

IUCN DEFINITIONS – ENGLISH

[A](#), [B](#), [C](#), [D](#), [E](#), [F](#), [G](#), [H](#), [I](#), [J](#), [K](#), [L](#), [M](#), [N](#), [O](#), [P](#), [Q](#), [R](#), [S](#), [T](#), [U](#), [V](#), [WXYZ](#)

A

Abiotic (factors). Non-biological (as opposed to biotic), e.g. salinity, currents, light etc.

Abyss. The sunless deep sea bottom, ocean basins or **abyssal plain** descending from 2,000m to about 6,000m.

Abyssal plain. The extensive, flat, gently sloping or nearly level region of the ocean floor from about 2,000m to 6,000m depth; the upper abyssal plain (2,000–4,000m) is also often referred to as the continental rise.

Access. Defined as the possibility for participation, utilization and benefit.

Acclimation. Changes in the tolerance to stress of an organism under laboratory or other experimental conditions, generally over the short-term (Coles and Brown, 2003).

Acclimatisation. Phenotypic changes by an organism to stresses in the natural environment that result in the readjustment of the organism's tolerance levels (Coles and Brown, 2003).

Accountability. Principle by which managers and decision makers in the government, the private sector and organized civil society are responsible towards the public for the actions they do or take within their positions.

Accretion. Deposition of material by sedimentation which increases land area.

Acid. Term applied to the water with a Ph. below 5.5.

Adaptation. Initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate change effects. Various types of adaptation exist, e.g. anticipatory and reactive, private and public, and autonomous and planned.

Adaptive management. A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing programmes.

Additionality. The action of impacts that would not have occurred without an intervention.

Afforestation. The activity of afforestation is defined as the transformation of areas where organized trees did not previously exist in the forest.

Agricultural intensification. Practices intended to produce higher crop yields without increasing cultivated land area.

Agrobiodiversity. Includes wild plants closely related to crops (crop wild relatives), cultivated plants (landraces) and livestock varieties. Agrobiodiversity can be an objective of protected areas for crop wild relatives, traditional and threatened landraces, particularly those reliant on traditional cultural practices; and/or traditional and threatened livestock races, especially if they are reliant on traditional cultural management systems that are compatible with “wild biodiversity”.

Agro-forestry. A land use system in which woody perennials are grown for wood production with agricultural crops, with or without animal production.

Algae. Simple plant-like organisms that contain chlorophyll but lack roots, stems or leaves.

Alkaline. Term applied to water with a Ph. above 7.4.

Allochthonous. Originating from outside a system.

Alluvial fan. Formed when streams run off mountains in deep gorges to plains below and deposit rock material.

Alpine zone. The area above the altitudinal treeline in mountainous areas.

Anaerobic. Condition where the oxygen molecules are absent from the environment.

Anal fin. A single fin on the ventral surface of the tail between the pelvic fins and caudal fin of some sharks, absent in batoids, dogfish, sawsharks, angel sharks and some chimaeras.

Angiosperm. Flowering plant.

Annual. A plant that completes its entire life cycle from seed to flower to seed again within one year.

Anoxic. Without (completely lacking) O₂.

Anthropogenic. Of, relating to, or resulting from the influence of humans on nature.

Aquaculture. Several management procedures, designed to increase the production of live aquatic organisms, to levels above those normally obtained from natural fish captures. **Exposed A--.** Aquaculture is usually defined as “exposed aquaculture” when “cage aquaculture is developed in marine areas not protected by the coastline from adverse marine conditions”. **Integrated A--.** According to FAO, “Integrated aquaculture is an aquaculture system sharing resources such as water, feeds and management, with other activities; commonly agricultural, agro-industrial, infrastructural (wastewaters, power stations, etc.)”. Nevertheless, “the raising of several organisms in the same aquaculture facility, where the volume of residues of one species is used as food by another species” is accepted in aquaculture. This system reduces the total volume of residues of the aquaculture facility, increasing the total biomass production. **Sheltered A--.** Aquaculture is usually defined as “sheltered

aquaculture” when “cage aquaculture is developing in marine areas protected by the coastline from adverse marine conditions.”

Aerobic. Process in which O₂ is involved, e.g. aerobic respiration.

Aquifer. A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs for that unit to have economic value as a source of water in that region.

Area of occupancy. The area within its **extent of occurrence** which is occupied by a **taxon**, excluding cases of vagrancy. This reflects the fact that a taxon will not usually occur throughout the area of its extent of occurrence, which may contain unsuitable or unoccupied habitats. In some cases the area of occupancy is the smallest area essential at any stage of the life cycle to the survival of existing populations of a taxon.

Arbitrator. An independent third party who listens to conflicting arguments put forward by interested parties and states which one will win.

Artisanal fishery. Small-scale traditional fisheries involving fishing households (as opposed to commercial companies) which input a relatively small amount of capital and energy and catch fish mainly for local consumption, however the catch may be exported. Artisanal fisheries can be **subsistence fisheries** or **commercial fisheries**.

Autotroph. An organism capable of making its own food nutrients or simple organic substances.

Avifauna. Bird fauna of an area or period.

[Back to top](#)

B

Bacterium. A living being made up of a single cell considered as being neither an animal nor a plant.

Badlands. Areas of little or no economic value, generally devoid of vegetation, with rugged terrain and poor access; often with fluvial erosion features.

Baleen. A kind of brushes that adorn the lower jaw of some whales, acting as a filter that allows the water to flow through while retaining the solid nutrients.

Basin. The low point in a catchment where surface water collects; also called base level.

Bathyal. Benthic habitats from 200m to 4,000m depth.

Bathymetric distribution. The vertical distribution of a marine organism, referring to its depth of occurrence.

Bathypelagic zone. That part of the oceans beyond the continental and insular shelves and above the middle and lower continental rises and **abyssal plain**; the sunless zone from about 1,000m to 3,000–6,000m.

Batoid. A ray or flat shark, a species of the **order** Rajiformes: the sawfishes, sharkrays, wedgefishes, guitarfishes, thornrays, panrays, electric rays, skates, stingrays, stingarees, butterfly rays, eagle rays, cownose rays and devil rays.

Bayesian belief network. A model for representing uncertainties in knowledge (Wooldridge and Done, 2004).

Beach. Sloping ground on the shore of a large amount of salt water bodies, generated by the surge and the currents, which extends over a considerable distance.

Beach meshing. An active fishing method utilising nets or baited drumlines designed to remove sharks from the local area for the purpose of bather protection. Employed only in Queensland and New South Wales in Australia and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

Benches. Natural or man-made step-like terraces; benches in an open-pit mine are formed when successive layers are removed; benches are also safety features that serve to catch any loose rock that starts to roll down the side of an open pit.

Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR). A measure of project desirability or profitability: the ratio between the discounted total benefits and costs of a project.

Benign introduction. An attempt to establish a species for the purpose of conservation: outside their recorded distribution, but within an appropriate habitat and eco-geographical area. This is a feasible conservation tool only when there is no remaining area left within the species' historic range.

Benthic. Connected with, or living near, the sea bottom.

Bequest value. A component of Total Economic Value: a non-use value derived from the desire to pass on natural resources and ecosystems to future generations.

Best practice. Best practice is a superior or innovative method that contributes to the improved performance of an organization, and is usually recognised as ‘best’ by other peer organizations. It implies accumulating and applying knowledge about what works and what does not work in different situations and contexts, including learning from experience, in a continuing process of learning, feedback, reflection and analysis (on what works, how and why).

Biennial. Plants which live for two years. Usually the first year's growth produces a leaf-rosette, the second the flowers.

Biocarbon. The basic premise of ‘biocarbon’ is to combine climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation in the same activity, usually through afforestation, reforestation or the conservation or enhancement of existing biomass.

Biocenose. All the interacting organisms living together in a specific habitat.

Biodiesel. Diesel replacement composed of methyl (or ethyl) esters of long chain fatty acids derived from plant oils such as rapeseed, palm oil and soy.

Biodiversity. The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity).

Biodiversity business. A commercial enterprise that generates profits through production processes which conserve biodiversity, uses biological resources sustainably, and shares the benefits arising out of this use equitably.

Biodiversity management services. Biodiversity management services (BMS) include a range of professional activities and services undertaken by public and private entities that deliver benefits for biodiversity, for which a fee is received by the service provider.

Biodiversity offset. Biodiversity offsets are conservation actions intended to compensate for the residual, unavoidable impact on biodiversity caused by development projects, to ensure at least no net loss of biodiversity and, where possible, a net gain.

Bio-economic model. A model of ecological and socio-economic reality that allows us to express the consequences of different management regimes on ecosystem values.

Bioenergy. Energy produced from biomass whether for heat, electricity or transport.

Bioerosion. The erosion of substrate by means of biological procedures (Neumann, 1966).

Bioethanol. Petrol replacement produced from sugar or starch crops such as sugarcane, sugarbeet, corn and wheat.

Biofouling. Marine biological fouling, usually termed marine biofouling, is the undesirable accumulation of microorganisms, plants, and animals on surfaces immersed in sea water.

Biofuels. Liquid or gaseous fuels produced from biomass that can be used to replace petrol, diesel and other transport fuels. **First Generation.** Biofuels produced from existing food and feed crops using simple and well established processing technologies (nearly all biofuels are currently first-generation). **Second Generation.** Biofuels produced from a wider range of cellulosic biomass including agricultural wastes and plant species grown specifically for their biomass such as switchgrass and willow and converted using more advanced thermo-chemical or bio-chemical processes. **Third Generation.** Potential future biofuels produced from “energy-designed” feedstocks with much higher production and conversion efficiencies than current biofuels.

Biogas. Gas produced from anaerobic digestion or fermentation of biomass and composed mainly of methane and carbon dioxide. Biogas can be burnt to produce heat and/or electricity or upgraded for use in vehicles that run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG).

Biogeography. A study of the geographical distribution of biodiversity over space and time.

Biogeographical region. An area of animal and plant distribution having similar or shared characteristics throughout.

Biological control agents. Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

Biological corridor. Area of suitable habitat, or habitat undergoing restoration, linking two or more protected areas (or linking important habitat that is not protected) to allow interchange of species, migration, gene exchange, etc.

Biological diversity values. The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components. (see Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Biological extinction. The complete disappearance of a species from the Earth.

Biological resources. The genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with real or potential value or usefulness to human beings.

Biomass. The total weight, volume or quantity of organisms in a given area.

Biome. A major portion of the living environment of a particular region (such as a fir forest or grassland), characterized by its distinctive vegetation and maintained largely by local climatic conditions.

Biophysical. Environmental factors which involve biotic and physical (abiotic) aspects and characteristics.

Bioprospecting. The systematic search for genes, compounds, designs, and organisms that might have a potential economic use and might lead to a product development.

Bioregion. An area where groups of animals and plants and physical features are distinct from those of surrounding areas. If one takes any slab of a bioregion, it should represent the biodiversity of assemblages, structure and environment as well as any other slab of the same bioregion (Done, 2001).

Biosafety. Defined as the safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology.

Biosecurity. The control of risks derived from the transference, manipulation and utilization of living organisms modified as a result of biotechnology and its effects on the environment and human health. According to the Cartagena Protocol, biosecurity should guarantee: “an adequate level of protection regarding the safe transference, manipulation and utilization of living organisms modified as a result of modern biotechnology, that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable utilization of the biological diversity, including the risks posed to human health, and specifically focusing on trans-bordering activities”.

Biosphere. The total range of living beings and their environment that comprises the lithosphere (surface of the earth), the hydrosphere (earth waters) and the atmosphere, which is almost 15 Km thick from the surface of the earth.

Biota. All species of living things (plants and animals) within a particular territory or area. It refers to the living weight of all organisms within a particular area or habitat. It is, sometimes, expressed as a weight per unit of land area or unit of water volume.

Biotechnology. Any technological application using biological resources, living organisms or their byproducts, for the creation or modification of products or processes for specific uses.

Biotic (factors). Belonging to, or caused by, the living organisms (as opposed to abiotic), e.g. grazing.

Biotope. Area inhabited by a specific group of living organisms.

Bivalve. A mollusc characterized by a shell in two parts joined by a hinge (oyster, cockle).

Booming. Typical vocalisations of displaying male prairie chickens.

Booming ground. The display ground of prairie chickens.

Boreal zone. The biogeographical region situated between the temperate and the Arctic zones and which is dominated by coniferous forest.

Bottom trawling. A fishing method that involves towing trawl nets along the sea floor. Bottom trawling can cause serious damage to sea floor habitats.

Bribery. Offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any item of value to influence the actions as an official or other person in discharge of a public or legal duty.

Buffer zone. Areas between core protected areas and the surrounding landscape or seascape which protect the network from potentially damaging external influences and which are essentially transitional areas.

Bushes. Areas dominated by vegetation which height is less than 6 m.; it includes bushes, young trees and small bushes and badly shaped bushes (forked, bent).

Bycatch. Animals caught by accident in fishing gear; species that the fishers do not intend to catch. These can include, for example, marine mammals, sea turtles, sea birds and sharks.

Byproduct. The part of the catch which is retained due to their commercial value, but which is not the primary target species (see **target catch**).

[Back to top](#)

C

Cages. According to FAO, “Cages are a rearing facility enclosed on the bottom as well as on the sides by wooden, mesh or net screens. It allows natural water exchange through the lateral sides and in most cases below the cage”.

Calcareous soils. Those formed on calcium carbonate rich rocks such as limestone or chalk. Lime-rich soils have a different and usually richer association of plants than acid soils.

Calcification. A process by which the mineral calcium builds up in tissue, causing it to harden. Scleractinian corals produce aragonite (CaCO₃) skeletons via this process (Marshall, 1996).

Cancritrophic. Having a diet specializing in crustacean prey.

Canopy cover. The proportion of the forest floor shielded by the leaves and branches of the trees.

Cap / Regulatory cap. A maximum level, for example of pollutant loads, that is mandated by law.

Cap-and-trade schemes. Watershed services payment schemes in which aggregate levels (caps) are determined, for example, for the release of pollutants, and then the right to release pollutants is traded among participating entities.

Capsule. A dry fruit that when mature splits apart to release the seeds within.

Carbon. Organic form of carbon, which is the main element of living beings (organic matter).

Carbon credits. Greenhouse gas emission reductions or removals generated by a project activity that can be bought or sold through the Clean Development Mechanism or joint implementation.

Carbon cycle. The bio-geochemical cycle in which carbon moves through the biosphere.

Carbon offset. The result of any action specifically undertaken to prevent the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and/or to remove it from the atmosphere in order to balance emissions taking place elsewhere.

Carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration is a biochemical process by which atmospheric carbon is absorbed by living organisms, including trees, soil micro-organisms, and crops, and involving the storage of carbon in soils, with the potential to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Carcharhinoid. A ground shark, a member of the **order** Carcharhiniformes and including the catsharks, false catsharks, finback catsharks, barbeled houndsharks, houndsharks, weasel sharks, requiem sharks and hammerheads.

Carnivore. An animal that eats other animals.

Carrying capacity. According to FAO, “Carrying capacity is the amount of a given activity that can be accommodated within the environmental capacity of a defined area”. In aquaculture: “usually considered to be the maximum quantity of fish that any particular body of water can support over a long period without negative effects to the fish and to the environment”.

Cartilaginous fishes. Species of the **class Chondrichthyes**, whose skeleton is composed of flexible cartilage instead of bone.

Catchment. The area drained by a river or body of water.

Caudal fin. The fin on the end of the tail in sharklike fishes, lost in some batoids.

