



Green Words

15 ideas for taking care
of the world



METAPlaneta
haciendo nuestra parte por la justicia ambiental

This English Easy-Read version is a translation of the original Spanish Easy-Read glossary produced by META Planeta within the Instituto Interamericano sobre Discapacidad y Desarrollo Inclusivo in 2021, aiming to contribute to knowledge sharing of climate change-related information among children and youth with disabilities, ensuring accessibility of information. The original Spanish version includes QR codes with links to videos in Spanish and Sign language that are not included in this English version but can be accessed at the following link:

<https://iidienred.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Palabras-Verdes-META-Planeta.pdf>

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Foreword

Words are the essential tool of any human being, among other things because it is language what makes us humans.

Acquiring words, hearing them for the first time, recognizing them, understanding their meaning, appropriating them, and learning to say them in our own voice is a journey that cannot be made alone.

For children, adolescents and young people with disabilities, the possibility of participating in certain conversations is often limited because they lack the necessary words, usually because they do not have the opportunity to listen to them, learn them and practice them.

At the Instituto Interamericano sobre Discapacidad y Desarrollo Inclusivo (IIDi) we have been often given the opportunity of doing a pioneering and wonderful job: to break new ground, create new spaces and make available to the youngest people with disabilities the essential words they need to participate, to learn, and to ask questions.

Above all, to allow them to say whatever they think about any issue that concerns them without being left behind and without being left out of any conversation and any debate. It is the way to protect human rights and promote equitable and inclusive development.

In 2020-2021, the iiDi developed a pilot experience focused on two main objectives:

1) positioning environmental issues in the movement of young people with disabilities and

2) positioning people with disabilities in the context of discussions on the impact of global warming.

Throughout this journey, the young people of META Planeta have been learning and sharing a handful of new words, which today allow them to engage in discussions on sustainable development and the environment, ask questions about the challenges posed by climate change, think about its devastating impact on water and life, and speak as equals with their peers about the importance and urgency of these issues for all people.

Today we are pleased to present to you with the result of this journey we have made together: *Green words: fifteen ideas to take care of the world.* They simply introduce the words we have learned on this new journey.

They bring with them the joy that comes from having created a completely understandable material in simplified language, with sign language and accessible to visually impaired people through screen readers.

And also they bring the hope that this brief glossary will allow many children and adolescents with disabilities to find the words they need to contribute, to raise their voices and to take care with everybody of our planet, which is our common home.

Sergio Meresman
Research Director
Inter-American Institute on Disability
and Inclusive Development



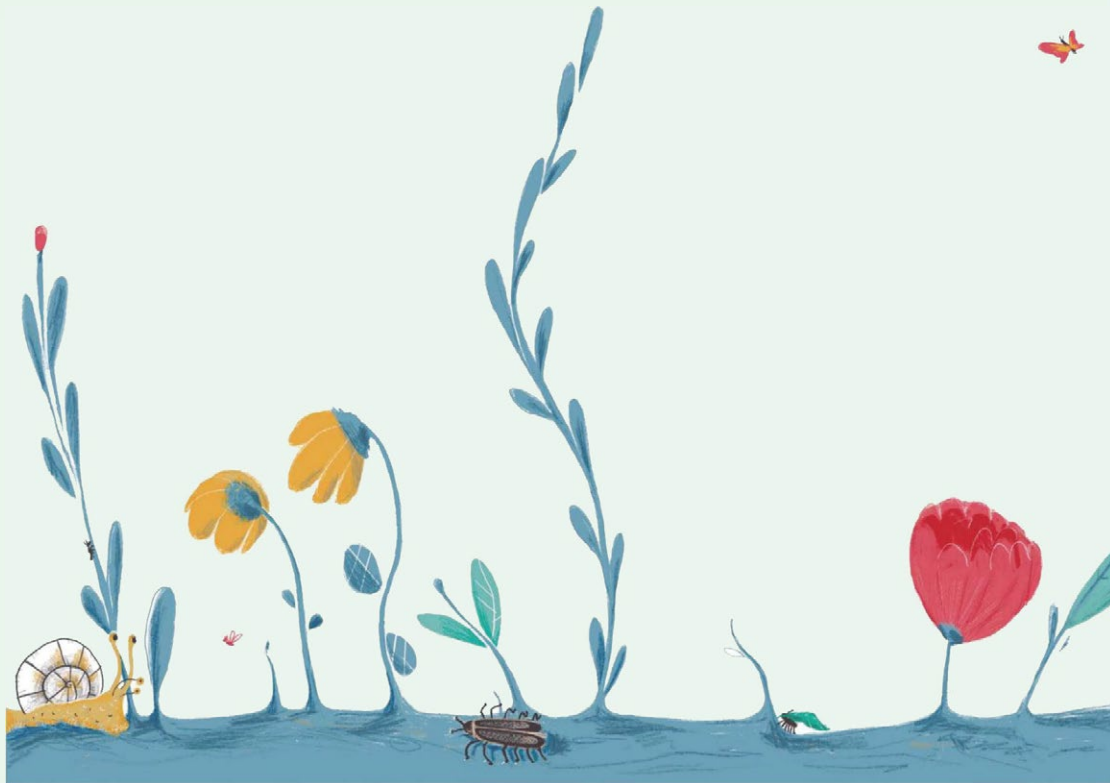
The legend of the **hummingbird**

In a large forest, a huge fire began to break out. The flames were getting bigger and bigger, taking everything with them.

