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| overload | a term describing stress to an ecosystem as a result of excessive human inputs to the system |
| ozone depletion | a decrease in the amount of ozone in the stratosphere at about 20-30 km above earth |
| primary production | the initial collection and preliminary processing of resources to fulfil a need or want by humans e.g. agriculture, mining, forestry etc. |
| primary vegetation | the vegetation found in a climax community that has been allowed to develop unimpeded over time e.g. remote alpine areas |
| resilience | the degree to which ecosystems recover from natural or human impact or change |

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| secondary vegetation | the vegetation which replaces primary vegetation in the short term after fire, disaster, or human interference in an ecosystem |
| sedentary cultivation | the production of agricultural crops or livestock in one area |
| semi-nomadic | a lifestyle in which humans and their possessions move infrequently across a landscape often due to seasonal climatic patterns |
| seral progression | the change from one stage or sere of vegetation in a selected area to another stage or level towards a primary climax vegetation |
| shifting cultivation | an agricultural practice where primary and secondary vegetation is cleared for crop production on a small scale for low yields of a few basic crops, necessitating the moving of the garden every 4 to 7 years |

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| steady state | the balance which is maintained when all inputs and outputs have created a self-sustaining climax community in a particular ecosystem |
| sub-dominant | the second most dominant species in an ecosystem in terms of numbers |
| subsistence agriculture | a system of agriculture in which the producer grows only what he needs for his own family |
| succession | when one land use succeeds in taking over from the original type of land use in an area |
| sustainability | the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs |

trophic levels

levels for the production and consumption of food and energy within the flora and fauna of an ecosystem from the simple level of a producer to the highest level of tertiary consumer

utility value

a value placed on an object or area because there is a possible financial return from it, as distinct from an intrinsic value for itself alone

wildlife corridor

an area of natural land unimpeded by deliberate human change which allows freedom of movement of animals between two ecological islands

wildlife refuge

an area of land set aside for the undisturbed development of the natural ecosystems; wildlife is protected, but some controlled hunting may be permitted at times

world park

a concept whereby certain areas are permanently conserved beyond the reach of all nations e.g. Antarctica