Cephalopod. A mollusc characterized by arms with tentacles and suckers.

Certification. Certification means demonstrating that a product or process meets certain standards. This confirmation is in addition to the producer’s general information provided on ordinary labels and is usually, although not always, provided by means of an external assessment.

Certification schemes. Watershed services payment schemes in which payments are embedded in the premium price paid for a certified traded product.

Chain of custody (forestry). The channel through which products are distributed from their origin in the forest to their end-use.

Channelization. The straightening of rivers or streams by means of an artificial channel.

Chloroplast. Cell organelle in which photosynthesis takes place.

Choice experiment valuation methods. A Stated Preference Approach technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources that presents a series of alternative resource or ecosystem use options, each of which is defined by various attributes including price, and uses the choices of respondents as an indication of the value of ecosystem attributes.

Circumglobal. Distributed worldwide.

Circumpolar distribution. “Surrounding the pole”, i.e. occurring around the globe.

Circumtropical. Distributed throughout tropical regions worldwide.

Civil society. The sphere of autonomous institutions, protected by the law, where men and women may carry out their work freely and independently from the state.

Clade. A biological group of species that shares features inherited from a common ancestor (Houghton Mifflin, 2003).

Class. One of the taxonomic groups of organisms, containing related **orders**; related classes are grouped into phyla.

Classification. The ordering of organisms into groups on the basis of their relationships, which may be by similarity or common ancestry.

Climate. Climate in a narrow sense is usually defined as the ‘average weather’ or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years. The classical period is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

Climate change. Climate change refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. This usage differs from that in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which defines ‘climate change’ as: “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods”. See also **climate variability**.

Climate variability. Climate variability refers to variations in the mean state and other statistics (such as standard deviations, the occurrence of extremes, etc.) of the climate on all temporal and spatial scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be due to natural internal processes within the climate system (internal variability), or to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (external variability). See also **climate change**.

Climax species. Species which are stable and capable perpetuating themselves.

Climax vegetation. The final stage of vegetational succession.

Clone. Organisms having identical genome.

Close season. Period of time during which the exploitation of all types of activities is suspended, due to a decrease in wild populations, as a result of unforeseen natural phenomena or disasters that affect the distribution and stability of the species.

Closed population. A population that is self-seeding and receives its recruits primarily as larvae produced from spawning by its own residents.

Closure. A population achieves closure when the life cycles of its members are such that offspring remain within it, or return to become members of the reproductive assemblage (Mora and Sale 2002).

Coalitions. Groups or individuals who deliberately collaborate or ‘co-align’ to effect greater changes than could be achieved than acting alone. Together, groups exploit a ‘middle ground’ of shared interests.

Coast. The strip of land that lies immediately after the sea on the dry land, covering the area that is directly affected by the ocean. It includes cliffs, lowlands (coastal plains), steep marine terraces, swamps and lagoon systems.

Coastal. It refers to the habitats extending from the coast limits to an underwater depth of 2 m.

Coastal area. Area delimited at its uppermost part by the maximum level of high tide up to a depth of about 200 m. The area located between 60 and 200 m. is generally called sub-coastal.

Coastal Zone Management. Coastal zone management can be defined as “the management of the coastal and marine areas and resources in order to have a sustainable use, development and protection”.

Codend. The end of a fishing net in which the catch collects.

Code of conduct. Codes of conduct are sets of written principles and expectations that, although voluntary, are considered binding on any person or organization that belongs to a particular group that adopts the code.

Coloured Dissolved Organic Matter (CDOM). Also known as gelbstoff, it primarily consists of humic acids produced by the decomposition of plant litter and organically rich soils in coastal and upland areas. Levels can be augmented by fulvic acid produced by coral reefs, seaweed decomposition or industrial effluents (Keith et al, 2002). CDOM absorbs UV radiation and can protect coral reefs against bleaching (Otis et al, 2004).

Co-management. Also known as participatory management, involves an institutional arrangement between the local users of a territory or set of natural resources and/or groups interested in its conservation, and public entities responsible for the administration of said resources. The process leads to the development of community skills to enable them to effectively undertake a biodiversity conservation role.

Commercial fishery. A fishery targeting species which are retained and sold for their commercial value.

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). A European Union policy for fisheries management. The common fisheries policy includes a body of rules and mechanisms covering the exploitation, processing and marketing of living aquatic resources and aquaculture. These activities are carried out in the territories of the Member States or in the European Community fishing zone (waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction

of the Member States), or by fishing vessels flying the flags of Member States in the waters of non-member countries or in international waters.

Common name. The informal vernacular name for an organism, which may vary from location to location.

Community Conserved Area. Natural and modified ecosystems, including significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local and mobile communities through customary laws or other effective means.

Complementary good. A good or service that is used in conjunction with another.

Condensation. The process by which a vapour becomes a liquid.

Condition. It refers to the conditions under which people live, that is, how they live. It specifically points towards the so called practical needs (poverty, access to services, productive resources, health care and education, among others).

Coniferous forest. Coniferous forests are naturally found in the northern hemisphere, in cold and temperate zones and, in a smaller proportion, in similar zones of the southern hemisphere. In the vegetable kingdom, coniferous are found in smaller numbers than broad leaves.

Connectivity (*reefs*). Natural links among reefs and neighbouring habitats, especially seagrass beds, mangroves, and back-reef lagoons that provide important fish nurseries and nutrients, and watersheds and adjacent coastal lands, which are sources of freshwater, sediments and pollutants. The mechanisms include ocean currents, terrestrial run-off and water courses, larval dispersal, spawning patterns, and movements of adult fishes and other animals. Connectivity is an important part of dispersal and replenishment of biodiversity on reefs damaged by natural or human-related agents.

Consensus. An agreement that is reached by identifying the interests of all concerned parties and then building an integrative solution that maximises satisfaction of as many of the interests as possible. It does not mean unanimity, as it does not satisfy all participants' interests equally.

Conservation. The protection, care, management and maintenance of ecosystems, habitats, wildlife species and populations, within or outside of their natural environments, in order to safeguard the natural conditions for their long-term permanence.

Conservation *ex situ*. The conservation of the components of the biological diversity outside of their natural habitats.

Conservation *in situ*. The conservation of the ecosystems and natural habitats and maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural environments and, in the case of tame and cultivated species, in the environments where they have developed their specific characteristics.

Conservation tillage. Tillage practices (including no-till, mulch till and ridge till) that leave beneficial plant materials (leaves, stalks, etc.) from previous crops on the soil surface, thus maintaining or enhancing soil carbon stocks.

Consolidation. The settling or establishment of an expanded distribution of an alien species that is becoming invasive.

Consortium. A partnership. For example, forest consortia in Italy are legal management entities consisting of public and private forest owners.

Consumer surplus. The difference between the value of a good and its price, in other words the benefit over and above what is paid that is obtained by a consumer who is willing to pay more for a good or service than is actually charged.

Containment. The restriction (by human hand) in area or range of a species that is spreading –possibly to become invasive – with intention to stop the spread to new areas.

Continental shelf. The gently sloping, shelf-like part of the seabed adjacent to the coast extending to a depth of about 200m.

Continental slope. The often steep, slope-like part of the seabed extending from the edge of the **continental shelf** to a depth of about 2,000m.

Contingent Valuation methods (CVM). A Stated Preference Approach technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources that elicits expressions of value from respondents for specified increases or decreases in the quantity or quality of an environmental good or service, under the hypothetical situation that it would be available for purchase or sale. This yields their willing to pay (WTP) for the quality of quality of the good or service under question, or willingness to accept compensation (WTA) for its loss.

Control. Refers to the authority, property and power of decision. In some circumstances, women may have access (the possibility of using) to a resource, land, for example, and have a limited control over it (they are not allowed to decide whether to sell or rent it).

Convergent evolution. A common trait in unrelated lineages.

Coppice woodland. Thicket of small trees maintained by regular cutting of stems.

Coral bleaching. The paling of corals resulting from a loss of symbiotic algae. Bleaching occurs in response to physiological shock in response to abrupt changes in temperatures, salinity and turbidity (see also **Mass coral bleaching**).

Coral reef. A marine ridge or mound that has been built up over thousands of years from limestone (calcium carbonate) deposited in the skeletons of coral polyps. The term coral reef is often used to refer to the entire ecosystem: the coral, the substrate built by the coral and the organisms that live in, on and around the reef. The geographical shape of a reef can also be part of the definition: fringing reefs, barrier reefs and atolls.

Coral surface microlayer. A protective layer of highly-productive mucus on the surface of corals. It is just millimetres thick but protects corals from UV-radiation (Aas et al, 1998).

Coralline algae. Algae species that form solid calcium carbonate accretions.

Corallivore. An organism that eats coral (NOAA, 2005).

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). An “umbrella” concept that not only benefits a company's financial bottom line, but also its environmental and social bottom line. CSR initiatives should go beyond minimum legal compliance.

Corrective actions. Actions intended to correct or counteract something that is malfunctioning, undesirable, or injurious. Corrective action is also sometimes used as an encompassing term that includes remedial actions, genuine corrective actions and preventive actions.

Corridor. Way to maintain vital ecological or environmental connectivity by maintaining physical linkages between core areas.

Corruption. The abuse of public power for private benefit; or, behaviour that deviates from the formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private-regarding motives such as wealth, power, or status.

Cost Based approaches to valuation. A group of techniques for valuation that look at the market trade-offs or costs avoided of maintaining ecosystems for their goods and services, including replacement costs, mitigative or avertive expenditures and damage costs avoided methods.

Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). A decision tool which judges the desirability of projects by comparing their costs and benefits.

Critically Endangered. When used in the context of the IUCN Red List, a taxon is classified as ‘Critically Endangered’ when there is an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future (IUCN, 2001).

Critical natural capital. Describes the part of the natural capital that is irreplaceable for the functioning of the ecosystem, and hence for the provision of its services.

Cronyism. Partiality to long-standing, loyal friends.

Crowding out. When government expenditures or actions result in a decline of similar private sector spending or actions.

Cryptic. Fish species (or other organisms) that live amongst concealing or sheltering cover, or that possess protective colouration.

Cuttings. The fragments of rock dislodged by the drilling bit and brought to the surface in the drilling mud.

[Back to top](#)

D

Decentralization. The transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to the subordinate government and/or private sector. It includes political, administrative, fiscal and market dimensions.

Deciduous forest. Forest dominated by broad-leaved trees, e.g. beech, maple, oak, etc.

Decision analysis. A decision tool that judges the desirability of projects by weighting the expected values of a given course of action (in other words, the sum of possible values weighted by their probability of occurring) by attitudes to risk, to give expected utilities

Decomposer. An organism that feeds on dead organisms from all levels of the food chain, causing mechanical and chemical breakdown of the organisms and returning nutrients to the environment.

Deforestation. Destruction of the forests to the extent that their natural reproduction becomes impossible.

Degraded. Reduction or loss of biological or economic productivity of the land.

Delta. Mouth of a river flowing out of several branches of which shape recalls a triangle (which is also the shape of the Greek letter delta).

Demersal. Occurring or living near or on the bottom of the ocean (*cf.* **pelagic**).

Democracy. Government by the people. Power is exercised directly or indirectly through a system of representation and delegated authority which is periodically renewed.

Demography. The statistical description of the size and composition of populations.

Desert pavement. Topmost layer of angular stones covering desert surfaces; the dust falling on these stones is washed beneath the surface.

Desert varnish. A thin dark surface patina formed by a combination of leaching out of iron and manganese from underlying rocks and dust, and the action of lichens and bacteria.

Desertification. “Desertification is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities” – as agreed at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and adopted by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Desiccation. A drying phenomenon; operation by which some elements are deprived of the moisture they contain.

Detritus. Decomposing organic material.

Development rights. Legal rights to use, develop or profit from land or resources owned by another, generally synonymous with usufruct rights.

Devolution. The act by which the government transfers core powers, rights and duties to individuals or groups of individuals that are located within or outside of the government.

Dewatering. Lowering of the water table.

Diatom. A unicellular algae consisting of two interlocking silica valves (NOAA, 2005).

Diel cycles. Cycles of activity occurring over a 24-hour period.

Direct-use value. A component of Total Economic Value: environmental and natural resources that are used directly as raw materials and physical products for production, consumption and sale.

Disaster. A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources (ISDR 2004).

Disaster Risk Reduction. People and institutions involved in preparedness, mitigation (e.g. reinforcing building structures, improving public awareness about disaster risks), and prevention activities (e.g. planting trees to stabilize riverbanks) associated with extreme events. These include hazard forecasting and immediate relief efforts for major disasters resulting from floods, cyclones and, in some cases, pollution events (adapted from IISD/IUCN/SEI 2003).

Disaster Response Planning. Adequate disaster preparedness requires a response plan which includes, e.g., contingency planning for prevention, as much as possible, and minimization of the adverse effects on people that can occur by release of hazardous, dangerous, and toxic chemicals/materials that can be accidentally released during a natural disaster (Christich pers. comm).

Discard/release mortality. The proportion of fish that die as a result of being discarded once captured. Discard mortality is often hard to assess as individuals returned to the sea alive may later die due to the effects of being caught.

Discards. The component of a catch returned to the sea, either dead or alive. Primarily made up of the **bycatch** but can include juveniles and damaged or unsuitable individuals of the target species.

Discount rate. The interest rate used to determine the present value of a future stream of costs and benefits.

Discounting. The process of finding the present value of a future stream of benefits, using a discount rate. The present value is obtained by multiplying the future cost or benefit by the expression $\frac{1}{(1+i)^n}$, where i is the discount rate and n is the year in question.

Disturbance event. An event that causes a change in environmental conditions that interfere with ecosystem function.

Dispersal. The act of dispersing. Juvenile dispersal means the process during which juveniles leave their native area and settle elsewhere.

Diurnal temperature range. This is the difference between the daily maximum and minimum temperatures, which has been observed to be decreasing globally, especially in Australia.

Domestication. According to FAO, “Domestication is the process by which plants, animals or microbes selected from the wild adapt to a special habitat created for them by humans, bringing a wild species under human management”. In a genetic context, the “process in which changes in gene frequencies and performance arise from a new set of selection pressures exerted on a population”.

Dorsal. On the upper side of the body, opposite to **ventral**.

Dorsal fin. A fin located on the trunk or precaudal tail or both, and between the head and caudal fin. Most sharks have two dorsal fins, some batoids have one or none.

Draining. Artificial or natural evacuation (through a flow system) of water from a previously marshy area.

Drilling mud. Specialised fluid made up of a mixture of clay, water and chemicals, which is pumped down a well during drilling operations to lubricate the system, remove cuttings and control pressure.

Driver (direct or indirect). Any natural or human-induced factor that directly or indirectly causes a change in an ecosystem.

Dropline fishing. A method of deepwater fishing using a vertical line bearing rows of baited hooks.

Drought. The naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems.

Drumming. The display of the male ruffed grouse.

Drylands. Areas with low annual precipitation, prolonged periods of heat, low relative humidity and high rates of evaporation; includes zones classified as hyper-arid, arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid; these aridity zones are delineated based on an aridity index, which is determined by the ratio of precipitation to potential evapotranspiration.

Dynamite fishing. A destructive fishing method using explosives to kill and collect fish. Often used around coral reefs, causing habitat destruction.

Dystrophic. Rich in organic matter, but low in nutrient content and unproductive.

[Back to top](#)

E

Ecological diversity. Variety of ecosystems on any geographic level.