In the midst of this chaos, a small hummingbird flew to the river, dipped its wings in it, and returned to the fire, flapping them with the intention of putting out the fire. It repeated the process tirelessly, going back and forth again and again. The fire did not seem to diminish one bit.

The other animals, who were watching what was happening, said to the hummingbird: 'Hey, are you crazy? Why are you doing that? Do you really think you can put out a fire so big with those droplets of water? You're never going to make it!'

The hummingbird, undeterred, replied, 'I'm doing my part.'



**Planet Earth
is our home**

Who lives on planet Earth?

The living beings on planet Earth are grouped into **species**.

A species is the group to which each living being belongs.

For example, the human species is made up of people.

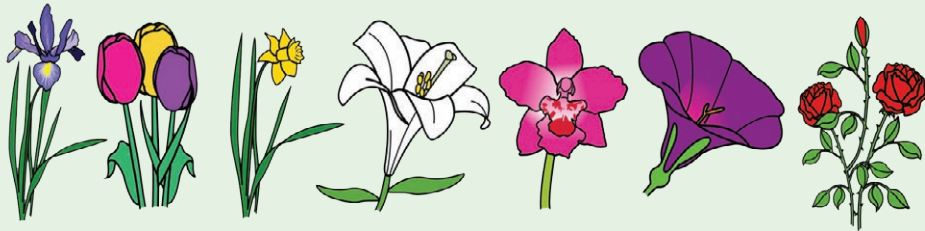


People are different from cats, which are part of a different species.

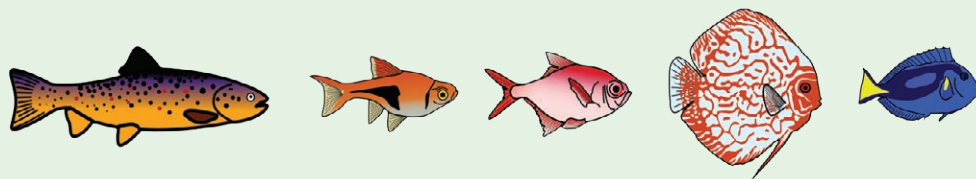


Many different species live on planet Earth.

For example, these flowers belong to different species.



These are different species of fish.



In addition, within each species there are living beings with different characteristics.

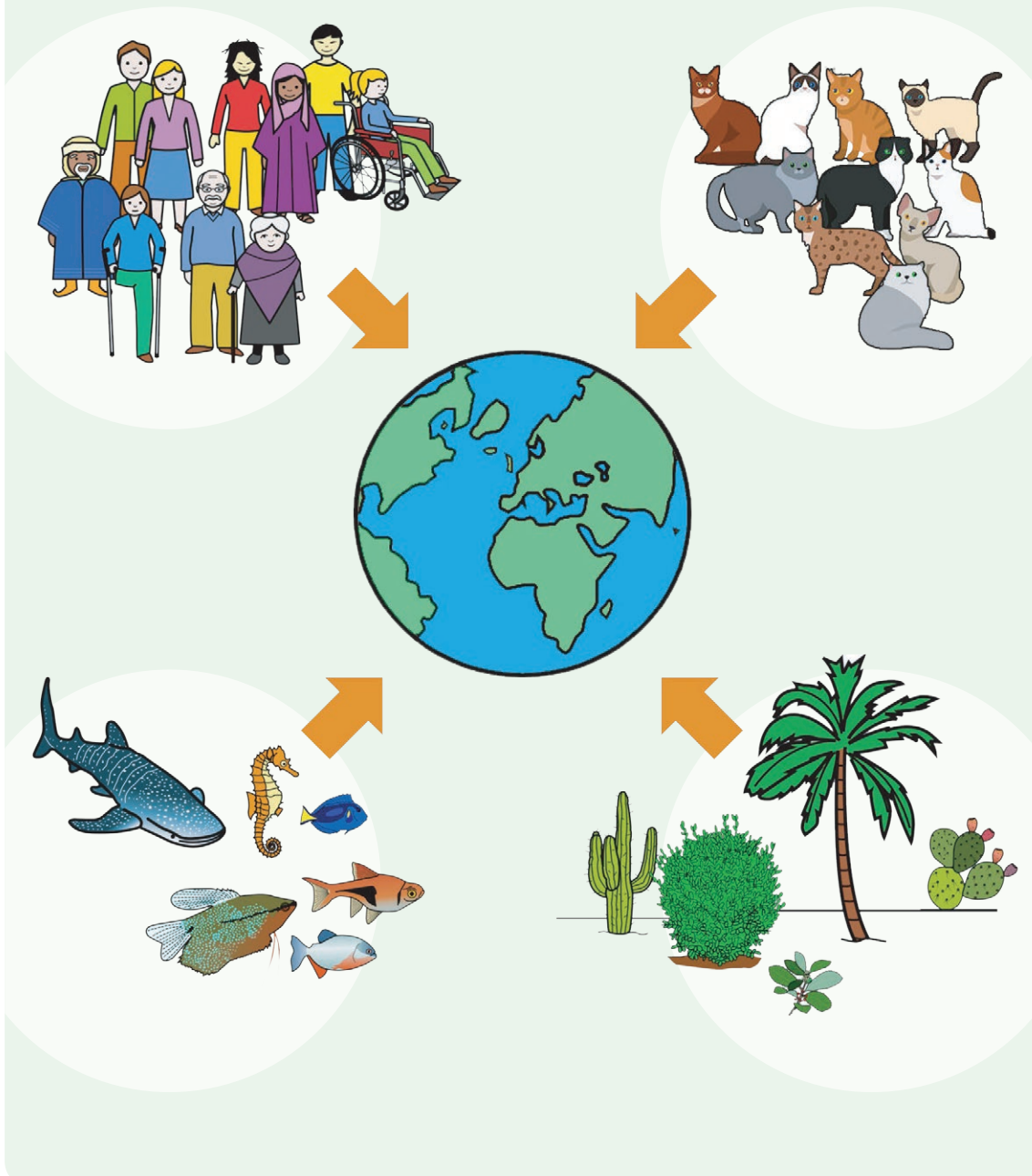
For example, in the human species all individuals are different from each other.



