

ecological island

an isolated and unique ecosystem in an area surrounded by other environments supporting different ecosystems and species

endemic species

species native to a particular habitat

equilibrium

the balance between change and development and preservation

food chain

an identifiable link of interconnected feeding relationships between organisms of an ecosystem

food web

a network of food chains and links between the species of an ecosystem in relation to the consumption and production of food within that ecosystem

game reserve

an area of land which cannot be purchased or permanently settled by humans for the protection of certain species of wild animals

geomorphic processes

all the processes involving the hydrosphere and lithosphere in which objects are weathered, eroded, transported and deposited either catastrophically or slowly

greenhouse effect

the natural effect of gases in the atmosphere which trap heat around the earth

herbivores

animals that consume vegetation

heritage listing

a system of classification used in many countries to protect buildings or places of special historical significance from destruction

heterotrophs

organisms that cannot produce their own food and thus consume food found in other plants and animals

hydrological processes

the work of water, either in its solid or liquid forms, in weathering, erosion, transportation and deposition of the elements of the biophysical environments

hydrosphere

the total amount of the earth's water in all its stages whether it be vapourised in the atmosphere, liquified in rivers or rain or frozen as snow or ice

intrinsic values

objects which have value to a human because of their appearance, beauty or scenic value e.g. a view from a lookout

leaching

the removal of soluble substances from the upper to the lower layers of the soil by water

lithosphere

the outer shell of the earth's crust with some of the mantle consisting of rocks, minerals etc.

marine park

similar to a national park except that an area of water or ocean is protected from certain human activities such as commercial fishing

microclimate

localised climatic conditions operating due to a cause other than normal climatic factors

national park

a relatively large area set aside for its features of predominantly unspoiled natural landscape, flora and fauna

omnivores

animals such as human beings, that have a wide tolerance for their food supply being both carnivores and herbivores