Ecological evaluation. To determine the value of something, for example, the value of the natural functions supplied to society by an ecosystem.

Ecological footprint. The area of direct environmental impact of an industrial operation on the land.

Ecological infrastructure. A concept referring to both services by natural ecosystems (e.g. storm protection by mangroves and coral reefs or water purification by water and wetlands), and to nature within man-made ecosystems (e.g. microclimate regulation by urban parks).

Ecological integrity. Maintaining the diversity and quality of ecosystems and enhancing their capacity to adapt to change and provide for the needs of future generations.

Ecological legislation. Environmental policy instrument, which purpose is to regulate or promote the use of the soil and productive activities towards the protection of the environment, the sustainable conservation and exploitation of the natural resources, through the analysis of deterioration trends and exploitation potential.

Ecological memory. After catastrophic change, remnants (memory) of the former system become growth points for renewal and reorganisation of the social-ecological system. Ecological memory is conferred by biological legacies that persist after disturbance, including mobile species and propagules that colonise and reorganise disturbed sites and refuges that support such legacies and mobile links (Adger et al, 2005).

Ecological niche. The functional role of an organism within a natural community.

Ecological phase shift. The shift of an ecosystem from one state of equilibrium to another due to disturbance (Nyström *et al.*, 2001).

Ecological regulation. The environmental policy instrument which purpose is to regulate or induce the use of the soil and the productive activities to protect the environment, the sustainable preservation and exploitation of the natural resources through the analysis of deterioration trends and exploitation potentials.

Ecological resilience. The ability of a system to absorb or recover from disturbance and change, while maintaining its functions and services (adapted from Carpenter et al, 2001).

Ecological resistance. The ability of an ecosystem to withstand disturbance without undergoing a phase shift or losing neither structure nor function (Odum, 1989).

Ecological state of equilibrium. The state in which the action of multiple forces produces a steady balance, resulting in no change over time (NOAA, 2005).

Ecological steppingstone. Area of suitable habitat or habitat undergoing restoration between two protected areas or other important habitat types that provides temporary habitat for migratory birds and other species.

Ecomorphs. Species populations which have morphologically adapted to the environment.

Economic analysis. Examines the effects of projects, programmes and policies on costs and benefits to society as a whole, valued according to economic or shadow prices.

Economic Rate of Return. A measure of project desirability or profitability: the Internal Rate of Return of the flow of net benefits to a project when all costs and benefits are valued at economic or Shadow Prices.

Economic/monetary valuation. Assigning an economic value to environmental factors and considerations. This helps give weight to such considerations where they might otherwise not be taken into account. Full valuation requires significant information, time and resources. Valuation methodologies may be based on actual markets, surrogate markets or non-market techniques.

Economic values. Values measured at their “real” cost or benefit to the economy, usually omitting transfer payments and valuing all items at their opportunity cost to society.

Ecoregion. A geographical area presenting similarities and links to particular ecology and culture which defines a coherent entity.

Ecosystem. According to the Agreement on Biological Diversity, an ecosystem is understood as a dynamic complex of vegetable, animal and microorganism communities and their nonliving environment that interact as a functional unit. Ecosystems may be small and simple, like an isolated pond, or large and complex, like a specific tropical rainforest or a coral reef in tropical seas.

Ecosystem approach. A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

Ecosystem-based adaptation. The use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Ecosystem-based management (EBM). A process that integrates biological, social and economic factors into a comprehensive strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing sustainability, diversity and productivity of natural resources. EBM emphasizes the protection of ecosystem structure, functioning and key processes; is place-based in focusing on a specific ecosystem and the range of activities affecting it; explicitly accounts for the interconnectedness among systems, such as between air, land and sea; and integrates ecological, social, economic and institutional

perspectives, recognizing their strong interdependences (*COMPASS Scientific Consensus Statement*).

Ecosystem benefits. Ecosystems provide benefits to communities that have economic value, including protection, food security, shelter and income.

Ecosystem function. The process through which the constituent living and nonliving elements of ecosystems change and interact (ForestERA, 2005).

Ecosystem integrity. The continuity and full character of a complex system, including its ability to perform all the essential functions throughout its geographic setting; the integrity concept within a managed system implies maintaining key components and processes throughout time.

Ecosystem resilience. Ecosystems suffer natural disturbances (strong winds, fires) that affect their structure and operation, to which they respond through the recolonization of vegetable species in the affected areas. The recovery time is directly dependent upon the intensity and extension of the disturbance. The ecosystems' capacity to approximately return to the state prevailing prior to the disturbance is called resilience.

Ecosystem restoration. Recovery of the structure, function and processes of the original ecosystem.

Ecosystem services. The goods and services provided by healthy ecosystems, including medicinal plants, clean water and air, and protection from extreme natural events.

Ecosystem structure. The individuals and communities of plants and animals of which an ecosystem is composed, their age and spatial distribution, and the non-living natural resources present (APEX, 2004).

Ecotourism. A form of tourism focused on the discovery of cultural and natural heritage and committed to respecting the environment while contributing to the well-being of local people.

Edge effects. A change in species composition, physical conditions or ecological factors at the boundary between a protected area and a non-protected area. The degree of these changes will vary depending on the size of the protected area.

Effect on Production valuation methods. A Production Function Approach technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources that quantifies the relationship between changes in the quality or quantity of a particular ecosystem good or service with changes in market value of production.

Efficiency. The utilization in the best possible way of the complete package of potential or available resources.

Egg case. A stiff-walled elongate-oval, rounded rectangular, conical, or dart-shaped capsule that surrounds the eggs of oviparous sharks and is deposited by the maternal adult on the substrate.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) refers to widespread 2-7 year oscillations in atmospheric pressure, ocean temperatures and rainfall associated with El Niño (the warming of the oceans in the equatorial eastern and central Pacific) and its opposite, La Niña. Over much of Australia, La Niña brings above average rain, and El Niño brings drought. A common measure of ENSO is the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) which is the normalised mean sea level pressure difference between Tahiti and Darwin. The SOI is positive during La Niña events and negative during El Niño events.

Embezzlement. The deliberate fraudulent appropriation or theft of resources by those put to administer it.

Emigration. Change of regular residence from a political-administrative unit to another, at a given time, considered from the place where the movement originates.

Enabling framework. The mix of policies, institutions, social norms and collective agreements that can be used singly or in combination, by government, business and other stakeholders, to promote biodiversity business and other socially-beneficial activities. The enabling framework may include both voluntary incentives and mandatory requirements.

Enactment. Act of officially publishing a law leading to compliance and enforcement.

Endangered. When used in the context of the IUCN Red List, a taxon is classified as 'Endangered' when there is very high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future (IUCN, 2001).

Endemic. Native to, and restricted to, a particular geographical region. Highly endemic species, those with very restricted natural ranges, are especially vulnerable to extinction if their natural habitat is eliminated or significantly disturbed.

Endolithic algae. Algae that burrow into calcareous rocks or corals (NOAA, 2005).

Endowment fund. A financial portfolio that is managed to preserve and / or grow capital, while providing current income from investments.

Enrichment planting. The planting of desired tree species in a modified natural forest or secondary forest or woodland with the objective of creating a high forest dominated by desirable (ie local and/or high-value) species.

Environment. It refers to all living and non-living components and all the factors, like the climate, that surround an organism. It is frequently confused with the word ecology, which is the science that studies the relations of living beings with each other as well as with all the non-living parts of an environment. The environment could be

conceived as a row of domino tiles. In this sense, ecology would be the study of the effect on each other of all the domino tiles while falling.

Environmental externality. An activity by one agent that causes a loss/gain to the welfare of another agent and the loss/gain is uncompensated.

Environmental impact. The measurable effect of human action over a certain ecosystem. A measuring instrument is the manifestation of environmental impact, through which document is revealed the significant and potential environmental impact generated by an activity or work, as well as how it could be avoided or mitigated in the case of a negative impact.

Environmental indicator. It is a parameter or value derived from general parameters that describes in a synthesized manner the pressures, condition, responses and/or trends of environmental and socio-environmental ecological phenomena, which meaning is broader than the properties directly associated to the parameter's value.

Environmental Management System (EMS). The system of organizational capacity, plans, procedures, resources, policies and standards used by energy and other companies to manage their environmental programs.

Environmental protection. Any activity that maintains the balance of the environment by preventing contamination and the deterioration of the natural resources, including activities such as: a) changes in the characteristics of goods and services, and changes in consumption patterns; b) changes in production techniques; c) waste treatment or disposal in separate environmental protection facilities; d) recycling; e) prevention of landscape degradation.

Environmental services. These services describe qualitative (even spatial) functions provided by the natural resources. Three types of environmental services usually exist: a) deposit services, which reflect the functions of the natural household environment as an absorbent dump of the waste originated by household productive activities and industrial activities in general; b) productive, with respect to water, land and air resources, which reflect the economic and ecological functions for human consumption, energy, and agricultural purposes, etc.); c) recreational and socialization services, covering the basic functions of the environment to meet the recreation and socialization needs as well as the cosmology of certain societies.

Environmental valuation. Estimate about the magnitude or quality of the natural environment (air, water, soil) or investigation about the effects that a certain function or activity has on another function or activity.

Epibenthic. The area just above and including the seabed; epibenthic species live on or near the bottom.

Epiflora and epifauna. Plants and animals living on or just above the seabed.

Epipelagic. The upper part of the **oceanic** zone beyond the continental and insular shelves, from the surface to about 200m.

Equal opportunities. It is the situation where men and women have equal opportunities to become intellectually, physically and emotionally fulfilled, to pursue and achieve the goals they set in life, and develop their potential abilities, regardless of gender, class, sex, age, religion and ethnic group.

Equal treatment. It presupposes the right to equal social conditions of safety, remuneration and work conditions for women and men alike.

Equality. The condition of one thing being similar to another in terms of nature, form, quality and quantity. The achievement of the equality objective goes beyond the mere prohibition or elimination of discriminations.

Equitable benefits. It refers to the ultimate impact of development efforts on both genders. It implies that the results should be equally accessed and utilized by men and women. Equality of opportunities does not, necessarily, imply that both genders enjoy the same benefits.

Equity. It seeks people's access to equal opportunities and the development of basic capacities; this means that the barriers hindering economic and political opportunities, as well as the access to education and basic services, should be eliminated, so that the people (women and men of all ages, conditions and positions) may be able to enjoy such opportunities and benefit from them. It means justice; that is, giving each one what is rightfully theirs, recognizing the specific conditions or characteristics of each person or human group (sex, gender, class, religion, age); it is the recognition of diversity, without giving reason to discrimination.

Equity investment. Refers to the acquisition of equity (ownership) participation in a private or publicly-listed company.

Equivalent CO₂ concentration (carbon dioxide). The concentration of carbon dioxide that would cause the same amount of radiative forcing as a given mixture of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Eradication. The complete removal *of all living representatives* of a species that is becoming (or is likely to become) invasive in a specified area or country.

Ericaceous shrubs. Shrubs of the heath *Ericaceae* plant family, e.g. heather, bilberry, rhododendron.

Erosion. The gradual disintegration of the soil surface by chemical or physical weathering.

Establishment. A phase (between *introduction* and *naturalisation*) in the (gradual) settling of a species in a new area such that it is able to reproduce without human assistance.

Estuary. Semi-enclosed body of water on the marine coastline, which presents the influence of marine waters, continental fresh waters (originating from rivers, creeks, etc.) and rain waters.

Ethnic groups. It refers to the classification of the population according to its social and cultural organization, which conforms particular ways of life for the members of a group. In general terms, the people who are part of an ethnic group share characteristics such as race, language, territory and above all, their view and interpretation of the world. Each ethnic group defines particular ways of life for women and men, thus determining the specificity of the condition and position of women.

Euryhaline. Species capable of occurring in fresh, brackish and saltwater.

Eustatic. Worldwide change in sea level such as that caused by tectonic movements or by the growth or decay of glaciers.

Eutrophication. The natural process of nutrient enrichment of a water body which is enhanced by phosphate and nitrate waste from human activity. It can cause excessive organic growth and depletion of oxygen concentrations, resulting in the death of aquatic animals and higher plants.

Evapotranspiration. The sum of water loss from both plants and soil measured over a specific area.

Evergreen plant. A plant that has leaves in all seasons.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). A zone under national jurisdiction (up to 200 nautical miles wide) declared in line with the provisions of 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), within which the coastal State has the right to explore and exploit and the responsibility to conserve and manage, the living and non-living resources.

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).

Ex situ. Outside the historical range of a species taxon.

Extent of occurrence. The area contained within the shortest continuous boundary which encompasses all known, inferred and projected sites of present occurrence of a **taxon**, excluding cases of vagrancy. This measure may exclude discontinuities or disjunctions within the overall distributions of taxa (e.g. large areas of obviously unsuitable habitat) (see also **area of occupancy**).

Externality. The positive or negative consequence of an economic activity that is experienced by unrelated third parties, that is not reflected in the price of the goods or services being produced and for which no compensation is paid or received.

Extinction. An irreversible process whereby a species or distinct biological population forever ceases to exist.

[Back to top](#)

F

Facilitator. An independent third party who guides the way a group identifies and solves problems and makes decisions to increase the group's effectiveness. The facilitator should be acceptable to all members of the group. A facilitator has no decision making authority.

Falcate. Sickle-shaped (e.g. a falcate **dorsal fin**).

Fallowing. According to FAO, "Fallowing is a process where sites normally used for production are left to recover for part or all of a growing season".

Family. Taxonomic category used in the classification of living beings in order to group one or several similar genders, that are supposed to be closely related. Normally, the characteristics used to designate the families are easily observable.

Fauna. The community of animals peculiar to a region, area, specified environment or period.

Favouritism. Showing an inclination to favour some person or group, which in its most damaging form, constitutes unfair treatment of a person or group on the basis of prejudice.

Feasibility studies. A preliminary study undertaken to ascertain the likelihood of a project's success, generally including assessments of technical and financial viability.

Fecundity. The potential reproductive capacity and productiveness of an organism or population (NOAA, 2005).

Fetch. The distance along open water or land over which the wind blows; the distance traversed by waves without obstruction.

Fiduciary contract. A reciprocal relationship of accountability between citizens and the state in which services are provided by the state in exchange for financial contributions from citizens.

Filter-feeding. A form of feeding whereby suspended food particles are extracted from the water using gill rakers.

Filiform. Slender and elongate, filamentous, thread-like.

Financial analysis. Examines the effects of projects, programmes and policies on costs and benefits to the private returns accruing to a particular individual or group, valued according to financial prices.

Financial Rate of Return. A measure of project desirability or profitability: the Internal Rate of Return of the flow of net benefits to a project when all costs and benefits are valued at constant market prices.

Financial values. Values measured at market prices, as outflows or inflows to a particular individual or group.

Finning. The practice of slicing off a shark's valuable fins and discarding the body at sea.

Fiscal. Relating to government taxation, spending, or financial matters.

Fiscal mechanisms. Financial tools used by the government to affect economic behaviour, for example taxes, subsidies or direct spending.

Fishery independent survey. An experimental or scientific survey of the **fauna** or catch within a fishery or area, conducted independently of the fishing industry.

Fishing. Capture, through the use of fishing gear or equipment, of live aquatic organisms that move with a certain speed.

Fishing effort. The amount of fishing taking place; usually described in terms of the gear type and the frequency or period which it is in use.

Fishing mortality. The proportion of fish that die due to fishing; often expressed as a percentage of the total **population** caught each year.