There is **diversity** in each species.

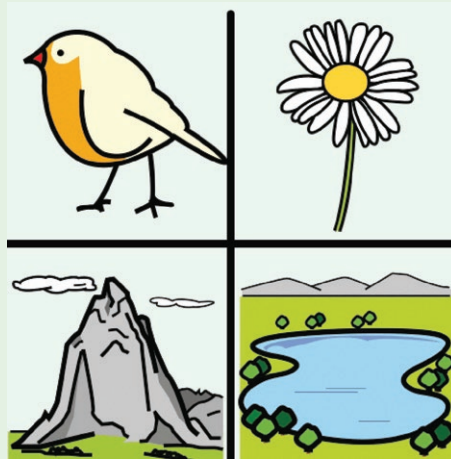
What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of environments, ecosystems and living beings that exist on planet Earth



What is the environment?

The **environment** is everything that surrounds us.



The environment is made up of living beings and other elements, such as water, air and soil.



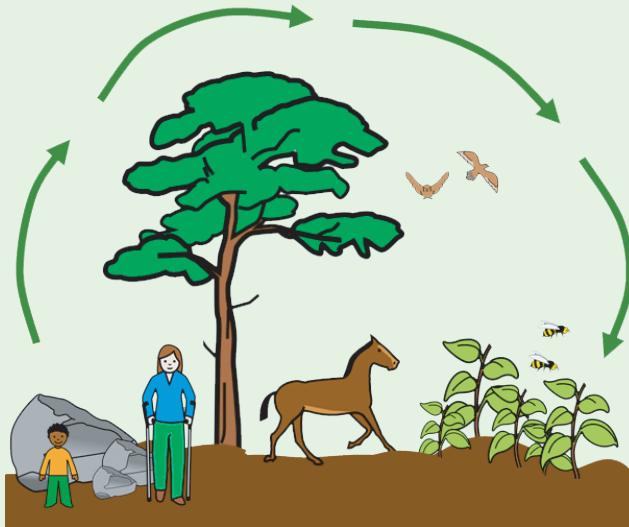
When people build buildings, bridges or houses, the environment changes.

Buildings, bridges or houses are part of the environment.

They are called **artificial elements**.

What is an ecosystem?

An **ecosystem** is the combination of living beings and their environment.



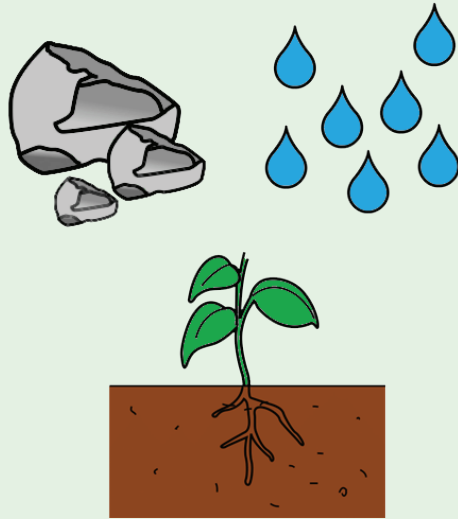
In an ecosystem there are:

- living beings
- natural elements
- artificial elements

Living beings are, for example, animals and plants.



Natural elements are, for example, water or soil.

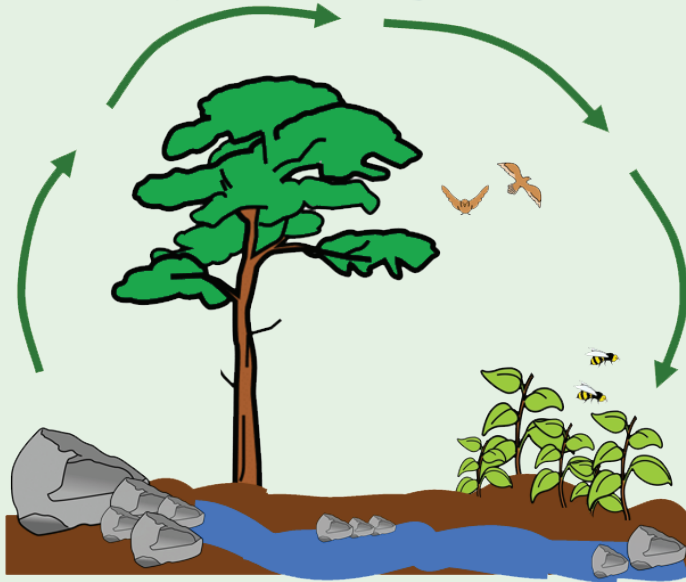


Artificial elements are, for example, buildings and houses.

