

Ecology and Tourism

- **The word ecology comes from the Greek Oikos, meaning house or place to live.**
- **It refers to the study of organisms in their natural habitat or the study of the structure and function of nature.**

- **It is a science which investigates organisms in relation to their environment.**
- **Study of the relationships that living organisms have with each other and with their natural environment.**

Word

Definition

1. Community

A group of the different species (2 populations) living together. Eg, coral reef, forest floor

2. Ecosystem

Living and non living things in an area eg, forest with river and rocks, coral reef with sand and water.

3. Biosphere

The part of earth that supports living organisms.

4. Biotic

Having to do with living things

5. Abiotic

Having to do with non living things.


Eco - Tourism

What is eco tourism?

Ecotourism is environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural area in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement for the local populations

Focus of Ecotourism

- ▶ **Eco tourism focuses on local cultures, wilderness adventures and volunteering.**
- ▶ **Personal growth and learning new ways to live on our vulnerable planet.**
- ▶ **On cultural artifacts from the locality.**

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- ▶ **Travel to destinations where the flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions.**
 - ▶ **Minimizing the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment and enhance the cultural integrity of local people.**

- ▶ **Evaluating environmental and cultural factors, initiatives by hospitality providers to promote recycling, energy efficiency, water reuse and the creation of economic opportunities for local communities.**

HOW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

People are exposed to risk factors in their homes, work places and communities through:

AIR POLLUTION
including indoors and outdoors



INADEQUATE WATER, SANITATION and hygiene



CHEMICALS
and biological agents



RADIATION
ultraviolet and ionizing



COMMUNITY NOISE



OCCUPATIONAL RISKS



CLIMATE CHANGE



BUILT ENVIRONMENTS
including housing and roads



AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
including pesticide-use, waste-water reuse



What is ecotourism?

- Ecotourism is "responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and sustains the livelihood of local people".

National Geographic Online

- "travel that focuses on avoiding harm to wilderness areas and wildlife and wherever possible, actively contributes to their preservation."

GMBIS

- Are we talking about the people as well?














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The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The central area is a plain white background where the text is placed.

The Multidisciplinary Nature of Environmental Studies

DEFINITION, SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE

Definition:

Environmental studies deals with every issue that affects an organism. It is essentially a multidisciplinary approach that brings about an appreciation of our natural world and human impacts on its integrity.

Multi disciplinary Approach

**Its components include
biology, geology,
chemistry,
physics, engineering,
sociology, health, anthropology,
economics, statistics, computers and
philosophy**

Scope of environmental studies

The **scope of environmental studies** is very wide and it deals with many areas like

- i) Conservation of natural resources,
- ii) Ecological aspects,
- iii) Pollution of the surrounding natural resources,
- iv) Controlling the pollution,
- v) Social issues connected to it, and
- vi) Impacts of human population on the **environment**.

IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The study of the structure and function of the **environment** is essential for sustainable development of all living organisms on earth. ...

Environmental studies helps maintain ecological balance by providing a basic operating knowledge of **environmental system** and processes.

What is Environment?

Environment literally means Surrounding in which we are living. Environment includes all those things on which we are directly or indirectly dependent for our survival, whether it is living component like animals, plants or non living component like soil, air water.



Definition from EPA 1986

Environmental Protection Act (1986) defined “Environment as the sum total of water, air and land, their interrelationship among themselves and with the human beings, other living beings and property.”

Ecology is that part of environmental studies in which we study about organisms, plants and animals and their relationship or interdependence on other living and non living environment.

Some other definitions of Environment

- ▶ 1. According to Boring, 'A person's environment consists of the sum total of the stimulation which he receives from his conception until his death.' Indicating that environment comprises various types of forces such as physical, intellectual, mental, economical, political, cultural, social, moral and emotional.
- ▶ 2. Douglas and Holland defined that 'The term environment is used to describe, in aggregate, all the external forces, influences and conditions, which affect the life, nature, behaviour and the growth, development and maturity of living organisms'.

Meaning Of Environmental Studies:

Environmental studies are the scientific study of the environmental system and the status of its inherent or induced changes on organisms. It includes not only the study of physical and biological characters of the environment but also the social and cultural factors and the impact of man on environment.

SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENT:

The environment consists of four segments of the earth namely

Atmosphere,

Hydrosphere,

Lithosphere and

Biosphere:

Atmosphere

- ▶ **the envelope of gases surrounding the earth or another planet.**



Hydrosphere (Jalamandalam)

All the waters on the earth's surface, such as lakes and seas, and sometimes including water over the earth's surface, such as clouds.