Flagship species. Popular charismatic species that serve as symbols to stimulate conservation awareness and action locally, nationally, regionally or globally.

Flaring. Controlled burning of surplus combustible gases in the atmosphere.

Flock. A group of birds feeding or moving together.

Forest cover. All the trees and other woody plants (scrub) covering the soil of a forest. It includes: trees and all types of bushes; bushes and weeds growing under or on forest clearings or thickets; humus or fallen leaves, branches, fallen trees, and other plant materials partially rotten on the surface and the upper soil layer.

Forest fallow. The intermediate time between two periods of shifting agriculture. In a functional shifting agricultural system, the fallow period is long enough that a functional secondary forest stand can develop (ie >20 years).

Forest integrity. The composition, dynamics, functions and structural attributes of a natural forest.

Forest management/manager. The people responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, as well as the management system and structure, and the planning and field operations.

Formal engagement. An arrangement which includes some form of written agreement.

Founder population. This refers to the number of founders that are introduced to establish a new population. Founders should be unrelated wherever possible.

Fragmentation. The breaking up of a habitat, ecosystem or land-use type into smaller, often isolated, parcels, thereby reducing the number of species that the habitat, ecosystem or land-use type can support.

Framework. A high-level structure which lays down a common purpose and direction for plans and programmes.

Fresh water. Term applied to water, which salinity is below 0.5 ppm.

Fugitive (*Mosses*). Ephemeral species with high reproductive effort and small spores, occurring preferentially in habitats that occur unpredictably and are suitable for a very short time only.

Functional diversity. The range of functions that are performed by organisms in a system (Gray, 1997).

Functional group. Groups of species with similar ecological roles/functions (Peterson, 1997).

Functions of the ecosystems. The capacity of the natural processes and components to supply goods and services that will be utilized or are being used to improve the human quality of life.

Fusiform. Spindle-shaped; narrow (more than three times as long as wide) and tapered at both ends.

[Back to top](#)

G

Galliformes. Birds of the chicken family; e.g. grouse, pheasants, partridges.

Gangue. Rock surrounding a mineral or precious gem in its natural state.

Garrigue. An open, shrubby, evergreen Mediterranean vegetation, usually occurring on calcareous soils, resulting from forest regression due to fire and intensive grazing.

Gastropod. Mollusc with a large fleshy foot that allows it to move.

Generalist predator. Carnivorous species feeding on a wide range of prey.

Genetically modified organisms. Biological organisms which have been induced by various means to consist of genetic structural changes.

Gender. Genders are bio-socio-cultural groups, historically built from the identification of sexual characteristics that classify human beings. Once classified, they are assigned a differentiated set of functions, activities, social relations, forms and standards of behavior. It is a complex set of economic, social, legal, political and psychological determinations and characteristics, that is, cultural, creating that which in each period of time, society or culture constitutes the specific contents of being a man or a woman.

Gender analysis. Is a theoretical-practical process that allows a differentiated analysis between men and women of the responsibilities, knowledge, access, use and control over the resources, the problems and needs, priorities and opportunities, in order to plan development based on efficiency and equity. Gender analysis does, necessarily, involve studying the forms of organization and operation of societies to analyze social relations. This analysis should describe the subordination structures existing between genders. The gender analysis should not be limited to the role of women, but should cover and compare the role of women with respect to men, and vice versa.

Genebank. Facility established for the *ex-situ* conservation of seeds, tissues or reproductive cells of animals or plants.

Generation. Measured as the average age of parents of newborn individuals within the population. Where generation length varies under threat, the more natural, i.e. pre-disturbance, generation length should be used for **Red List** assessments.

Genes. Elements in all living things that carry hereditary characteristics, which, when expressed, make each individual different from all others.

Genetic diversity. Variety of genes or sub-specific genetic varieties.

Genetic engineering. Modification of the genetic structure of living organisms using molecular biology techniques that can transfer genes between dissimilar organisms.

Genetic resources. The genetic material with real or potential value.

Genetic stump. Is the base of the coded genetic information of organisms.

Genetically modified organisms. Biological organisms which have been induced by various means to consist of genetic structural changes.

Genotype. The genetic constitution of an individual or group (NOAA, 2005).

Genus (plural: genera). One of the taxonomic groups of organisms, containing related **species**; related genera are grouped into **families**.

Geodiversity. The diversity of minerals, rocks (whether “solid” or “drift”), fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes that constitute the topography, landscape and the underlying structure of the Earth.

Geographic Information System (GIS). An organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic data, and personnel designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

Geomorphology. The study of landforms on a planet’s surface and of the processes that have fashioned them.

Gestation period. The period between conception and birth in live-bearing animals.

Gill. The spore-bearing, radiating structures found underneath certain mushroom caps.

Gillnet. A type of fishing net designed to entangle or ensnare fish.

Glabrous. Having no hair or similar growth.

Global fertility rate. Average number of children delivered by a woman throughout her reproductive life, in accordance with the fertility rates by age considered over a certain period of time.

Global temperature. Usually referring to the surface temperature, this is an area-weighted average of temperatures recorded at ground- and sea-surface-based observation sites around the globe, supplemented by satellite-based or model based records in remote regions.

Global warming. An increase in global average surface temperature due to natural or anthropogenic climate change.

Gobbling. Typical vocalisations of displaying male lesser prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse.

Gobbling ground. A name for the display ground of the lesser prairie chicken. Also: booming ground.

Governance. The exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage society's problems and affairs.

Greenhouse gasses. Gasses that contribute to the greenhouse effect, i.e. hinder heat radiation from escaping through the atmosphere.

Groundwater. All water present below the surface of the Earth.

Group felling. A silvicultural system that removes mature timber in small groups at relatively short intervals, repeated indefinitely, where the continual establishment of regeneration is encouraged and an uneven-aged stand is maintained.

[Back to top](#)

H

Habitat. The locality or environment in which an animal lives. **H-- degradation.** A decline in habitat quality for a species, e.g. related to changes in food availability, cover, or climate. **H-- fragmentation.** The process and result of breaking an area of contiguous habitat into distinct patches. **H-- loss.** An area that has become totally unsuitable for a species. **H-- management.** Management activities involving vegetation, soil and other physiographic elements or characteristics in specific areas, with specific conservation, maintenance, improvement or restoration goals. **H— specialist.** A species that tends to show relatively narrow habitat preferences and therefore is susceptible to habitat change.

Haline. Term used to indicate the prevalence of oceanic salts.

Harvest. Product obtained or harvested through a growing or breeding process.

Hazard. A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity, which may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation (ISDR 2004).

Heat Shock Protein. Proteins present in the cells of all living organisms. They are induced when a cell is exposed to certain environmental stresses. Heat shock proteins are also present in cells under normal conditions, assisting in other cellular protein functions and behaviour (NOAA, 2005).

Hemisphere. Half of a globe; may be either eastern and western, or northern and southern hemisphere.

Herbivore. A plant eater.

Heterodontoid. A bullhead shark, horn shark, or Port Jackson shark, a member of the **order** Heterodontiformes, **family** Heterodontidae.

Heterotroph. An organism that cannot make its own food, and which eats other organisms or complex organic substances that are produced by other organisms.

Hexanchoid. A cowshark or frilled shark, members of the **order** Hexanchiformes and including the sixgill sharks, sevengill sharks and frilled sharks.

High forest. Generic term used to describe a forest close to its successional climax – most commonly synonymous with ‘primary forest’, but can also be achieved in a managed natural forest under a strict selection system.

High tide. The highest level reached by the sea at the culmination of the high tide flow.

Highly migratory fish stocks. As defined under UNFSA, highly migratory fish stocks are those that generally roam over large distances and may be found in numerous EEZ jurisdictions and the high seas.

Hitchhiker. A biological specimen that is carried into a new ecosystem, without the knowledge of the person involved. ‘Hitchhikers’ usually are carried by or in another species, or in vessels, vehicles, shipping materials or otherwise.

Holocene. An epoch of the Quaternary period dating from the end of the Pleistocene approximately 10,000 years ago until the present (NOAA, 2005).

Holotype. A single specimen cited in the original description of a species which becomes the ‘name-bearer’ of the species. The holotype is used to validate the species and its accompanying **scientific name** by anchoring it to a single specimen.

Hooting. Typical vocalisations of displaying male blue grouse.

Human disturbance. Presence of humans, e.g. recreationists in wildlife habitats, and the individual responses and population-level effects caused by man-wildlife encounters.

Human settlements. The establishment of a given demographic conglomerate, along with its set of living-related systems in a physically located area. Natural elements and infrastructure are considered within the area.

Human well-being. Concept prominently used in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment—it describes elements largely agreed to constitute ‘a good life’, including basic material goods, freedom and choice, health and bodily well-being, good social relations, security, peace of mind, and spiritual experience.

Humus. The partially decomposed remains of dead plant and animal tissues.

Hybridization. Cross-breeding between individuals of different species.

Hydrocarbons. Organic compounds of hydrogen and carbon whose densities, boiling points and freezing points increase as their molecular weights increase. Although composed of only two elements, hydrocarbons exist in a variety of compounds, because of the strong affinity of the carbon atom for other atoms and for itself. Petroleum is a mixture of many different hydrocarbons.

Hydrology. The study of the movement of water from the sea through the air to the land and back to the sea; the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on or below the Earth’s surface and in the atmosphere.

Hydrophytes. Plants growing in the water or a substratum that periodically lacks oxygen as a result of excessive amounts of water. For example, the mangrove.

Hydrosphere. All of the Earth’s water, including oceans, lakes, streams, underground water snow and ice.

Hygrophytic. Marsh plants existing in moist habitats, though not in habitats inundated by water.

Hypersaline. Term used to characterize the waters with a salinity above 40 ppm, derived from salts from inner land.

Hypoxic. Low in O₂.

[Back to top](#)

I

Ichthyofauna. Fish.

Illegal logging. Contravention of national or international law at any point along the trade chain from source to consumer.

Immersed plant. These are vascular or non-vascular, rooted or non-rooted, absorbent plants, totally immersed in the water, with the exception of the blooming portion of some species.

Immunostimulants. These are molecules that have stimulatory effects on non-specific immune defences of humans and animals. These compounds are attractive for use in intensive fish and animal farming: to improve the health of the organisms and prevent disease outbreak, thereby reducing the use of antibiotics and veterinary medicines.

Impact mitigation. Measures and actions taken to avoid, minimise, reduce, remedy and / or compensate for the adverse impacts of development. In general, a hierarchy of ‘avoid – reduce – remedy – compensate’ is used to establish an order of preference (beginning with avoid) for mitigation measures.

Inbreeding depression. The loss of individual reproductive fitness, and thus population vigour and long-term viability, due to breeding between closely related individuals compared to less related individuals.

Incentives (disincentives), economic. A material reward (or punishment) in return for acting in a particular way which is beneficial (or harmful) to a set goal.

Incidental catch. See **bycatch**.

Incubation. The hatching of eggs by means of heat (natural or artificial).

Indicator species. A species sensitive to environmental change, which can therefore provide a measure of health for the ecosystem.

Indigenous lands and territories. The total environment of the lands, air, water, sea, sea-ice, flora and fauna, and other resources which indigenous peoples have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used.

Indigenous peoples. “The existing descendants of the peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country wholly or partially at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world, overcame them and, by conquest, settlement, or other means reduced them to a non-dominant or colonial situation; who today live more in conformity with their particular social, economic and cultural customs and traditions than with the institutions of the country of which they now form a part, under State structure which incorporates mainly the national, social and cultural characteristics of other segments of the population which are predominant.” (Working definition adopted by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples).

Indirect-use value. The benefits derives from the goods and services provided by an ecosystem that are used indirectly by an economic agent. For example, the purification of drinking water filtered by soils.

Infant mortality rate. Number of deceased infants under one year of age per one thousand births, usually over a one-year period.

Infauna. Animals that live within the sediment.

Inflorescence. A group or cluster of flowers.

Infrastructure. The basic physical structures and services – both man-made and natural – that are needed for the functioning of a community or society.

Inlet. Tidal canal that communicates a coastal lagoon or the muddy and sandy swamps of the low coast plains, directly from the sea or from an estuary.

***In-situ* conservation.** The conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

***In-situ* data.** Data associated with reference to measurements made at the actual location of the object or material measured, by contrast with remotely-sensed data, i.e., from space (PODAAC, 2005).

Institutional analysis. Identifies how institutions influence buyers and sellers of watershed services, and changes needed for a payment scheme to succeed.

Institutional investor. An investor, such as a bank, insurance company, retirement fund, hedge fund, or mutual fund, that is financially sophisticated and makes large investments, often held in very large portfolios of investments.

Institutions. Institutions can refer, narrowly, to specific organizations – or, more broadly, to the policies, rules, incentives, customs and practices that govern social relations.

Integral management. Management activities involving biological, social, economic and cultural aspects linked to wildlife and its habitat.

Intergrade. The adoption of intermediate characters or traits of adjacent subspecies.

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). A broad and dynamic process that requires the active and sustained involvement of the interested public and many stakeholders with interests in how coastal resources are allocated and conflicts are mediated. ICM is multi-purpose oriented, it analyses and addresses implications of development, conflicting uses and interrelationships between physical processes and human activities, and it promotes linkages and harmonization among sectoral coastal and ocean activities.

Intensive culture. According to FAO, “Intensive culture is a system of culture characterised by a production of up to 200 tonnes/ha/yr; a high degree of control; high initial costs, high-level technology, and high production efficiency; tendency towards increased independence of local climate and water quality; and the use of man-made culture systems”.

Intensive management. Management activities involving wild species or populations under conditions of captivity or confinement.

Interdorsal ridge. A low narrow ridge of skin on the midline of the back between the dorsal fin bases in sharks with two dorsal fins, particularly important in identifying grey sharks (**genus** *Carcharhinus*, **family** Carcharhinidae).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program to advise governments on the latest science of climate change, its impacts and possible adaptation and mitigation. It involves panels of climate and other relevant experts who write relevant reviews, which are then critically reviewed by many other researchers and governments from member countries around the world. Summaries for Policymakers are adopted in a plenary session of government delegates, typically from over 100 member countries including developed and developing countries. See www.unep.ch/ipcc.

Internal Rate of Return (IRR). A measure of project desirability or profitability: the discount rate at which a project's Net Present Value becomes zero.

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The organisation that coordinates and promotes marine research in the North Atlantic.

Intertidal zone. Extension of the coastline delimited by the level of the high tide and the level of the low tide.

Intrinsic rate of increase. A value that quantifies how much a **population** can increase between successive time periods; plays an important role in evaluating the sustainability of different harvest levels and the capacity to recover after depletion.

Introduction. Introduction of an organism is the intentional or accidental dispersal by human agency of a living organism outside its historically known native range (IUCN, 1987).

Invasion. Species invasion or biological invasion is the action of an invasive species as its population increases in size and spread and begins to have negative impacts on the ecosystem it has entered.

Invertebrates. Animals without a backbone, such as insects, snails and worms.

Investment bank. This type of bank provides a range of financial and investment related services, advising clients on security issues, acquisitions and disposals of

businesses, arranging and underwriting new issues, distributing securities and running fund management companies.

Irradiance. The amount of radiation (usually referred to as light).

[Back to top](#)

J

Joint venture. A group of companies that share the cost and rewards of exploring for and producing oil or gas from a concession.

[Back to top](#)

K

Keystone species. A species that plays a large or critical role in supporting the integrity of its ecological community.

Knowledge management. The set of disciplined and systematic actions that an organisation takes to derive the greatest value from the knowledge it acquires, creates, stores, shares and uses.

