to help them with their research or it can be handed out at the end of a lesson as a summary of all the relevant information.

**1. Introduction:** Video about DFTD - TED Talk by Elizabeth Murchison (13 min - relevant information for the topic from the start of the video until 09m13s)

#### **2. Questions about the movie:**

- What is DFTD?
- How does DFTD spread?
- Why is this tumour so dangerous?

#### **3. Online search for various measures to prevent extinction and their effectiveness (one topic per group):**

- Insurance population
- Vaccination
- Killing of infected animals

#### **4. Bonus topics for the online search:**

- What kind of influence have humans had on the population of the Tasmanian devil?
- Find out something about the genetic variability of the Tasmanian devil. Is genetic variability important?

#### **5. Creation of a poster with the results of the online search and subsequent discussion in the classroom.**