



Unit 1 (Topic 1&7) Environmental Values Systems



How would you explain a values system?

We now know what a system is,
but what about a 'value?'

The word 'value' means worth. It also refers to the ethical precept (general rule) upon which we base our behavior

What are your values?
What is *YOUR* values system?

Eco-ethics - where do you stand?

What influences *your* values system?

HINT: system characteristics...

Can you think of inputs? outputs? processes?

Values System

Input:

Media
School
Peers
Religion
Culture
Family

Processes:

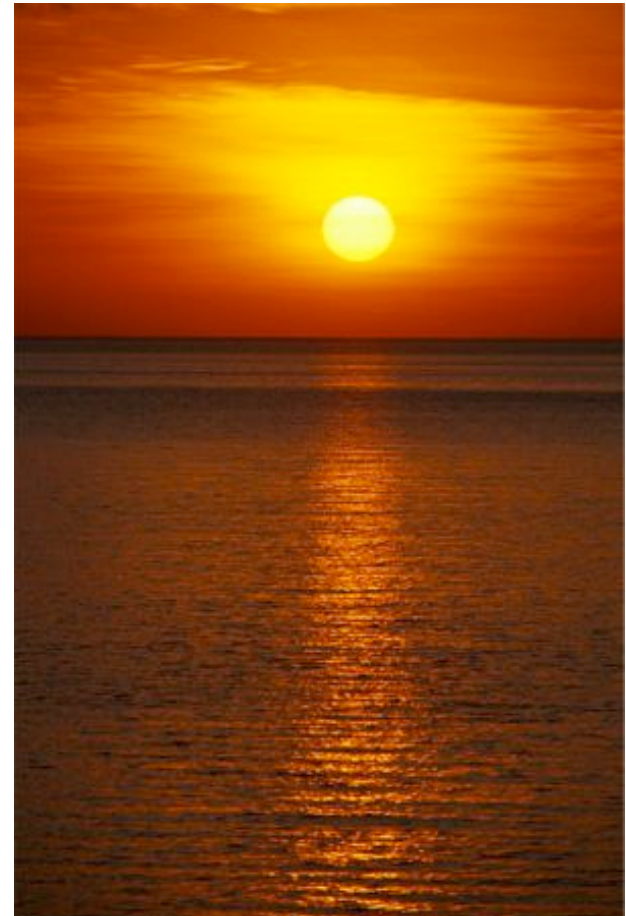
Listening
Rejecting
Accepting
Learning
Thinking
Deciding

Output:

Decisions
Actions
Answers
Choices
Perspectives
View points

Environmental value system

A set of deeply held beliefs that inform personal or societal attitudes and actions with regard to the environment and environmental problem solving; a moral code.



Who has an environmental value system?

- Individuals
- Influential individuals
- Independent pressure groups
- Intergovernmental bodies
- Non-governmental organizations



Influential individuals

- Elected government officials
- Civil service staff



Independent pressure groups

- Businesses
- Trade organizations
- Professional associations

Corporate social responsibility



Intergovernmental bodies

- UK Sustainable Development Commission
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Non-governmental organizations

- WWF
- Greenpeace



Environmental value systems

- Technocentrism
- Ecocentrism (Deep Ecology)
- Anthropocentrism



Technocentric Views

- **Nature:** nature is a model, but can be replaced by technology when needed
- **Society:** human health and well-being are central to decision-making
- **Economy:** maintain overall total of human, built and natural capital
- **Who decides:** technology experts (as advisors to government)

Ecocentric Views

- **Nature:** environmental conservation is central to decision-making
- **Society:** humans are part of nature
- **Economy:** maintain natural capital, as well as overall total capital
- **Who decides:** empowerment; everyone has the capacity and the opportunity to participate in decision-making

Anthropocentric Views

- **Nature:** the environment is a resource for humans to use as needed
- **Society:** human health and well-being are central in decision-making
- **Economy:** maintain overall total of human, built and natural capital
- **Who decides:** elected government representatives

Deep Ecologists

- Believe that the living environment has the same right to live and flourish as humanity.
- Concerned about the impacts of human life as one part of the ecosphere. Not all natural resources are for human use.
- Deep ecology seeks a more holistic view of the world we live in.



Cornucopians

[Latin: cornus=horn, copia=abundance]

- Believe that the Earth's resources will infinitely benefit humans
- Not concerned about the impacts of human life. Natural resources are for human use.
- Cornucopians view humans as solution-focused who will always find a way out of any difficulty