Koonkie. The term describes a trained domestic Asian elephant (also spelt **Kunkie**).

Krummholz. Literally: bended wood. Low-growing trees and bushes in the subalpine zone of mountainous areas with bended shapes e.g. some species of alder and pine.

K-selected species. A species selected for its superiority in a stable environment; a species typified by slow growth, relatively large size, low natural mortality and low fecundity (*cf.* **r-selected species**).

[Back to top](#)

L

L max. Maximum length recorded for a particular fish.

Labelling. Labelling involves attaching a piece of paper or other material to a product to provide consumers with information about the object to which it is attached.

Lacuna. Air canals (through which gasses can diffuse between different parts of a seagrass plant).

Lacustrine. Pertaining or relative to the lakes.

Lagoon. A warm, shallow, quiet water body separated from the sea by a reef crest (NOAA, 2005).

Lamnoid. A mackerel shark, a member of the **order** Lamniformes and including the sand tiger sharks, goblin sharks, crocodile sharks, megamouth shark, thresher sharks, basking shark and the makos, porbeagle, salmon shark and white shark.

Lanceolate. Leaf or leaflet which is spear-shaped; a narrow leaf broader at the base and tapering to a point.

Land cover. The physical coverage of land, usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. The human use of a piece of land for a certain purpose (such as irrigated agriculture or recreation) influences land cover.

Landscape. A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.

Large footprint industries. Industries whose core business has a significant negative environmental impact on biodiversity conservation.

Large Marine Ecosystem (LME). Large Marine Ecosystems are regions of ocean space encompassing coastal areas from river basins and estuaries to the seaward boundaries of continental shelves and the outer margins of the major current systems (IUCN/NOAA).

Larvae. A sexually immature juvenile stage of an animal's life cycle (NOAA, 2005).

Lax. Loose; referring to both large thin-walled cells, and the nature and spacing of leaves on the plant stem. Also refers to the nature and spacing of leaves on the stems of plants in a tuft.

Leaching. Slow passage of a solvent through a layer of porous or crushed material in order to extract valuable components; for example, gold can be extracted by heap leaching a porous ore or pulverised tailings.

Leaf axil. The point at which the leaf stem is attached to a stem or branch.

Leakage. The situation in which a carbon sequestration activity (e.g., tree planting) on one piece of land inadvertently, directly or indirectly, triggers an activity, which in whole or part, counteracts the carbon effects of the initial activity.

Leaseholds. Contracts which permit tenants to benefit from the land for a specified period of time, usually for rent.

Lentic. Body of continental waters that are stagnant, settled, or have very little movement.

Lenticels. The breathing pores in the outer bark of woody plants.

Leptobenthic. Elongated bottom sharks. Applied to the chondrichthyan **ecomorphotype** *Leptobenthic*, elongated bottom sharks of the continental and insular shelves.

Lianas. Climbing plants found in tropical forests with long, woody, rope-like stems.

Licensing. A commercial operation where in exchange for a fee, permission is given for use of name, logo or copyright for commercial purposes.

Lichen. Close association between a photosynthetic algae (which produces its food through solar energy) and a fungus that settles on rocky surfaces.

Life expectancy. The average number of years a person may expect to live under unchanged mortality trends. It is commonly stated as life expectancy at birth.

Life history strategy. The significant features of the life cycle through which an organism passes, with particular reference to strategies influencing survival and reproduction (USGS, 2005).

Lifecycle (industrial). The entire sequence of activity relating to an industrial operation, from beginning to end.

Light. That part of the electromagnetic spectrum that supports vision and photosynthesis; see also irradiance.

Light absorption. Matter converts light energy to internal heat or chemical energy, thus dissipating it (Petzold, 1972).

Light attenuation. The decrease in light (e.g. along a depth gradient).

Light scattering. The direction of travel of light photons is changed so that they are dispersed and the light energy is decreased, although the wave length stays the same (Petzold, 1972).

Limited entry fishery. A management arrangement to control the amount of **fishing effort** in a fishery where the number of operators (and size of vessels) is restricted through licence limitation or quota systems.

Limnetic. All the deep sea habitats.

Limnic. The biological, physical, and chemical aspects of lakes, ponds, and streams.

Linear. Shape of leaf or leaflet which is long and narrow, almost parallel-sided.

Linf (L8). L infinity, the theoretical mean size a fish would reach if it could grow indefinitely.

Littoral zone. The intertidal zone of the shore.

Live-bearing. A mode of reproduction in which female sharks give birth to young sharks, which are miniatures of the adults. See **viviparity**.

Livelihoods. Livelihoods comprise the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capacities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.

Lixiviant. Chemical used for *in-situ* leaching of minerals such as uranium and copper. It may be acidic, basic or neutral and may contain oxidants.

Load capacity. An ecosystem's estimated tolerance to the use of its components. This tolerance should be such so as to keep it from exceeding its capacity for short-term recovery, without the application of restoration or recovery measures to restore ecological balance.

Loan guarantees. A legal obligation to compensate a lender if the borrower fails to repay a loan. This reduces the risk of lending, allowing the borrower to receive funds on more favourable terms. Loan guarantees can be structured to cover all or a percentage of the credit provided (typically only the principal), and to be drawn upon under varying circumstances (typically only after standard debt collection practices have been exhausted).

Local extinction. When there is no doubt that the last individual of a particular species has died from a defined region or area.

Local laws. Includes all legal norms given by organisms of government whose jurisdiction is less than the national level, such as departmental, municipal and customary norms.

Loess. A sedimentary deposit of fine-grained, yellowish earth rich in calcium carbonate.

Longevity. The maximum expected age, on average, for a species or **population** in the absence of human-induced or **fishing mortality**.

Longline fishing. A fishing method using short lines bearing hooks attached at regular intervals to a longer main line. Longlines can be laid on the bottom

(**demersal**) or suspended (**pelagic**) horizontally at a predetermined depth with the assistance of surface floats. May be as long as 150km with several thousand hooks.

Longwall mining. Underground mining where entries and crosscuts are created around a large block which is eventually mined out resulting in subsidence of the ground surface.

Lothic. Systems of waters in movement.

Low tide. Lowest level reached by the sea at the end of the ebb tide.

[Back to top](#)

M

Macroalgae. Multicellular algae large enough to be seen by the human eye (NOAA, 2005).

Macrophyte. Macroscopic plants immersed in water, visible at a glance. The opposite of this term are the microscopic plants, such as some types of algae, which cannot be observed at a glance.

Mainstreaming. Gender mainstreaming means that continuous attention should be paid to equality between men and women in development policies, strategies and development interventions. Gender mainstreaming does not only mean ascertaining the participation of women in a previously established development program. It also aims at guaranteeing the participation of men and women in the definition of objectives and planning stages, so as to make certain that development meets the needs and priorities of women and men alike. Therefore, equality should be considered with respect to the analysis, policies, planning processes and institutional practices which determine the global conditions for development.

Management effectiveness. How well a protected area is being managed – primarily the extent to which it is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives.

Mangrove. Tree, shrub, palm or ground fern, generally exceeding more than half a meter in height, and which normally grows above mean sea level in the intertidal zones of marine coastal environments, or estuarine margins. The term “mangrove” can refer to either the constituent plants of tropical intertidal forest communities or to the community itself.

Marginal benefit. The change in benefit associated with consuming one additional unit of a good or service.

Marginal cost. The change in cost associated with producing one additional unit of a good or service.

Marginal value. The change in value resulting from one more unit of a good or service produced or consumed.

Marine phanerogams (sea grasses and phanerogam prairies). Communities of vascular plants (usually called superior) found below the surface of shallow marine waters, generally on low energy or protected coasts. Their name derives from their grass-like appearance, although they are in no way related to the family of dry land grasses.

Marine Protected Area (MPA). A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. MPAs can offer a spectrum of management strategies ranging from full protection, or no-entry areas, to multiple-use areas which prohibit limited activities. No-take MPAs are spatial closures that prohibit all forms of resource extraction, especially fishing.

Limited take MPAs include those MPAs with mixed harvest or restricted harvest prohibition areas. (IUCN-WCPA 2008).

Market-based approach. An approach to providing goods and services, notably public services and environmental protection, which seeks to align market incentives with the public interest and thereby attract private entrepreneurs and investors. In the case of biodiversity conservation, market-based approaches include a range of legal measures and voluntary initiatives that seek to make it profitable to conserve biodiversity and to use biological resources sustainably.

Market price valuation methods. A technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources by using its market price: how much it costs to buy, or what it is worth to sell.

Marketing. The management process responsible for identifying, anticipating and satisfying customer requirements profitably.

Mass coral bleaching. Coral bleaching extending over large distances (often affecting reef systems spanning tens to hundreds of kilometres) as a result of anomalously high water temperatures.

Matrophagy. The subsistence of developing **embryos** on eggs, smaller **embryos** or uterine fluids.

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The largest average catch or yield that can continuously be taken from a fish stock under existing environmental conditions (NOAA).

Mediator. A mediator is an impartial neutral third party who facilitates negotiations between the parties in an informal setting. The mediator helps the Parties to develop and reach a settlement in a voluntary process.

Megadiverse countries. Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, México, Perú, the Philippines, South Africa and Venezuela. Three fourths of the world's flora and fauna species are found in this group of 15 countries. Some of the advantages of being included in the megadiverse group are: bearing influence on the definition of policies on biological diversity conservation, and being included among the international assistance agencies' countries that receive priority attention in connection with funding for natural resource conservation projects.

Meristem. Growth area of leaves, roots and rhizomes; area of high cell division activity.

Mesh size. The size of openings in a fishing net. Limits are often set on mesh size to protect the young of target species, allowing them to reach maturity or optimal size for capture (minimum mesh size); or to protect larger breeding individuals (maximum mesh size).

Mesic. Moist.

Mesohaline. Term used to characterize waters with a salinity from 5 to 18 ppm, deriving from ocean salts.

Mesopelagic. The intermediate part of the **oceanic** zone from 200m to 1,000m depth.

Mesophyte. Plants growing where a combination of extreme dryness and extreme humidity prevails.

Metals. A material with a high reflectivity and conductivity that can usually be deformed plastically; also refers to metallic elements when these are combined with other elements to form non-metallic compounds such as salts and oxides.

Metapopulation. A system of connected, spatially distinct subpopulations.

Mezzanine finance. Mezzanine finance is a hybrid between debt and equity, with many possible permutations in terms of how it is structured. Generally, this consists of debt that is convertible to shares / equity within a specified period, and / or based on certain conditions or performance benchmarks.

Microalga. Alga that is so small that it can only be seen using a microscope (as opposed to macroalga).

Micro-catchments. A watershed area usually used to describe a smaller part of a river basin draining into a tributary stream. Similar to sub-catchments.

Micro-organism. An organism that is too small to be seen with the naked eye.

Microsporine-like amino acids. UV-absorbing compounds found in coral tissues. Thought to be produced by zooxanthellae (NOAA, 2005).

Migration. The displacement that implies changing the usual place of residence from an administrative political unit to another, at any given time. **Assisted m--.** Human-aided, intentional dispersal of a species into an area where conditions are more favourable for its conservation.

Mill/concentrator processing plant. Surface plant facilities for ore treatment that allow for the recovery and removal of metals or the concentration of valuable minerals for smelting and refining.

Mineral. A substance produced by the processes of inorganic nature; often extended to certain substances of organic origin got by mining such as coal or amber.

Mineralisation. The conversion of an element from an organic form to an inorganic state as a result of microbial decomposition.

Minimum Viable Population. The estimated minimum number of animals in a population needed for long-term survival (e.g. 100 years) with high probability (e.g. 95%).

Mire. Soil predominantly composed of mud and clay, fine mineral sediments less than 0,074 mm. in diameter.

Mitigation. Structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation and technological hazards (ISDR 2004).

Mitigative or avertive expenditure valuation methods. A Cost Based Approach technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources that assesses the value of ecosystem goods and services by calculating the cost to mitigate or avert economic losses resulting from their loss.

Mixohaline. Term used to characterize waters with a salinity from 0.5 to 30 ppm deriving from salts of an ocean origin.

Mixotrophic. Rich, but humus-influenced.

Modified natural forest. Primary forests managed or exploited for wood and/or non-wood forest products, wildlife and/or other purposes. The more intensive the use, the more the structure and composition is altered compared to that of primary forests. Ecologically, the alteration often represents a shift to an earlier successional stage. Two major categories can be distinguished: managed primary forest and degraded and secondary forests.

Mollusc. Soft-bodied invertebrate animal.

Monitoring. Regular, statistically designed counts of a population in order to watch its numbers, composition and distribution.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E). Monitoring focuses on tracking inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts as interventions are implemented. Evaluation assesses the efficiency and impact of interventions (typically after they have been implemented). Together M&E allows policy-makers to track results, suggest corrections or improvements during implementation, and assess success.

Monoecious. Both female and male flowers occurring on the same plant (as opposed to dioecious).

Monogamy. Mating system with pair bonds; partners have only one mate.

Monophagous. Living on only one type of food.

Monotypic. With only one species.

Montane zone. The montaneous vegetation zone dominated by coniferous forest.

Mooring. An arrangement for securing a boat to a mooring buoy or a pier. Boats using moorings do not have to use traditional anchors, thus reducing damage to coral reefs (GBRMPA, 1996).

Morphology. The form and structure of organisms (NOAA, 2005).

Mortality gross rate. Number of deaths per one thousand inhabitants over a certain period of time, usually one year.

Mosses. These are non-blooming plants, without a vascular system or roots. They grow on the soil, rocks and tree bark. They live in humid and shady places, and are reproduced by spores.

Mudflats. Coastal natural habitat composed of fine sediment being the habitat for some species that live on top of or in the mud (worms, shellfish, crabs, and waders).

Mulch till. Conservation tillage system where the soil is disturbed prior to planting.

Multicellular. Consisting of many cells.

Multi-criteria analysis. A decision tool that integrates and weights different types of monetary and non-monetary information, based on ecological, social and economic criteria: economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services can be incorporated as one of these criteria.

Multiple use areas. These are geographical areas established in PA, where the development of diverse activities and uses of natural resources is promoted and allowed, for the purpose of simultaneously achieving sustainable production and nature conservation.

Mycorrhiza. A mutually beneficial (symbiotic) association between a plant root and a fungus that enhances the ability of the root to absorb water and nutrients.

[Back to top](#)

N

Natural capital. An economic metaphor for the limited stocks of physical and biological resources found on earth, and of the limited capacity of ecosystems to provide ecosystem services.

Natural forest. Forest areas where many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems such as complexity, structure and diversity are present, as defined by FSC approved national and regional standards of forest management.

Natural hazard. A natural process or phenomenon – such as a hurricane, earthquake or drought - that can potentially result in a loss of life, property damage, livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Natural mortality. The proportion of fish that die other than due to fishing, i.e. that proportion due to ageing, predation, cannibalism and disease; often expressed as a percentage of the total population dying each year.

Natural resources. Resources produced by nature, commonly subdivided into non-renewable resources, such as minerals and fossil fuels, and renewable natural resources that propagate or sustain life and are naturally self-renewing when properly managed, including plants and animals, as well as soil and water.

Naturalisation. The process by which an alien species becomes a (new) part of a local fauna or flora, reproduces and spreads without human assistance (see **Acclimatised species**).

Neighborhood. For marine species, neighborhood can be defined as the area centered on a set of parents that is large enough to retain most of the offspring of those parents (Palumbi 2004).