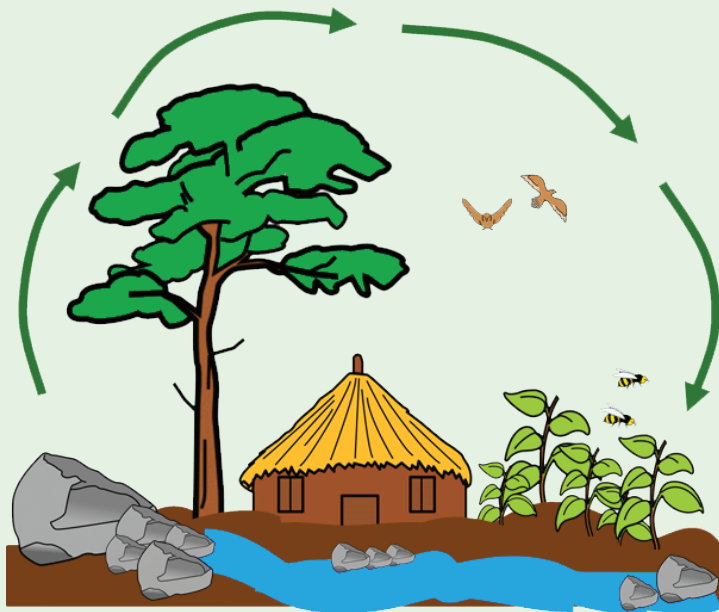


In an ecosystem, all elements share the same space and interact with each other.

Some ecosystems are made up only of natural elements such as water or soil and have no artificial elements.



Other ecosystems have artificial elements, such as buildings or houses.



Planet Earth is a very large ecosystem.



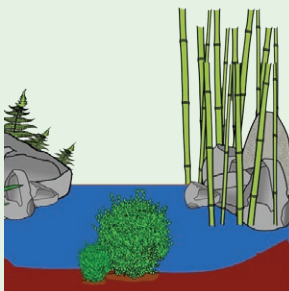
In planet Earth there are other, smaller ecosystems.



Forests are ecosystems.



Prairies are ecosystems.



Wetlands are ecosystems.

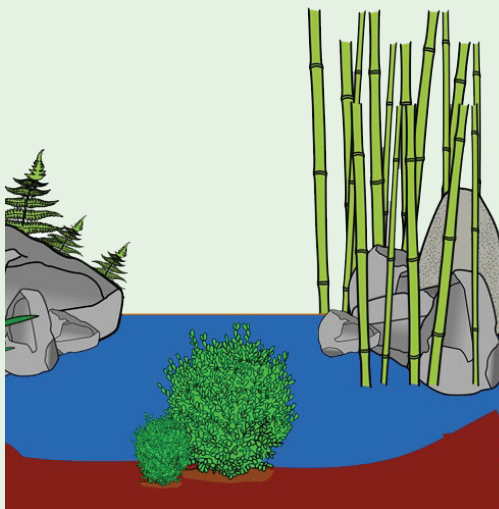
They are all ecosystems of planet Earth, and they are different because ecosystems change according to the nature of their elements.

For example:



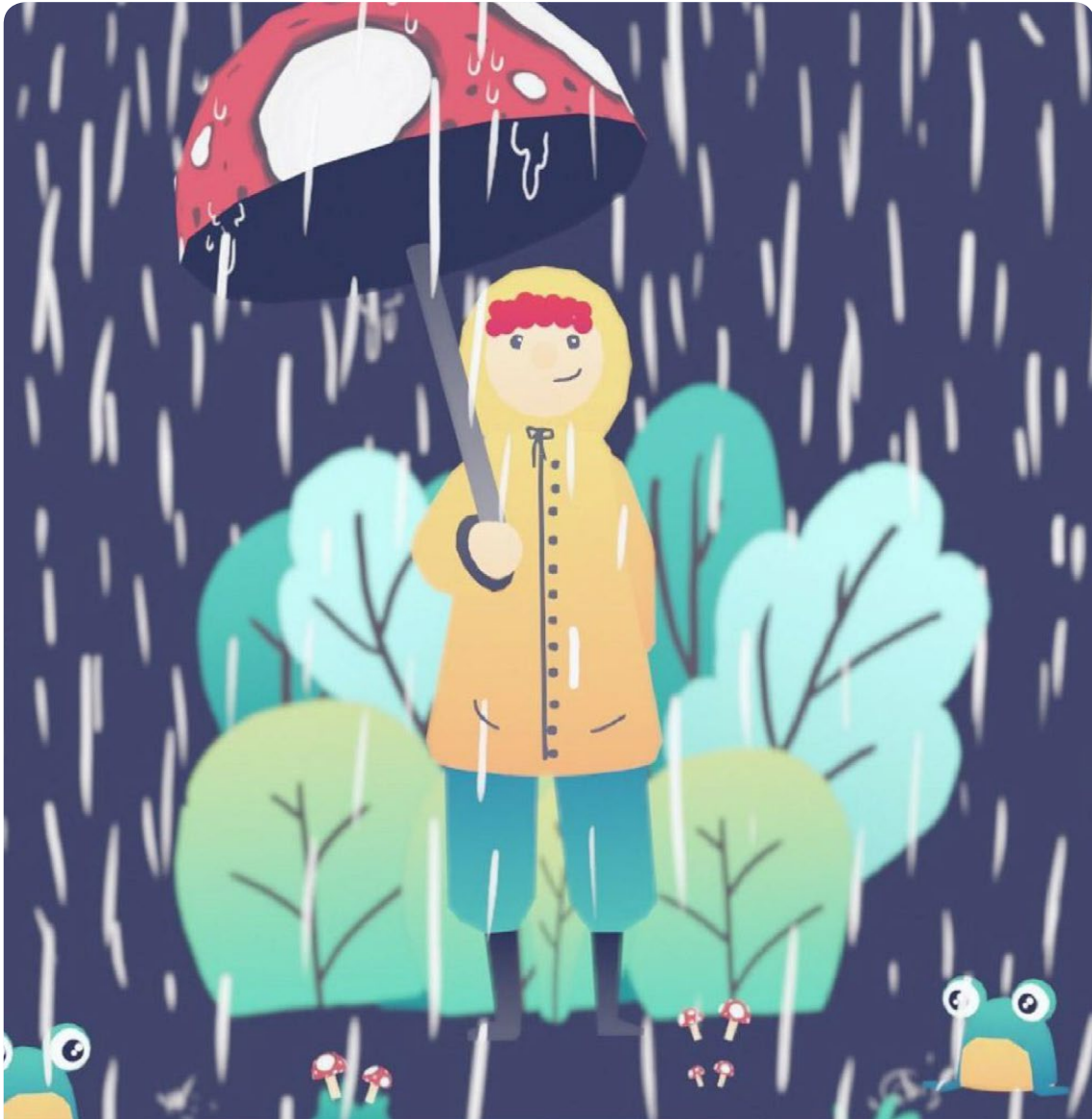
In the forest there are:

- trees
- birds
- squirrels



In the wetland there are:

- water plants
- toads
- fishes



**Our commitment
to the planet and
our rights**

Common goods

Some elements that make up the environment are called common goods, because all living beings need them to survive.

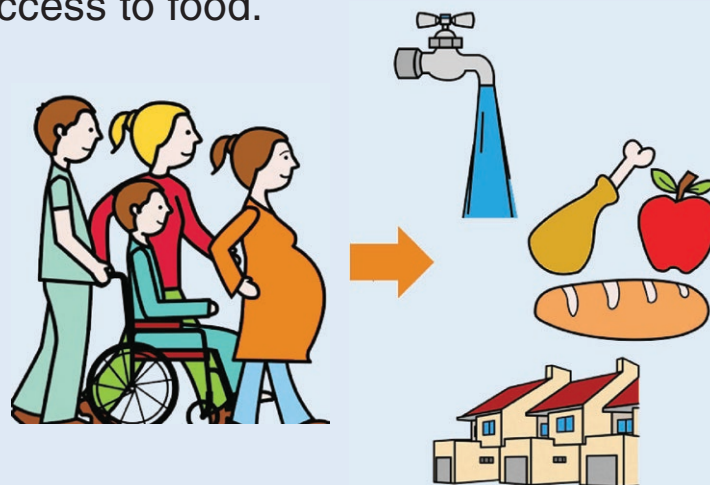


For example, water, air and food are common goods.

Common goods are a right of all living beings that live on planet Earth.

All living beings have the right to:

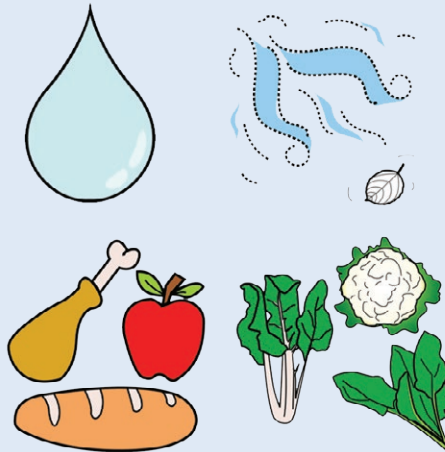
- access to water,
- access to air,
- access to food.



There are two types of common goods.

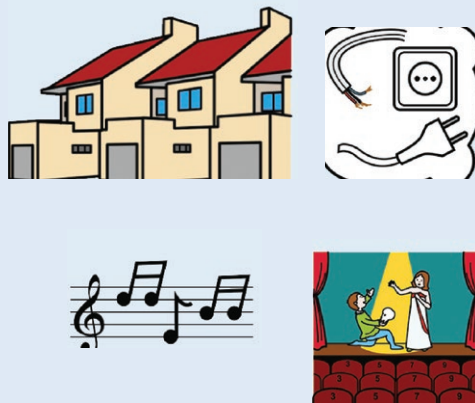
Natural common goods, such as for example:

- water
- air
- food



Social common goods, such as for example:

- housing
- electricity
- health and education



What is environmental justice?

Environmental justice is justice related to environmental issues.

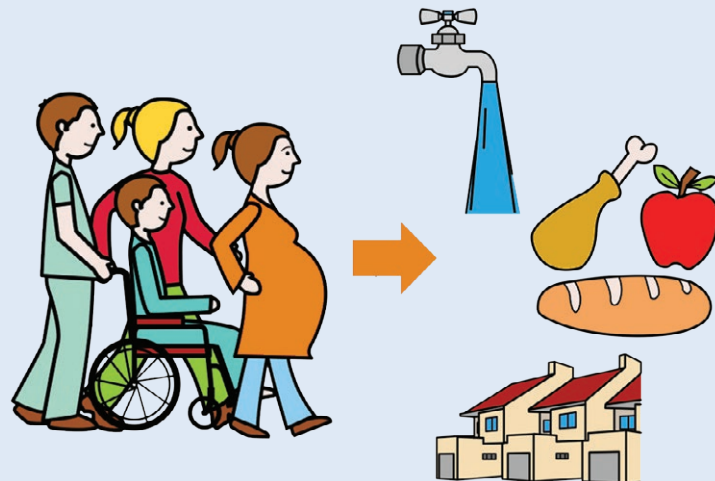
It is justice related to our surroundings.