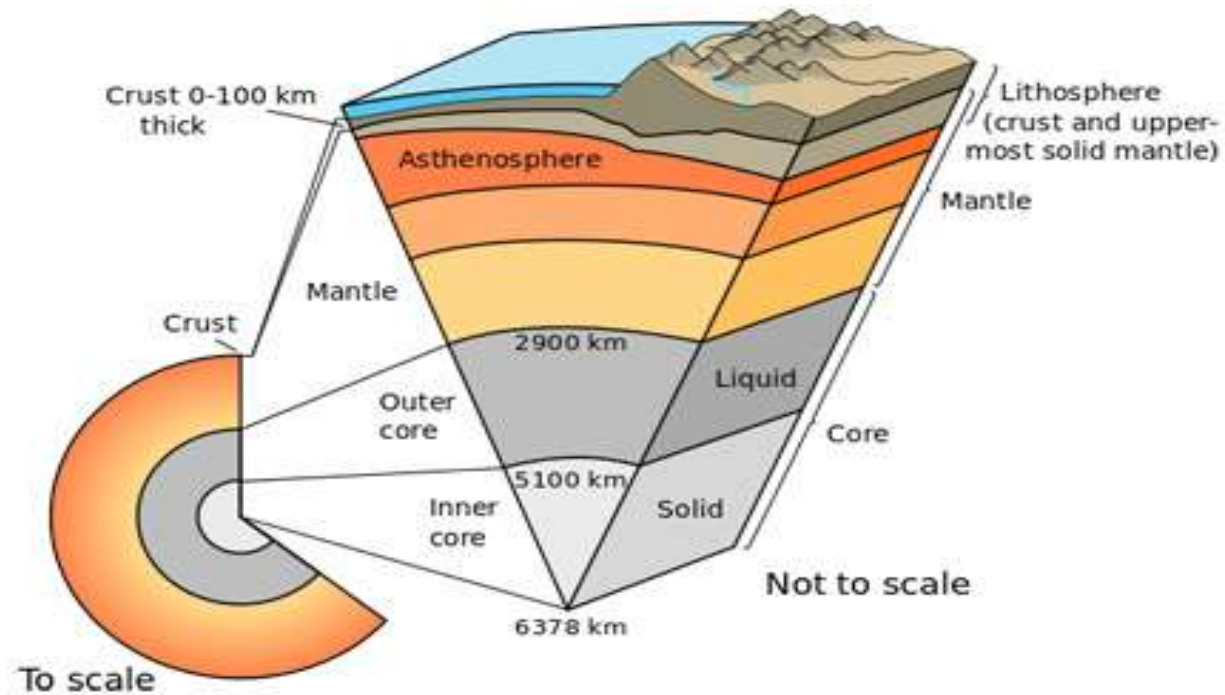
The Hydrosphere

- All the water on or near Earth's surface
 - Oceans
 - Lakes
 - Rivers
 - Wetlands
 - Icecaps and icesheets
 - Soil
 - Subsurface groundwater
 - Clouds and atmosphere



Lithosphere

The rigid outer part of the earth, consisting of the crust and upper mantle.