Nektonic. Freely swimming in the pelagic zone, regardless of water motion or wind.

Neotype. A specimen, not part of the original type series for a species, which is designated by a subsequent author, particularly if the **holotype** or other types have been destroyed, were never designated in the original description, or are presently useless.

Nepotism. Favouring of relatives.

Neritic. That part of the oceans over the continental and insular shelves, from the intertidal to 200m.

Net present value (NPV). A measure of project desirability or profitability; the sum of discounted net benefits and costs of a project.

Neutral company/sector. One whose core business has no significant impact on biodiversity conservation.

No till. Conservation tillage system where soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for nutrient injection.

Nomenclature. In biology, the application of distinctive names to groups of organisms.

Non-photochemical quenching (of photosynthesis). Dissipation of light energy that results in heat.

Non-point source pollution. Pollution from many diffuse sources, for example when runoff moves over and through the ground carrying natural and human-made pollutants into lakes, rivers, wetlands and coastal waters.

Non tidal. It refers to the water system that is not influenced by the ocean. It can be affected by the wind from the lakes and the water system; it is defined according to the various periods (dry, humid).

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). Natural products other than wood derived from forests or wooded land. Examples of NTFP include edible nuts, mushrooms, fruits, herbs, spices, honey, gums and resins, rattan, bamboo, thatch, cork, ornamental plants and flowers, and an array of plant and animal products used for medicinal, cosmetic or cultural purposes.

Non-use values. Benefits which do not arise from direct or indirect use.

No-take zone. A Marine Protected Area that is completely (or seasonally) free of all extractive or non-extractive human uses that contribute impact (NOAA, 2005).

[Back to top](#)

O

Ocean acidification. The process whereby atmospheric carbon dioxide dissolves in seawater producing carbonic acid, which subsequently lowers pH of surrounding seawater (National Geographic); widely thought to be happening on a global scale.

Ocean fertilisation. A controversial method proposed for mitigating rising atmospheric CO₂ levels and associated climate change by stimulating net phytoplankton growth through the release of nutrients, such as iron, into certain parts of the surface ocean.

Oceanic. Living in the open ocean, mainly beyond the edge of the **continental shelf**.

Ocelli. Eye-like spots.

Old growth forest. Forest that resulted from natural succession without human influence.

Oligosaline. Term which characterizes the water with a salinity of 0.5% to 5%, derived from non-oceanic salts.

Oligotrophic. Nutrient-poor environment.

Omnivore. An animal that consumes both plants and animals.

Oophagy. A mode of **aplacental viviparity** employing uterine cannibalism, whereby early foetuses deplete their yolk sacs early, then subsist by feeding on eggs produced by the mother.

Open pit. A surface mine, such as a quarry, open to daylight; also referred to as open-cut or opencast mine.

Operator. The company that has the right to apply its own technical policies in conducting exploration and production programs in a concession on behalf of the other equity holders.

Opportunities. Are the possibilities to develop intellectual, physical and emotional abilities, to pursue and achieve the goals set in life.

Opportunity cost. Foregone benefits of not using land/ecosystems in a different way, e.g. the potential income from agriculture when conserving a forest.

Optimum yield (OY). The harvest level for a species that achieves the greatest overall benefits, including economic, social and biological considerations. This differs from **MSY** which only considers biology of the species.

Option value. A component of Total Economic Value: the premium placed on maintaining environmental or natural resources for future possible uses, over and above the direct or indirect value of these uses.

Order. One of the taxonomic groups of organisms, containing related **families**; related **orders** are grouped into classes.

Organic. Matter containing carbon-based compounds.

Organism. A life-form such as a plant, animal, fungus or bacteria.

Other forest types. Forest areas that do not fit the criteria for plantation or natural forests and which are defined more specifically by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship.

Overburden. The rock and soil cleared away before mining.

Overexploitation. The use or extraction of a resource to the point of exhaustion or extinction, or diminishing a population to a level below the minimum required for a sustainable performance.

Oviparity. A reproductive mode where the maternal adult deposits eggs enclosed in **egg cases** on the sea floor which later hatch to produce young.

Oviphagous. Egg-eating, referring to developing **embryos** (see **Ovophagy** and **Oophagy**).

Ovophagy. A reproductive mode in which the developing **embryos** feed in the uterus upon eggs produced by the mother.

Ovoviviparous. Refers to a species of which eggs incubate and hatch in the belly of the mother but without being fed in by the mother (less developed strategy than that of the viviparous).

Oxidoreductase enzymes. Multiple enzymes (organic catalysts) that work together to quench harmful active oxygen (Lesser, 1997).

Oxygen radical. Highly reactive oxygen molecules that have lost an electron and thus stabilise themselves by ‘stealing’ an electron from a nearby molecule. Their high reactivity means they can cause cell damage (Houghton Mifflin, 2003).

[Back to top](#)

P

Paired fins. The **pectoral** and **pelvic fins**.

Paleozoic era. An era of geological time lasting from 543 to 248 million years ago (UCBMP, 2005).

Parapatric. Distribution of species that meet in a very narrow zone of overlap.

Para-species. Closely related species inhabiting adjacent, but non-overlapping areas.

Participation. Active involvement in decisionmaking of those with an interest in or affected by important decisions.

Particulate. A very small solid suspended in water (NOAA, 2005).

Pathogen. An organism which causes a disease within another organism (NOAA, 2005).

Pathways. Kinds of human action that result in (and/or enable) the introduction (intentional or unintentional) of an alien species to a new ecosystem, area or country.

Patronage. The act of supporting or favouring some person, group, or institution.

Payment schemes. Arrangements for payments between buyers and sellers of goods or services.

Payment for environmental services (PES). Market-based approaches using payments or rewards to encourage or discourage specific practices in natural resources management.

Peatland. Is constituted by flooded and soggy areas, with large accumulations of organic material, covered by a layer of poor vegetation associated with a certain degree of acidity, and which presents a characteristic amber color.

Pectoral fins. In sharks, a symmetrical pair of fins on each side of the trunk, corresponding to the forelimbs of a land vertebrate.

Peduncle. Cord uniting two parts of organs (stalk). In the case of barnacles the peduncle is a kind of flexible foot that allows the organism to attach to rocks.

Pelagic. Occurring or living in open waters or near the surface with little contact with or dependency on the bottom (*cf.* **demersal**).

Pelvic fins. In sharks, a symmetrical pair of fins on the sides of the body between the abdomen and precaudal tail which correspond to the hindlimbs of a four-footed land vertebrate.

Perennial. Plants that persist for many growing seasons. Often the top portion of the plant dies back during winter or the dry season and regrows from the same root system, although many perennial plants keep their leaves year round.

Perennifolious forest. It is commonly called jungle. Unlike the caducifolious forest that means deciduous leaves, the perennifolious forest has trees with perennial or permanent leaves. It is found in altitudes ranging from 0 to 1000 meters above sea level.

Perfect competition. A market situation in which the number of buyers and sellers is very large, the products offered by sellers are indistinguishable, there are no restrictions on market entry, buyers and sellers have no advantage over each other, and everyone is fully informed about the price of goods. Under such conditions, no individual or company can affect the market price of a good or service by their action.

Permanence. The longevity of a carbon pool and the stability of its stocks, given the management and disturbance environment in which it occurs.

Perverse incentives. Incentives that undermine or lead to the opposite of the desired result.

Pest. Any species (or other related taxon such as subspecies, strain, biotype) of plant, animal or micro-organism (including pathogens) that is injurious to plants, animals and human activities.

Phenology. The study of the relationship between climate and the timing of periodic natural phenomena such as migration of birds, bud bursting, or flowering of plants.

Phenotype. The total characteristics of an individual resulting from interaction between its genotype (genetic constitution) and its environment (NOAA, 2005).

Philanthropy. Financial donations with minimal conditions attached.

Photoinhibition. Decreased photosynthetic rate because of too high irradiance.

Photosynthesis. The production of chemical compounds in the chlorophyll containing tissues of plants, in particular the formation of carbohydrates from the carbon in carbon dioxide and the hydrogen in water with the aid of sunlight, releasing oxygen in the process.

Photosynthetic pigment. A pigment that efficiently absorbs light within the 400-700 nm range and is essential for photosynthesis (NOAA, 2005).

Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR). That part of the electromagnetic spectrum that supports photosynthesis (400-700 nm).

Phytoplankton. Free floating plants that drift with the currents (usually of microscopic size).

Pirogue. Canoe, traditionally dugout, now also manufactured with other materials.

Piscivorous. Feeding on fish.

Placer. An alluvial deposit of sand and gravel containing valuable metals such as gold, tin, etc.

Placer mining. Mining sand and gravel deposits for their mineral content.

Plankton. Organism that drifts with the currents. See also phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Playas. Depression where rainwater can accumulate (also dry lake or pan). Usually flat with no vegetation; water can persist for several weeks after rainfall.

Pleistocene. An interval of the Quaternary period, from 1.8 million years before present to 10,000 years before present (NOAA, 2005).

Pliocene. An interval of the late Neogene period, from 5.3 to 1.8 million years before present (NOAA, 2005).

Pneumatophores. Aerial roots of a mangrove that typically rises from the soil into the air above the low tide level, thereby allowing the plant to obtain oxygen directly from the air (“breathing roots”).

Poaching. Illegal hunting.

Pod. A fruit, usually long, cylindrical and never fleshy, as in peas.

Point source pollution. Pollution released at specific identifiable sites, for example from factories or sewage outlets.

Polluter pays principle. The individual or company who is responsible for introducing or spreading invasive species should bear the costs of measures to prevent, eradicate, contain or manage that species and to mitigate and remediate the damage it gives rise to.

Pollution. The contamination of an ecosystem, especially with reference to human activities.

Polyculture. According to FAO, “Polyculture is the rearing of two or more non-competitive species in the same culture unit”. There is no competition for food or habitat, but neither are there any trophic benefits due to the interaction.

Polyp. An individual of a solitary cnidarian or one member of a cnidarian colony. Cnidarians are an animal phylum containing stony corals, anemones, sea fans, sea pens, hydroids and jellyfish (NOAA, 2005).

Ponds. According to FAO, “Ponds are a relatively shallow and usually small body of still water or with a low refreshment rate, most frequently artificially formed, but can also apply to a natural pool, tarn, mere or small lake”.

Population. Set of individuals from the same wild species that share the same habitat. It is considered as the basic management unit of wild species living in freedom.

Population ageing. Modification of the population structure by age, which translates into a proportional increase in the number of old people and a decrease in the relative importance of children and youngsters.

Population dynamics. The development of population size over time.

Population study. Study about the local populations of a species, in order to appraise and assess the size and density of the population, its numbers by sex and age, birth, death and growth rates, as well as the number of individuals that may be serviceable during a certain period of time, without affecting the resource and its long-term productive potential.

Population's total growth. The total increase in population resulting from the interaction of births, deaths, and migration of a population, within a certain period of time.

Position. It refers to social positioning and recognition, to the status assigned to women with respect to men (inclusion in decision-making spaces at community level, equal wages for equal work, limitations about their access to education and training, for example). As it may be easily inferred, condition and position refer to practical and strategic needs and interests.

Power. Dominion, authority or jurisdiction to command, define, control and decide about something or someone.

Power analysis. Relates the power of different stakeholders to their potential to control implementation or be affected by a payment scheme.

Prairie. Natural grassland areas (steppe) of North America.

Precaudal fins. All fins anterior of the **caudal fin**.

Precautionary principle. A principle which states that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental damage to habitats or species when there is a threat of serious or irreversible environmental degradation.

Precipitation. Water that falls from the atmosphere to the surface; may be in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet.

Predictions. A prediction is a statement that something will happen in the future, based on known conditions at the time the prediction is made, and assumptions as to the physical or other processes that will lead to change. Because present conditions are often not known precisely, and the processes affecting the future are not perfectly understood, such predictions are seldom certain, and are often best expressed as probabilities. Daily weather forecasts are 'predictions' in this sense: they are

predictions of what the weather will be like, but have uncertainties due to inexact observations and weather models. They are often expressed in probabilistic terms.

Preparedness. Specific measures taken before disasters strike, usually to forecast or warn against them, take precautions when they threaten and arrange for the appropriate response (such as organising evacuation and stockpiling food supplies). Preparedness falls within the broader field of mitigation (Twigg 2004).

Preservation. The set of policies and measures to maintain the conditions favoring the evolution and continuity of the ecosystems and natural habitats, as well as the conservation of viable populations of species in their natural environments and the components of biodiversity outside their natural habitats.

Prevention. The stoppage of an organism from entering a country, area or ecosystem because it has been deemed to be a potential pest, pathogen or invasive species.

Prevention measures. These include investing in ecosystems such as sand dunes, mangrove belts, coral reefs, wetlands and use of forested slopes as barriers.

Primary forest. Forest which has never been subject to human disturbance, or has been so little affected by hunting, gathering and tree-cutting that its natural structure, functions and dynamics have not undergone any changes that exceed the elastic capacity of the ecosystem.

Private good. A good which, if consumed by one person, cannot be consumed by another. The benefits of a private good are both divisible and excludable.

Private payment schemes. PES schemes in which agreements are made between private entities to provide payments or rewards in return for maintenance or restoration of ecosystem services.

Produced water. Water from the natural oil reservoir which is separated from the oil and gas in the production facility.

Production. The phase of the petroleum industry that deals with bringing the well fluids to the surface and separating them, and with storing, gauging and otherwise preparing the product for the pipeline.

Production cycle. (*Aquaculture*). The time necessary to rear any aquaculture species to marketable size.

Production function approaches to valuation. A group of techniques for valuation that attempt to relate changes in the output of a marketed good or service to a measurable change in the quality or quantity of ecosystem goods and services through establishing a biophysical or dose-response relationship between ecosystem quality, the provision of particular services, and related production, including effect on production methods.

Production well. Also called development well. A well drilled specifically into a previously discovered and appraised field for the purpose of producing oil or gas.

Productive work. It comprises the activities that generate income, goods, services or benefits for household consumption or market commercialization, through which household reproduction is safeguarded. The social construction of genders assigns the productive work to the men. Fulfillment of their role as providers means to obtain the resources outside the private sphere of the household to support their family and meet their needs. In spite of the fact that the productive work is an activity socially assigned to men, the fact of the matter is that women, girls and boys also participate.

Productivity. Relates to the birth, growth and mortality rates of a fish **stock**. Highly productive **stocks** are characterised by high birth, growth and mortality rates and can usually sustain higher exploitation rates and, if depleted, could recover more rapidly than comparatively less productive **stocks**.

Program-related investments (PRIs). PRIs are typically provided by foundations, or similar organisations, that have endowments invested to produce funds that support annual grant making. Instead of investing all of the endowment funds in stocks, bonds and other instruments that have ‘market rate’ returns, a portion of these funds can be invested in initiatives that will yield below-market rate returns, but generate ‘programmatically’ benefits in keeping with the foundations’ (charitable) principles.

Projection. Projections are sets of future conditions, or consequences, derived on the basis of explicit assumptions, such as scenarios. Even for a given scenario or set of assumptions, projections introduce further uncertainties due to the use of inexact rules or ‘models’ connecting the scenario conditions to the projected outcomes.

Propagule. Part of a plant that can detach and then form a new rooted plant.

Property rights. Legal ownership rights to land or resources.

Protected Area. An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.