It seeks to ensure that all people have access to common goods.

It advocates for every individual to have access to the elements of the environment that they need to survive.

Environmental justice supports:

- access to water,
- access to air,
- access to land and housing,
- access to food.



Environmental justice also stands up for people being able to participate in society.

It defends the human rights that are related to the environment.



What is damage mitigation?

Mitigate means to **alleviate**.

Damage mitigation means alleviating damage.

The way people live causes damage to the environment.

Damage to the environment needs to be alleviated because it also causes damage to people.

What is food sovereignty?

Food sovereignty is the right of the community to decide how to produce its own food.

For example:

A country's food sovereignty is the right of that country to decide:

- how they are going to plant their food (this is called **agricultural policy**),
- how they are going to fish on the sea (this is called **fishing policy**) or
- how they are going to raise animals for food (this is called **herding policy**).



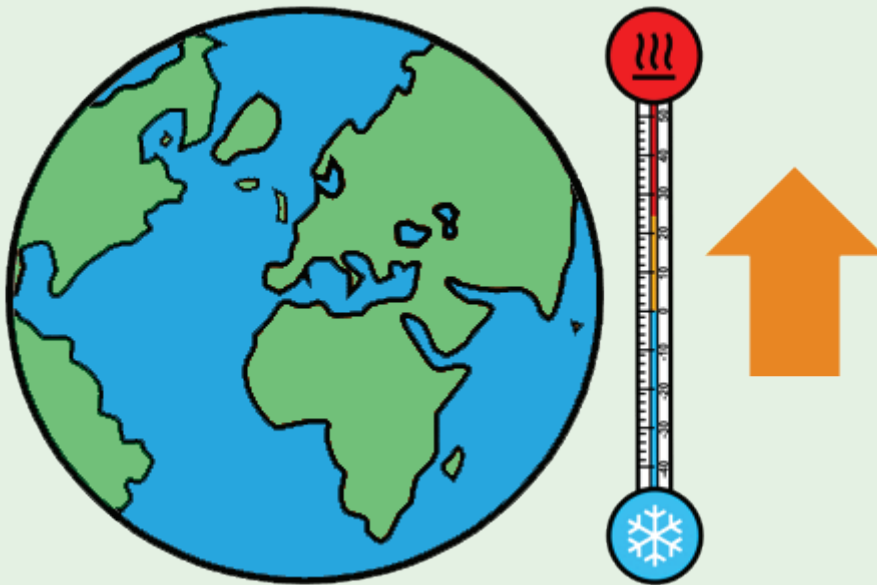
To ensure food sovereignty, decisions made by the community must respect Mother Earth.



**Planet Earth
is in danger**

What is climate change?

Climate change is the transformation in the climate that is occurring on planet Earth.



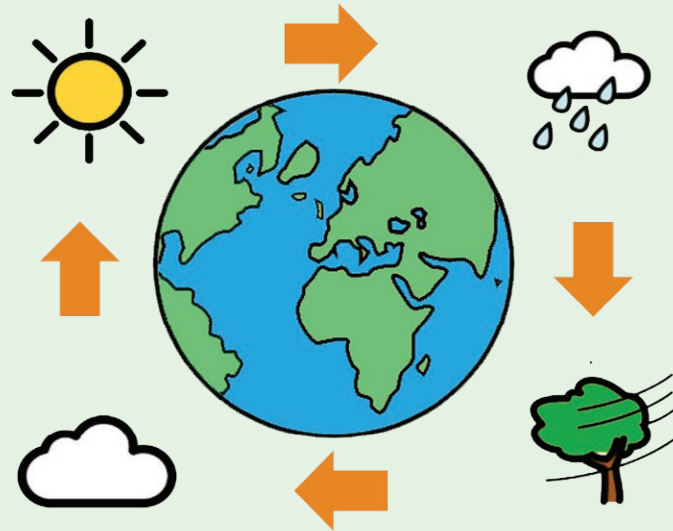
Climate change is caused by human action. This means that humans' actions cause climate change.

For example:

- the cars people drive
- the garbage people throw away
- the electricity people use

This transformation in the climate of planet Earth is called climate change.

It is normal that the climates of planet Earth change. This is called **climate variability**.



But climate change is different.

Climate change happens fast and suddenly.

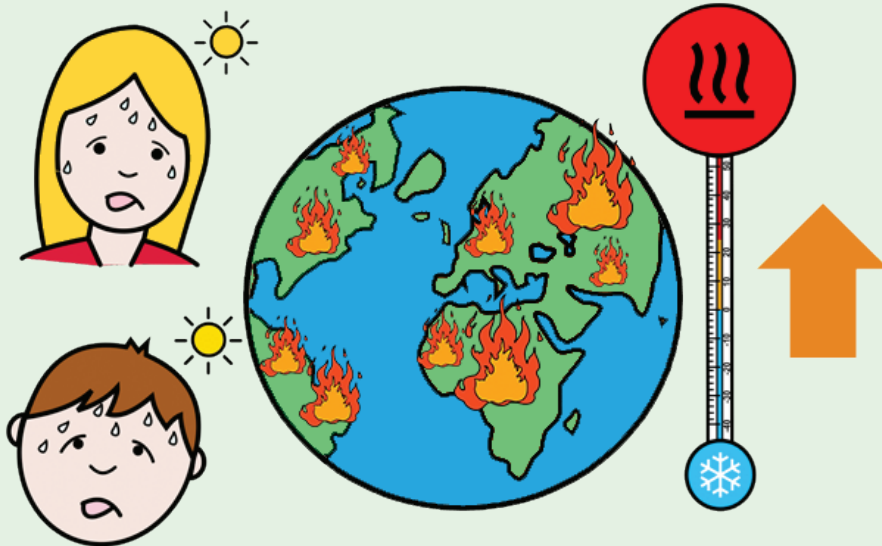
Climate change is **dangerous** for life on planet Earth.



