

## ECOLOGY LANGUAGE

**Biodiversity:** the variety of life, including genetic, species and habitat/ecosystem diversity

**Ecology:** the study of interactions between living-organisms, and between organisms and the non-living environment. Also see *Ecological (adj)*: concerned with ecology

**Ecological community:** assemblage of individuals of different species living close enough to interact

**Ecological value:** Non-monetary assessment of ecosystem integrity, health or resilience, all of which are important indicators to determine critical thresholds and minimum requirements for ecosystem service provision

**Ecosystem:** all the organisms living in a community and the abiotic (non-living) factors with which they interact

**Ecosystem function/processes:** the physical, chemical and biological actions or events that link organisms and their environment

**Ecosystem service:** the outputs from ecosystems which have a benefit and value to human well-being

**Habitat:** the environment in which an organism is normally found. It is characterised by the physical characteristics of the environment and/or the dominant vegetation or other stable biotic characteristics e.g. lakes, woodlands, soil

**Nature:** in the broadest sense, is the natural, physical, or material world or universe. It is often used to describe wildlife and geology, and is analogous with the more strictly defined concept of ecosystems

**Natural:** used to describe structures and processes that have not been substantially altered by human intervention, or which persist despite human intervention

**Natural heritage:** usually describes biodiversity, together with associated geological structures and formations (geodiversity)

## ECONOMICS LANGUAGE

**Benefits:** Positive change in wellbeing from the fulfilment of needs and wants

**Economics:** The study of the allocation of scarce resources among competing desirable ends

**Economic (adj):** justified in terms of profitability

*Uneconomic (adj):* constituting an inefficient use of money or other resources

**Economic valuation:** The process of expressing a value for a particular good or service in a certain context (e.g. decision-making) in monetary terms

**Total Economic Value:** The value obtained from utilitarian value factors, including direct use value, indirect use value, option value, quasi-option value, and existence value

**Marginal utility:** The benefit gained or lost from a small increase or decrease in the consumption of a good or service

**Valuation:** The process of expressing a value for a particular good or service in a certain context (e.g. decision-making) usually in terms of something that can be counted, often money, but also through methods and measures from other disciplines (sociology, ecology, and so on)

**Value:** The contribution of an action or object to user-specified goals, objectives or conditions

**Use value:** Benefits which arise from direct or indirect use, such as:

*Direct use value:* The benefits provided by the services provided by an ecosystem that are used directly by an economic agent. These include consumptive uses (e.g. harvesting goods) and nonconsumptive uses (e.g. enjoyment of scenic beauty);

*Indirect use value:* The benefits derived from the goods and services provided by an ecosystem that are used indirectly by an economic agent. For example, an agent at some distance from an ecosystem may derive benefits from drinking water that has been purified as it passed through the ecosystem

**Quasi/Option value:** The value of preserving options for future use of an environmental resource that may be lost irreversibly given expected growth of knowledge

**Non-use or passive use value:** Benefits which do not arise from direct or indirect use, incl.:

*Existence value:* The value that individuals place on knowing that a resource exists, even if they never use that resource (also sometimes known as conservation value or passive use value),

*Bequest value:* The importance individuals attach to a resource that can be passed on to future generations (intergenerational equity concerns),

*Altruistic value:* The importance which individuals attach to a resource that can be used by others in the current generation, reflecting selfless concern for the welfare of others (intragenerational equity concern)

## PHILOSOPHY LANGUAGE

**Anthropocentric:** world view that regards humankind as the central, or most important, element. Ecocentric or biocentric views challenge the anthropocentric ethical framework

**Eudaimonistic values:** the conditions for a good and decent life; outdoor recreation, meaningfulness or the experience of aesthetic value

**Fundamental values:** the basic requirements for life on earth; all ecosystem structures, processes and functions

**Instrumental values:** a means to achieve a goal. Economic value falls into this category

**Intrinsic moral values:** the value of non-human living beings for their own sake, regardless of their importance or usefulness to humans