Proxy variable. In monitoring studies, a proxy variable is something that is probably not in itself of any great interest, but from which a variable of interest can be obtained. For examples, isotope ratios in coral skeletons are often used to determine environmental temperatures of the past. Wooldridge and Done (2004) used the highest 3-day summer SST’s as a proxy variable for maximum heat stress for a site.

Public domain (maritime and terrestrial zones). Areas that are public property. They are managed by the state and in general are available for public use. The state determines the particular uses of each of these areas, and may offer concessions or authorizations to private or public organizations for exclusive uses.

Public good. A good whose benefits can be provided to all people at no more cost than that required to provide it for one person. The benefits of a public good are indivisible, and people cannot be excluded from enjoying them.

Public interest (social). Are the overall interests of the collectivity of citizens from a country. Said interests are established by law, and there are legal regulations protecting these interests to the benefit of the collectivity.

Public-owned assets (national). State-owned assets which direct use, or use by the population, is limited by law. They are inalienable assets (not subject to trading), not subject to prescription (impossibility of acquiring ownership of a public asset through an act of prescription), and unattachable.

Public payment schemes. PES schemes in which government entities compel changes in environmental management through a variety of (fiscal) payment mechanisms including user fees, land purchases, taxes and subsidies.

[Back to top](#)

R

Race. A distinct variety within a species or subspecies.

Radical uncertainty. Describes situations where the range of potential consequences of an action is unknown, as opposed to the uncertainty about whether a known (possible) consequence will happen.

Raise/Chute. Steeply inclined rectangular or cylindrical opening used for ventilation or for conveying ore, miners or equipment; the slope is generally 45 degrees, but varies up to 90 degrees.

Range. The amount of space needed by an animal in order to meet its survival needs.

Range shift. A change in the geographic coverage of a species as determined by environmental and bioclimatic factors.

Rangeland. Land that has vegetation suitable for grazing livestock, but that is too arid for crop farming.

Rebound potential. A measure of the ability of a **species** or **population** to recover from exploitation.

Recourse/non-recourse. Refers to the right, in an agreement, to demand payment from the person who is taking on an obligation. A full recourse loan refers to the right of the lender to take any assets of the borrower if repayment is not made. Non-recourse is when the pay-back of a certain loan is fully determined by the revenue generated by a specific activity/project and the bank or lender is not entitled to access the borrower's principal assets in the event of default.

Recoverable grants. Recoverable grants are, in essence, zero interest rate loans, in which the principal is returned to the donor / lender, on either a short-term or long-term basis depending upon the objectives and circumstances.

Recovery. Restoration of natural processes and genetic, demographic, or ecological parameters of a population or species, with regard to its state at the initiation of the recovery activities. It also refers to its past local abundance, structure and dynamics, to resume its ecological and evolutionary role, and the consequent improvement regarding habitat quality.

Recruitment. The influx of new members into a population by reproduction or immigration.

Recruitment overfishing. Recruitment overfishing occurs when the adult population is fished so heavily that the number and size of the adult population (or spawning

mass) is reduced to the point that it did not have the reproductive capacity to replenish itself.

Red grouse. The British subspecies *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* of the willow ptarmigan.

Red List of Threatened Species. Listing of the conservation status of the world's flora and fauna administered by IUCN.

Re-enforcement. The release of individuals to supplement a remnant population.

Refining. Purifying matter or impure metal; undertaken to obtain a pure metal or mixture with specific properties.

Reforestation. Direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land back to forested land. In the context of the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, reforestation can take place on land that was historically forested but as of December 31, 1989 was subject to another land-use.

Refugia. Regions that during climatic upheaval, biological stress or major population downsizings, still provide the essential elements of the species' niche for small subpopulations (Calvin, 2002). For example, shaded areas of coral reefs could provide refugia during bleaching events.

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). Affiliations of nations which co-ordinate efforts to manage fisheries in a particular region. RFMOs may focus on certain species of fish (e.g the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna) or have a wider remit related to living marine resources in general within a region (e.g. the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)).

Rehabilitation (of ecosystems). Re-establishment of part of the productivity, structure, function and processes of the original ecosystem.

Re-establishment. It is a synonym of re-introduction (see below), but implies that the re-introduction has been successful (IUCN, 1995). The principle aim of a re-introduction should be to establish a viable, free-ranging population in the wild. The key difference between introduction and re-introduction is whether or not the species or subspecies is being released outside or inside its historic range.

Re-introduction. The release of individuals into a formerly occupied area after the native population have become extinct.

Relict. An organism that at an earlier time was abundant in a large area but due to some major change (such as climatic or land use) is now occurring at only one or a few small areas.

Remedial action. Actions taken to remedy or correct a situation, to return something to its previous or proper state.

Remote sensing. Methods for gathering data on a large or landscape scale which do not involve on-the ground measurement, especially satellite photographs and aerial photographs; often used in conjunction with Geographic Information Systems.

Re-nesting. A second attempt of nesting after a bird's first clutch was lost.

Replacement Cost valuation methods. A Cost Based Approach technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources that assesses ecosystem values by determining the cost of man-made products, infrastructure or technologies that could replace ecosystem goods and services.

Replication. The process by which multiple samples of any habitat types are secured in a network of protected areas. Replication helps to spread the risk of any large-scale event destroying all protected examples of any habitat type.

Repopulation. Planned release into the natural habitat, of specimens of the same wild subspecies or, in the event the existence of subspecies had not been determined, of the same wild species, for the purpose of strengthening a reduced population.

Representation. The inclusion of a full range of habitat types into a protected area system. Representation of all habitat types helps to ensure that the full complement of species for that habitat type is protected.

Reproductive capacity. The relative ability of an organism to produce viable offspring (measured by numbers of offspring or their rate of survival to the stage of reproduction).

Remedial action. Actions taken to remedy or correct a situation, to return something to its previous or proper state.

Remotely-sensed data. Data collected about an object or event without there being any physical contact with the object or event. Examples are satellite imaging and aerial photography (NOAA, 2005).

R-selected species. A species selected for its superiority in variable or unpredictable environments; a species typified by rapid growth rates, small size, high natural mortality and high fecundity (*cf.* **K-selected species**).

Resilience (of ecosystems). Their ability to function and provide critical ecosystem services under changing conditions.

Resistance. The capacity of an organism or a tissue to withstand the effects of a harmful environmental agent.

Resource deterioration. The utilization of a resource that lessens its total actual or potential availability, in the present or future time.

Resources. It is understood as goods and means. There are several types of resources, including: economic or productive (like the land, equipment, tools, work, credit);

political (like leadership capacity, information and organization); and temporary (which is one of the most scarce resources for women).

Restoration (*of ecosystems*). All of the key ecological processes and functions are re-established and all of the original biodiversity is re-established.

Retention. Avoidance of dispersal from a natal site either due to specific hydrographical features or by active behavioral processes used by the larvae (Mora and Sale 2002).

Revegetation. Re-establishment of non-forest vegetation and restoration of degraded non-forested lands, such as overgrazed native grasslands or cultivated wetlands.

Rheophyte. Plants adapted to flowing water.

Rhizoid. Filamentous structure that anchors the plant to the substrate.

Rhizome. Horizontal underground “stem” that connects the various shoots of a clone.

Rhizosphere. The area surrounding roots and rhizomes.

Ridge till. Conservation tillage system where soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for nutrient injections. Planting is completed in a seedbed prepared on ridges and residue is left on the soil surface between ridges.

Rights. The goods that a person or group may acquire based on prerogatives, opportunities, property or social custom.

Risk. Risk is the probability that a situation will produce harm under specified conditions. It is a combination of two factors: the probability that an adverse event will occur; and the consequences of the adverse event. Risk encompasses impacts on human and natural systems, and arises from exposure and hazard. Hazard is determined by whether a particular situation or event has the potential to cause harmful effects.

Risk-benefit analysis. A decision tool that focuses on the prevention of events carrying serious risks and assesses the costs of inaction as the likelihood of the specified risk occurring.

River basin. A watershed area usually used to describe a large land area that drains into a major river.

River mouth. The place where a river or estuary meets the sea, extending its area of influence one kilometer on each side of the river mouth, in order to complete a semicircle taking the center of the mouth as the starting point.

Role. The role, function or representation a person plays within society. This role is based on a system of values and customs that determines the type of activities a person should develop.

Roost. Locations used by birds outside feeding periods. These are sites occupied during the high tide by species that feed on the mudflats or at night by birds that feed only during daytime.

Rosette. A flattened, rose-like group of leaves at the base of a stem.

Runoff. The portion of precipitation that runs off the surface as opposed to soaking in.

[Back to top](#)

S

Sacred site. An area of special spiritual significance to peoples and communities.

Sacred natural site. Areas of land or water having special spiritual significance to peoples and communities.

Salinity. The amount of salt dissolved in sea water. It is the amount of salt dissolved in parts per one thousand (ppm).

Salinization. The accumulation of salt in soil and water to a level that causes degradation and prevents the growth of plants; it may be caused by irrigation as salts brought in with the water remain in the soil as the water evaporates.

Salty. Water which proportion of dissolved salt makes it unsuitable for drinking.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Any measure applied a) to protect human, animal or plant life or health (within a Member's Territory) from the entry establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease carrying organisms; b) to prevent or limit other damage (within the Member's Territory) from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.

Saproxyllic. Wood-inhabiting species that make up a significant portion of the species richness in forests and facilitate a key ecosystem function through wood decomposition and nutrient recycling.

Savanna. A type of grassland usually dotted with trees supported by a wet season and dry season and frequent natural fires, typical of subtropical regions, particularly in Africa.

Saxicolous. Growing on or among rocks.

Scavenger. Animal that eats the remains of dead animals or plants.

Scenario. A climate scenario is a coherent, internally consistent and plausible description of a possible future state of the climate. Similarly, an emissions scenario is a possible storyline regarding future emissions of greenhouse gases. Scenarios are used to investigate the potential impacts of climate change: emissions scenarios serve as input to climate models; climate scenarios serve as input to impact assessments.

Scenario analysis. A process of analyzing possible future events by considering alternative possible outcomes or scenarios.

Scientific name. The formal binomial name of a particular organism, consisting of the **genus** and specific names; a species only has one valid **scientific** name.

Sea bed. Surface of an area covered by sea water, regardless of the tidal system.

Seagrass. Flowering plant found in marine or estuarine waters that tend to develop extensive underwater meadows (NOAA, 2005).

Seaweed. See macroalga.

Secondary forest. Woody vegetation regrowing on land that was largely cleared of its original forest cover (ie carried less than 10% of the original forest cover). Secondary forests commonly develop naturally on land abandoned after shifting cultivation, settled agriculture, pasture, or failed tree plantations.

Secondary habitat. An area that has become suitable as a habitat for a species due to human land use.

Second-growth. Regenerating forest after disturbance, such as fire or clear-cutting.

Sedimentation. The accumulation of soil and mineral particles washed into a water body, normally by erosion, which then settle on the bottom (Friedman and Friedman, 1994).

Seine netting. A fishing method using nets to surround an area of water where the ends of the nets are drawn together to encircle the fish (includes purse-seine and Danish seine netting).

Seismic survey. An exploration method in which strong, low-frequency sound waves are generated on the surface or in the water to find subsurface rock structures that may contain hydrocarbons. Interpretation of the record can reveal possible hydrocarbon-bearing formations.

Selection felling. A silvicultural system that removes mature timber either as single scattered individuals or in small groups at relatively short intervals, repeated indefinitely, where the continual establishment of regeneration is encouraged and an uneven-aged stand is maintained.

Sensitive issue. An issue or a company/sector which is subject to an advocacy campaign; is high profile; controversial; or otherwise likely to attract attention.

Sensitivity. The degree to which a system is affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate related stimuli, including mean (average) climate characteristics, climate variability and the frequency and magnitude of extremes.

Sex. It refers to the set of hereditary biological characteristics that organize individuals in two categories: man and woman.

Sex ratio. The ratio between the number of males and females in a population.

Sexual dimorphism. Differences in size, shape, colour and behaviour etc., between males and females of a species.

Sexual division of work. It may refer to two different phenomena: the first one refers to the effective distribution of tasks between men and women, where women are assigned the care of children and elderly people, household sustenance, community services, etc. And the second one involves stereotyped ideological notions about what

is considered as the appropriate occupation for each sex. While the stereotype is static, the distribution of tasks undergoes a historical transformation between genders, adapting to the specific needs of the household units in each of the stages of their development and the dynamics of the local and regional economy.

Shadow prices. Prices used in economic analysis, when market price is felt to be a poor estimate of “real” economic value.

Shallow. Slight depth of a body of water.

Shared governance protected area. Government-designated protected area where decision-making power, responsibility and account ability are shared between governmental agencies and other stakeholders, in particular the indigenous peoples and local and mobile communities that depend on that area culturally and/or for their livelihoods.

Shelter belt. A windbreak hedge taking the shape of a wooded strip that diverts wind currents moving across the ground, reducing wind chill and enhancing the growth of crops, plants and trees within the sheltered area.

Shifting baselines. Refers to the fact that people measure ocean health against the best that they have experienced in their own lifetimes—even if those measures fall far short of historical ones—which causes a lowering of standards from one generation to the next. One generation sets a baseline for what is “healthy” and “natural” based on their own experience. Successive generations see even more degraded ecosystems as “healthy,” and therefore set their standards for ecosystem health even lower (Pauly 1996).

Shot hole. A borehole in which an explosive is placed for blasting in use as the energy source for seismic activity.

Shuttle species. Species with large spores, adapted to microhabitats that disappear predictably at varying rates but reappear frequently within the same community.

Silviculture. The art and science of producing and tending forests by manipulating their establishment, species composition, structure and dynamics to fulfill given management objectives.

Silvo-pastoral systems. The combined use of forestland or woodland for both wood production and animal production.

Sink reef. A downstream reef that imports larvae of corals and other reef-related organisms from upstream source reefs (Nyström and Folke, 2001).

Social capital. Consists, in a narrow sense, of social networks and associated norms that have an effect on the productivity of the community. It is rooted in trust, and is that which facilitates cooperation and coordination for the mutual benefit of members of the group. In a broader sense the term captures vertical as well as horizontal associations, between communities and other groups such as forest agencies, forest certification groups, municipal councils, and so on.

Social learning. A learning process in which stakeholders engage to learn jointly to redefine priorities and reflect upon principles and outcomes.

Social memory. After catastrophic change, remnants (memory) of the former system become growth points for renewal and reorganisation of the social-ecological system. Social memory comes from the diversity of individuals and institutions that draw on reservoirs of practices, knowledge, values and worldviews and is crucial for preparing the system for change, building resilience, and for coping with surprises (Adger et al, 2005).

Socialization. The socio-psychological processes through which the individual is historically developed as a person and a member of society. It is through this process that the individual acquires a personal and social identity as part of the social group it belongs to. The individual takes shape as a person, with personal characteristics and features derived from this configuration process.

Soil. Unconsolidated mineral and organic material at the Earth's surface formed by physical and chemical weathering of underlying rocks and altered by biological processes.

Solution strategies. Series of activities adopted by people facing threats, such as resource deterioration, market collapse, conflicts or other forces affecting the viability of their subsistence.

Sonar. Equipment that propagates sound in water to detect objects by echo. Marine mammals, but also bats, locate things using the same process.

Source reef. An upstream reef that exports larvae of corals and other reef-related organisms to downstream sink reefs (Nyström and Folke, 2001).

Spawning ground. A place where fish leave their eggs for fertilization.

Speciation. The evolutionary formation of new biological species, usually by the division of a single species into two or more genetically distinct ones.