Why is climate change dangerous?



Climate change is dangerous because it causes the temperature of planet Earth to rise.



If the temperature of planet Earth rises, some ecosystems suffer considerable damage.

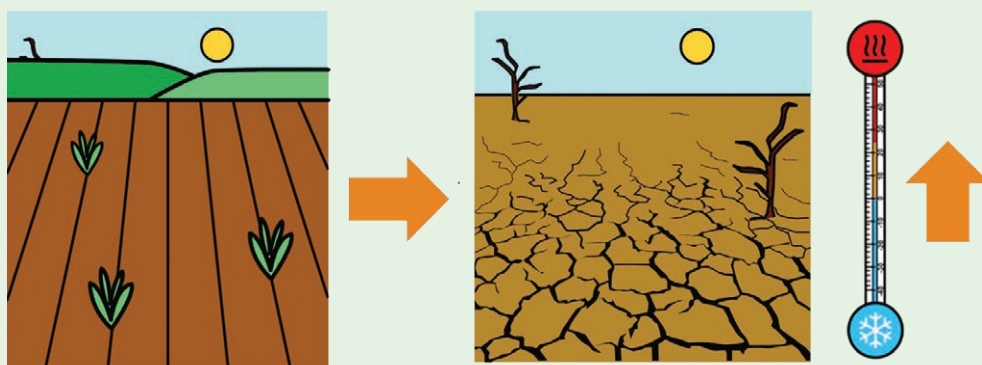
Why is the temperature of planet Earth rising?

The temperature of planet Earth is rising due to the way people live.

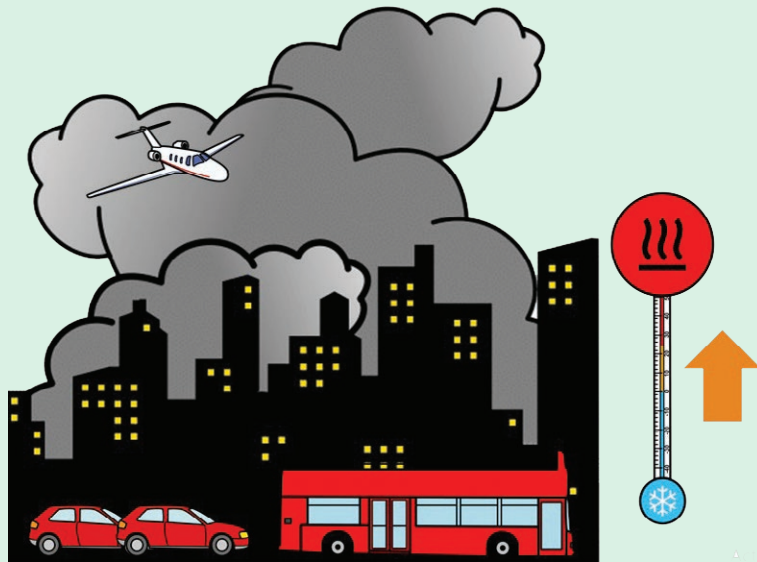


For example:

The way we produce food without taking care of the soil raises the temperature of planet Earth.



The way we travel without taking care of the air, by car, bus or plane, raises the temperature of planet Earth.



The way we manufacture clothes without taking care of the soil and air, for example, jeans or sneakers, raises the temperature of planet Earth.

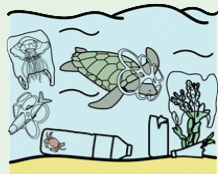


Our way of living is wasting the common goods

Wasting means **not taking care of**.

- To waste water is not to take care of water.
- To waste the air is not to take care of air.
- To waste the soil is not to take care of soil.

Not taking care of the common goods accelerates climate change, i.e., makes climate to change faster.



