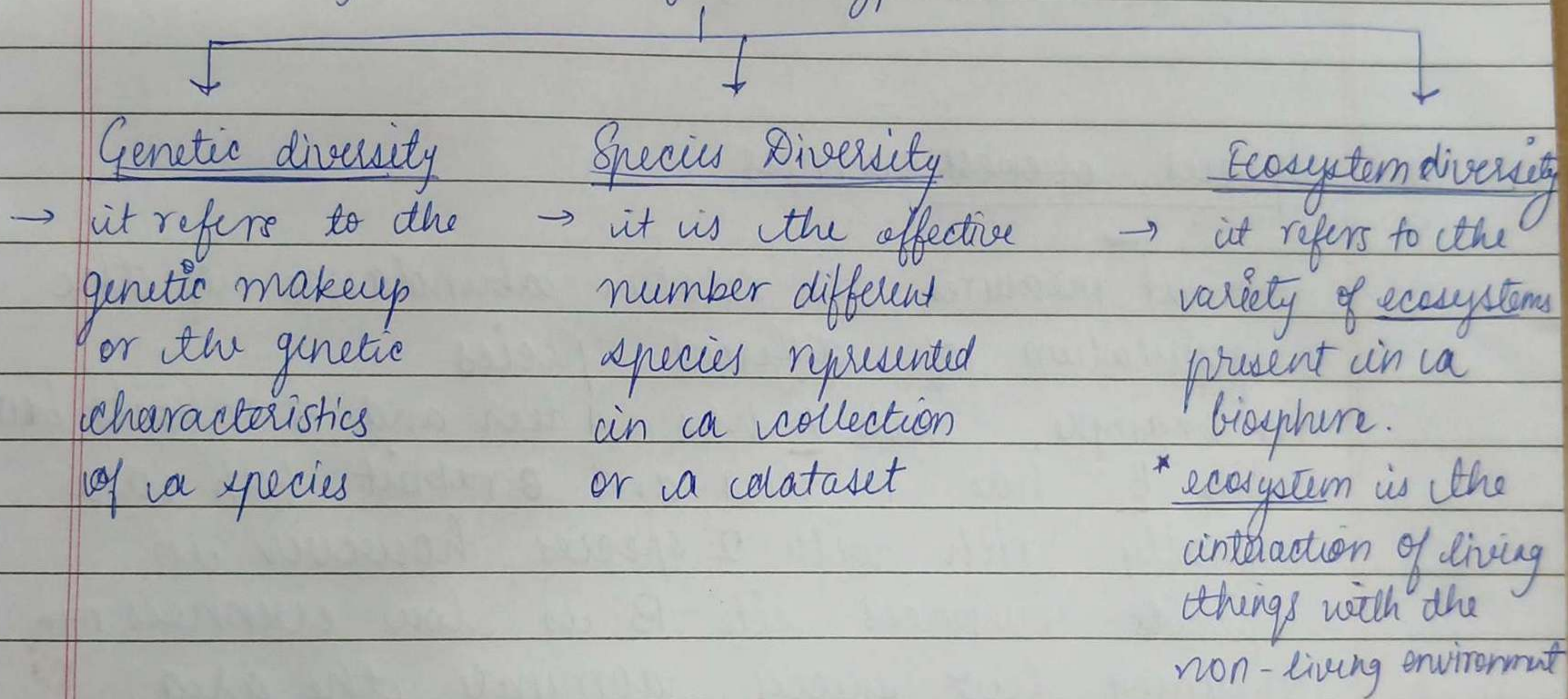


Question: What is Biodiversity? How it's measured?

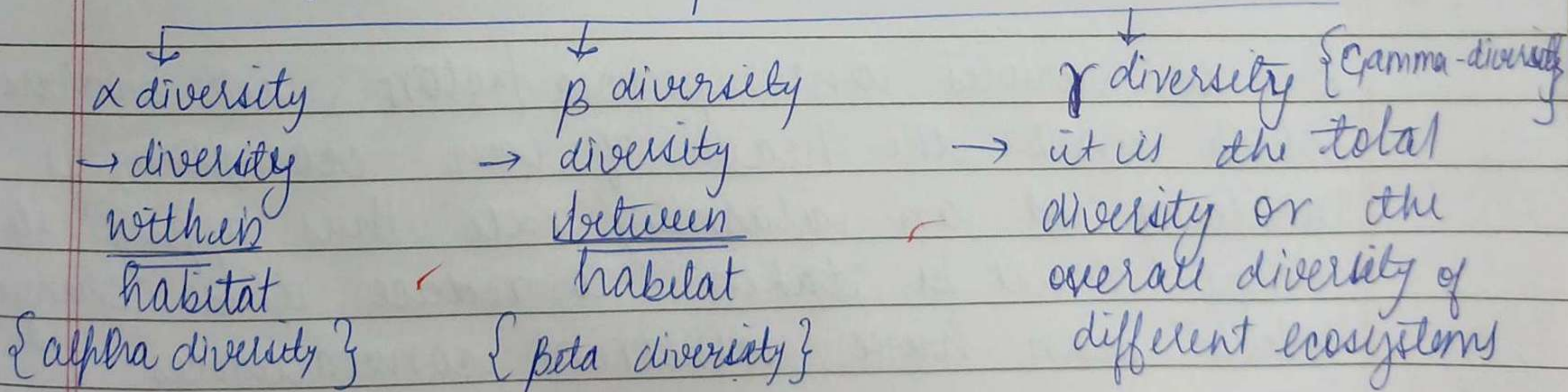
AASTHA KAPOOR

Answer: Biodiversity is defined as the variation degree of variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome or on the entire planet. Though biodiversity can have many interpretations it generally describes the species diversity and richness in an area.

Biodiversity can be of 3 types



Biodiversity can also be classified as



United Nations Earth summit, 1992 gave a formal definition of biodiversity which was then used in UN convention on Biological diversity, 1992

Biodiversity of an area can be measured in mainly two ways:

### 1) Species richness

→ it is a simple count of the species or the measure of the number of species found in a specific area  
→ It is usually counted using the concepts of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  diversity  
{ alpha beta gamma }

### Species evenness

→ it measures the relative abundance of the population of different species  
for example, site A has 4 deer and 5 rabbits but site B has 1 deer and 8 rabbit both are equally rich with 2 species however in species evenness site B is low evenness meaning few species dominate the area.

Due to various anthropogenic factors, our biodiversity which marks the health of an ecosystem, is reducing at an alarming rate, thus appropriate steps must be taken to reduce these changes which can have abhorrent consequences

Excell!