Species. A group of interbreeding individuals with common characteristics that produce fertile (capable of reproducing) offspring and which are not able to interbreed with other such groups, that is, a population that is reproductively isolated from others; related species are grouped into genera. *Acclimatised s--* (= *naturalised s--*). An alien species that has been introduced and maintained within an ecosystem for so long that it is deemed to be a part of that ecosystem and in law and practice is given parity with native species. *Alien s--*. A species that is not native to the ecosystem in which it is introduced. *Casual alien s--*. Alien species that may flourish and even reproduce occasionally in an area, but which do not form self-replacing populations, and which rely on repeated introductions for their persistence (Richardson et al., 2000). *Endangered s--*. Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. *Endemic s--*. Population of a species that is native to the region, and which area of distribution is restricted to a small place. *Exotic s--*. An introduced species not native or endemic to the area in question. *Indicator s--*.

Indicates certain environmental conditions or suitable habitats for other species.

Indigenous s-- (= native species). A species that is assumed be intrinsically part of the ecosystem, owing to having developed there, having arrived in the area long before record of such matters was kept, having arrived by natural means (unaided by human action), etc. **Invasive s--.** This refers to a subset of introduced species or non-native species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health. **Non-native s--.** A species, subspecies or lower taxon introduced outside its normal past or present distribution; includes any parts, gametes, seeds, eggs or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce. **Opportunistic s--** (also called *r-strategist*). Species that grow and multiply fast when conditions are favourable. **Pioneering s--.** Species that establishes itself in a barren environment. **Rare s--.** Worldwide populations of small species, that are not currently endangered or are not vulnerable, but that may face such risks in the future. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. **S-- redundancy.** The presence of multiple species that play similar roles in ecosystem dynamics, thus enhancing ecosystem resilience (SER, 2004). **S-- richness.** The number of species in a given site. **Subs--.** A morphologically, behaviourally, ecologically and geographically distinct variety within a species. Individuals of different subspecies are able to produce fertile young. **Threatened s--.** Any species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. **Undescribed s--.** An organism not yet formally described by science and so does not yet have a formal binomial **scientific name**. Usually assigned a letter or number designation after the generic name, for example, *Squatina* sp. A is an undescribed species of angel shark belonging to the genus *Squatina*. **Vulnerable s--.** Living beings classified as “threatened” in the near future if causal factors persist. Among these are included the species which majority or entire population is diminishing due to overexploitation, vast destruction of the habitat, or other environmental disturbances. Also considered are the populations that have been significantly decreased and which safety has not been attained, and the distribution of populations are still abundant but being affected by adverse factors.

Specimen. Any living or dead animal or plant.

Spherical. Round or globular in shape.

Spillover. The emigration of adults and juveniles across the MPA borders.

Spur. A hollow, tubular extension to a petal in some flowers, often containing nectar.

Squalene. A long-chain hydrocarbon found in the liver oil of some **cartilaginous fishes** and harvested from some deepwater species for medicinal, industrial and cosmetic uses.

Stakeholder. From a corporate perspective, a stakeholder can be defined as “any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievements of the company's objectives.”

Stalk. The slender stem that supports a leaf or a flower.

Stamen. The male reproductive organ of a flower that produces pollen.

Stated preference approaches to valuation. A group of techniques of valuation that ask consumers to state their valuation of or preference for specific ecosystem goods and services directly, including contingent valuation, conjoint analysis and choice experiments methods.

Statutory fishing rights. A fishing permit or licence giving an operator the right to operate in a fishery according to the terms established by the authority regulating the fishery.

Stock. A group of individuals in a **species**, which are under consideration from the point of view of actual or potential utilisation and which occupy a well defined geographical range independent of other stocks of the same species. A stock is often regarded as an entity for management and assessment purposes.

Stolon. Similar to a rhizome, but exists above ground, sprouting from an existing stem.

Straddling fish stocks. As defined under **UNFSA**, straddling fish stocks are those that straddle the boundary of a State's **EEZ** and the high seas (some stocks straddle 'out' of an **EEZ** while others straddle 'into' an **EEZ**).

Stressor. That part of the activity that will affect a particular ecosystem component.

Strutting ground. The display ground or lek of sage grouse.

Strutting. The display of the male sage grouse in the mating season.

Subalpine. The vegetation zone below the treeline in high mountain areas. The transition between montane forest and alpine grassland characterized by krummholz and scattered trees.

Sub-catchments. A watershed area usually used to describe a smaller part of a river basin draining into a tributary stream. Similar to micro-catchments.

Subordination. The institutional change process whereby the decision-making power is transferred to the appropriate lower level, guaranteeing that power and resources are equitably transferred to ensure the importance of the decisions made.

Subpopulation. Geographically or otherwise distinct groups in a **population** between which there is little exchange.

Subsidies. Monetary grants given by a government to lower the price faced by producers or consumers of a good, generally because it is considered to be in the public interest. A subsidy is essentially the opposite of a tax.

Subsistence. Capabilities, goods (including material and social resources) and activities required as a means to survive. Sustainable subsistence implies the ability to

deal with tensions and shocks and recover from them, while maintaining or improving capabilities and goods both, at the present time as well as in the future, without undermining the natural resource base.

Subsistence fishery. A fishery where the fish landed are shared and consumed by the families and kin of the fishers instead of being sold on to the next larger market.

Substitute good. A good or service which is used in place of, or competes with, another.

Subsoil. The soil beneath the topsoil; compacted, with little or no organic material.

Substrate. The material making up the base upon which an organism lives or to which it is attached (NOAA, 2005).

Succulent. A plant adapted to arid conditions and characterized by fleshy water-storing tissues that act as water reservoirs.

Suppression. Reducing population levels of the invasive alien species to an acceptable threshold.

Surrogate Market approaches to valuation. A group of techniques of valuation that look at the ways in which the value of ecosystem goods and services are reflected indirectly in people's expenditures, or in the prices of other market goods and services, including travel cost and hedonic pricing methods.

Surroundings. The set of natural, artificial or man-induced elements that make possible the existence and development of the people and all other living organisms that interact within a given space and time.

Survey. Examining an area for the occurrence, distribution and population density of a species.

Sustainability. It refers to the adequate access, use and management of the natural resources, to ensure that the men and women of present and future generations are able to meet their basic needs on an uninterrupted basis. Pattern of behavior that guarantees for each of the future generations, the option to enjoy, at the very least, the same level of welfare enjoyed by the preceding generation. Emphasis is placed on the intergenerational equity of development.

Sustainable development. Means using natural resources in a way that avoids irreversible damage to ecosystem structure and function, the loss of irreplaceable features or a reduction in ecosystem resilience. Environmental interests must be considered alongside social and economic interests, so as to prevent the irreplaceable loss of natural features, function or processes and to ensure a long-term and dependable flow of benefits from the exploitation of renewable resources. Delivering such sustainable development will involve significant measures to recover ecosystem structure and function, where the flow of benefits is already reduced or impaired, or where ecosystem resilience is at risk.

Sustainable human development. It is a process to broaden people's options. It goes beyond income and economic growth, to cover full flourishing of the human capacity. It places the human being (its needs, expectations and opportunities) at the core of the concerns and activities focusing on men and women alike, as well as for present and future generations.

Sustainable management. Management through which the present potential of the resources is used in the best possible way, and does not reduce the availability of the resources.

Sustainable use. The use of an organism, ecosystem or any other renewable resource at a rate within the bounds of its capacity for renewal.

Swell. Undulating movement that stirs the sea, produced by the force of wind on the surface of water.

Symbiosis. A long-term interaction between two species that can often have mutual benefit for both species.

Sympatric. Different **species** which inhabit the same or overlapping geographic areas.

Synergy. Combined and simultaneous action of two or more forces, so that the resulting total effect is greater than the sum of the parts. It is the effect of network work.

[Back to top](#)

T

Taiga. The boreal forest. Dominated by conifers.

Tailings. Finely ground rock waste: material rejected from a mill when the recoverable minerals have been extracted.

Tanks. According to FAO, “Tanks are a fish or water holding structure, usually above ground, typically with a high water turnover rate and highly controlled environment”.

Target catch. The catch which is the subject of directed **fishing effort** within a fishery; the catch consisting of the species primarily sought by fishers.

Taungya. A means of re-establishing forest cover through initial intercropping of forestry and agricultural crops.

Taxes. Financial charges or other levies imposed on an individual or corporation by a government. Also known as ‘duties’.

Taxon (plural: taxa). A formal taxonomic unit or category at any level in a classification (**family, genus, species**, etc.).

Taxonomic diversity. Variety of species or other taxonomic categories.

Taxonomy. Refers to the system that classifies all worldwide species including plants, animals and microorganisms.

Temperate zone. The vegetation zone between the boreal forest and the subtropics. By nature dominated by deciduous forests, most of this zone has been converted into farmland.

Tenure. Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the “bundle of rights and duties” of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc).

Tenure rights. The legal regime in which land is owned by an individual, who is said to ‘hold’ the land.

Territory. An area defended and/or exclusively used by an individual.

Tetrapods. Vertebrates with four legs (or other appendages).

Threshold/tipping point. A point or level at which ecosystems change, sometimes irreversibly, to a significantly different state, seriously affecting their capacity to deliver certain ecosystem services.

Tidal. It refers to the system of water influenced by the ocean.

Tidal mixing. Occurs when strong tidal currents mix the water column (Davis and Browne, 1997).

Timber. Any wood or tree which has felled or has been felled or cut off and all wood whether unsawn, hewn, sawn or machined, split, or otherwise cut up or fashioned and shall include lumber, flooring strips, shingles, and sleepers but does not include any article manufactured from such wood or firewood (*Forest Act, 2002*).

Timber trade. Covering all activities from logging through to export.

Topography. The configuration of the surface of land, including the position of natural objects.

Topsoil. The surface layer of soil, which is rich in humus and other organic material, living and dead; generally has a loose, crumbly structure.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC). The total catch allowed to be taken from a resource within a specified time period (usually a year) by all operators; designated by the regulatory authority. Usually allocated in the form of quotas.

Total Economic Value. The sum of all marketed and non-marketed benefits associated with an ecosystem or environmental resource, including direct, indirect, option and existence values.

Traceability (*aquaculture*). This is the ability to track the movement of an aquaculture product or inputs such as feed and seed through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution. It is based on documentation and other evidence by which a certified product can be traced from a specific buyer all the way back through the chain of custody to the certified production area from which it originated.

Trade-offs. A choice that involves losing one quality or service (of an ecosystem) in return for gaining another quality or service. Many decisions affecting ecosystems involve trade-offs, sometimes mainly in the long term.

Trammel net. A net whose inner fine-meshed layer is carried by the fish through the coarse-meshed outer layer, enclosing it in a pocket.

Transaction costs. The costs that arise in the process of trading with others, on top of the price of the good or service exchanged.

Transhumance. Seasonal migration of livestock to suitable grazing grounds.

Translocation. The deliberate and mediated movement of wild individuals or populations from one part of their range to another (IUCN, 1995).

Transpiration. The loss of water vapor from a plant to the outside atmosphere, mainly through the breathing pores on the surface of a plant's leaves and the lenticels of stems.

Transplantation. Management strategy where coral juveniles from a healthy reef are introduced onto a degraded reef (Yap et al, 1998).

Travel cost valuation methods. A *Surrogate Market Approach* technique for valuing ecosystems or environmental resources that takes the costs people pay to visit an ecosystem as an expression of its recreational value.

Trawling (trawl netting). A fishing method utilising a towed net consisting of a cone or funnel shaped net body, closed by a **codend** and extended at the openings by wings. Can be used on the bottom (**demersal** trawl) or in midwater (**pelagic** trawl).

Treeline. Altitudinal or latitudinal line or zone beyond which trees are absent.

Trophic (level). Level in the food chain (e.g. primary producer, herbivore, carnivore).

Tundra. Treeless plains of the Arctic dominated by shrubs, grasses, lichens and mosses. Also: any habitat beyond the latitudinal (Arctic) or altitudinal (alpine) treeline. Limited by cold temperatures.

Turbidity. Cloudy water, usually caused by the suspension of fine particles in the water column. The particles may be inorganic (e.g. silt) or organic (e.g. single-celled organisms) (NOAA, 2005).

[Back to top](#)

U

Uncertainty. The degree to which a value is unknown, expressed quantitatively (for example, a range of temperatures calculated by different models) or qualitatively (for example, the judgement by a team of experts on the likelihood of a collapse of the *West Antarctic Ice Sheet*). Uncertainty in climate projections is primarily introduced by the range of projections of human behaviour which determine emissions of greenhouse gases, and the range of results from *climate models* for any given greenhouse gas.

Upstream operations. Includes oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) and gas processing activities.

Upwelling. The process by which warm, less-dense surface water is drawn away from a shore by offshore currents and replaced by cold, dense water brought up from the subsurface (NOAA, 2005).

Use values. A component of Total Economic Value: value derived from direct use, indirect use and options values associated with natural resources or ecosystems.

Usufruct rights. The right to use property or generate income from property that is owned by another.

[Back to top](#)

V

Valuation, economic. The process of estimating a value for a particular good or service in a certain context in monetary terms.

Vectors. Agents that transport or assist the movement of a species along a pathway towards introduction (to a new ecosystem).

Vermiform. Long, narrow, and wavy in shape.

Verrucate. That has a rough surface.

Viable population. A population large enough for long-term survival.

Vibroiseis. A seismic survey technique which uses large vehicles fitted with vibrating plates to produce shock waves.

Vicariant / Vicarious. Closely related species derived from a common ancestral population divided by geographic isolation.

Viviparity. A reproductive mode where the maternal adult gives birth to live young. Encompasses **aplacental viviparity** and **placental viviparity**.

Vulnerability. A set of conditions and processes resulting from physical, social, economic and environmental factors, indicating the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards (ISDR 2004).

Vulnerable. When used in the context of the IUCN Red List, a taxon is classified as 'Vulnerable' when facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future (IUCN, 2001).

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). Fragile marine ecosystems in the deep sea that comprise benthic species that are vulnerable to impacts by fishing gear, and that have a low capacity to recover from disturbance as a result of conservative life histories (i.e. very slow growing, slow to mature, high longevity, low levels of recruitment), and sensitivity to changes in environmental conditions.

[Back to top](#)

W

Watershed. An area of land that feeds water to a river, draining through the landscape into tributaries and main river channels. Also called ‘catchments’, ‘drainage basins’ or ‘river basins.’

Watershed services. The benefits people obtain from ecosystems within a watershed.

Weed. A plant that is growing where it is not “wanted”; a plant pest.

Wetlands. Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs.

Wild fauna. Land animal species that subsist subject to the natural selection processes and are freely developed. It includes the smaller populations that are under man’s control, as well as household animals that turn wild as a result of abandonment, and thus, susceptible to capture and appropriation.

Wildlife. Living things that are neither human nor domesticated.

Willingness to pay (WTP). Estimate of the amount people are prepared to pay in exchange for a certain state or good for which there is normally no market price (e.g. WTP for protection of an endangered species).

Wrack. Detached seagrass leaves that collect together and drift on the water surface or are washed up on the shoreline.

X

Xerophilous. Thriving in dry habitats.

Y

Yield regulation. The techniques for calculating and controlling the harvesting level to ensure that sustained yield is respected.

Z

Zooplankton. Animals that drift with the currents (usually of microscopic size).

Zooxanthellae. Dinoflagellates that live symbiotically (mutually beneficial) within a variety of invertebrate groups (e.g. coral polyps) (NOAA, 2005).

[Back to top](#)