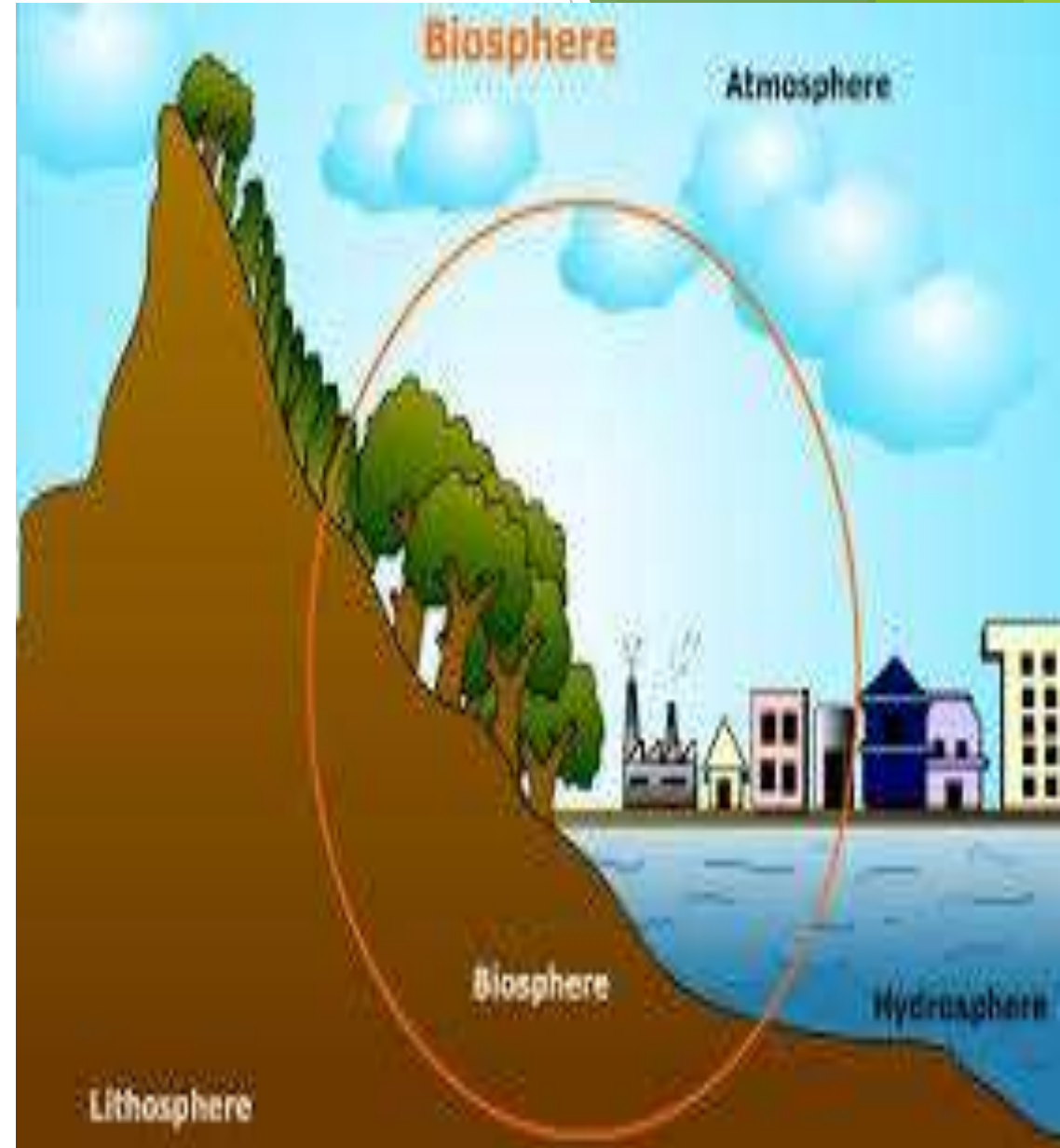
Lithosphere

Biosphere(Jaiva Mandalam)

- ▶ The regions of the surface and atmosphere of the earth or another planet occupied by living organisms.
- ▶ An artificial structure enclosing a self-contained ecosystem or ecosystems. "the elliptical domed biosphere is the largest single-span glasshouse in the world"

What is the Biosphere?

- Combined portions of the planet in which all of life exists, including land, water and atmosphere
- Extend from 8-km above Earth's surface to 11-km below the surface of the ocean.



Elements of Environment

Environment is constituted by the interacting systems of physical, biological and cultural elements inter-related in various ways, individually as well as collectively. These elements are:

► (1) Physical elements

Physical elements are space, landforms, water bodies, climate, soils, rocks and minerals. They determine the variable character of the human habitat, its opportunities as well as limitations.

Biological elements

- ▶ **Biological elements such as plants, animals, microorganisms and men constitute the biosphere.**

Cultural Elements

- ▶ **Cultural elements such as economical, social and political elements are essentially man-made features, which make the cultural background.**

Importance of Environmental Studies

1. Environment Issues are being of Global:

It has been well recognized that environment issues like global warming and ozone depletion, acid rain, marine pollution and biodiversity are not merely national issues but are global issues and hence require international efforts and cooperation to solve them.

2. Development and Environment:

Development leads to Urbanization, Industrial Growth, Telecommunication and Transportation Systems, Hi-tech Agriculture and Housing etc. However, it has become phased out in the developed world. The North intentionally moves their dirty factories to South to cleanse their own environment. When the West developed, it did so perhaps in ignorance of the environmental impact of its activities. Development of the rich countries of the world has undesirable effects on the environment of the entire world.

3. Explosive increase in pollution:

Agricultural experts have recognized soil health problems like deficiency of micro-nutrients and organic matter, soil salinity and damage of soil structure.

Need for an Alternative Solution

It is essential, specially for developing countries to find alternative paths to an alternative goal. We need a goal as under:

- 1.A true goal of development with an environmentally sound and sustainable development.
- 2.A goal common to all citizens of our planet earth.
- 3.A goal distant from the developing world in the manner it is from the over-consuming wasteful societies of the “developed” world.

It is utmost important for us to save the humanity from extinction because of our activities constricting the environment and depleting the biosphere, in the name of development.

Need for Wise Planning of Development

Our survival and sustenance depend on resources availability. Hence Resources withdraw, processing and use of the products have all to be synchronised with the ecological cycle. In any plan of development our actions should be planned ecologically for the sustenance of the environment and development.

Keeping in view of the goal of planning for environmentally sustainable development, India contributed to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also referred to as “Earth Summit” held at Rio de Janeiro, the Capital of Brazil, 3rd-14th June, 1992.