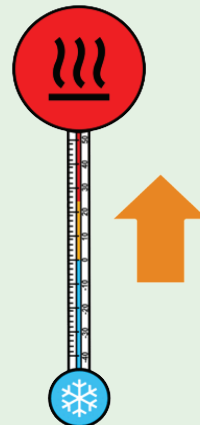
Not caring
for the water

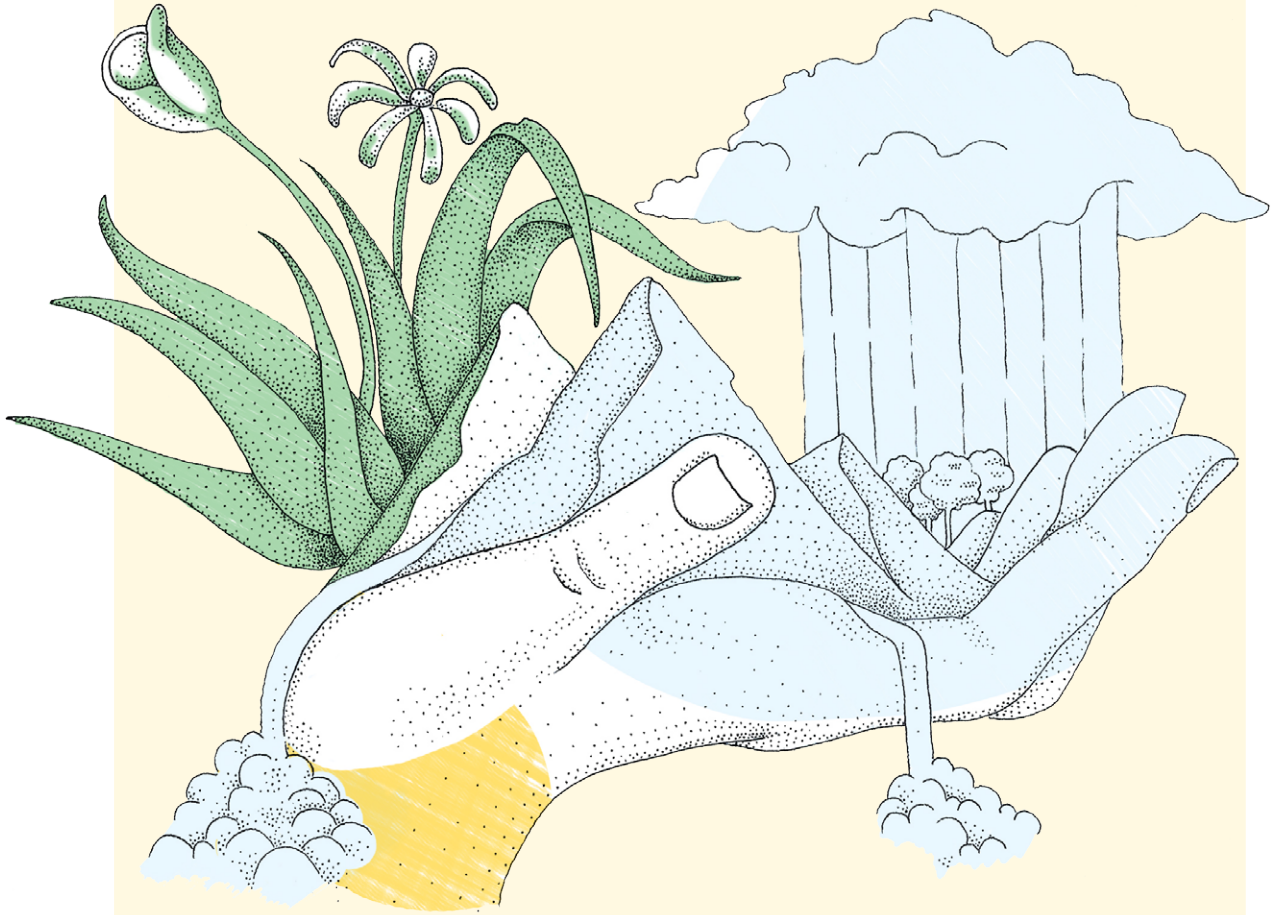


Not caring
for the air



Not caring
the soil





**What can we do
to take care of
planet Earth?**

Responsible consumption

Responsible consumption is one of the things we can do to take care of planet Earth.



Responsible consumption is the consumption of

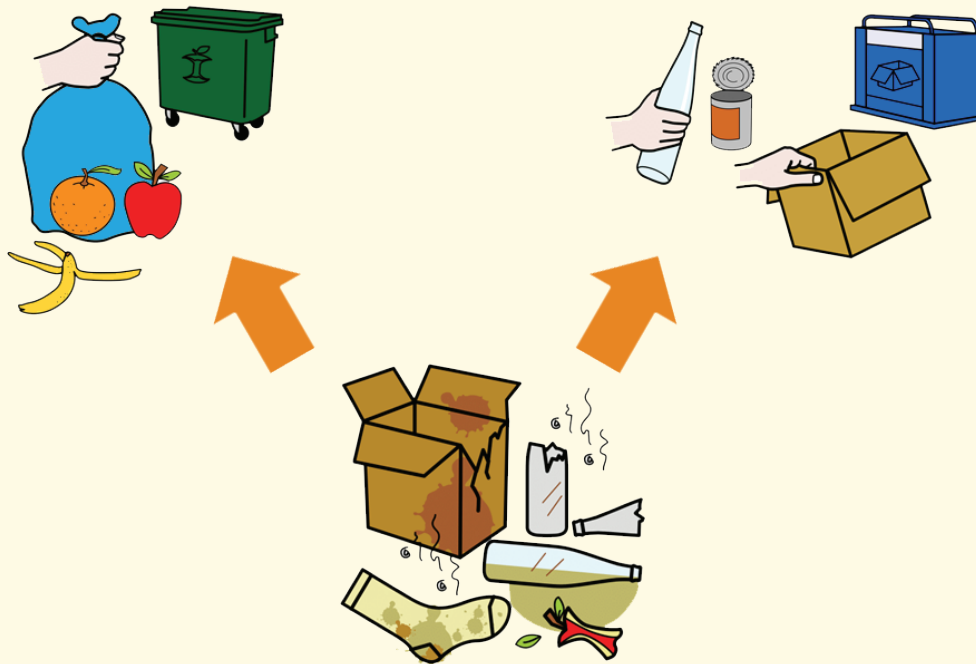
- food
- clothing
- cleaning supplies
- hygiene products

that are manufactured while taking care of planet Earth.

Responsible consumption also means being aware of the waste that is generated after consuming a product.



Responsible consumption is being aware of what we can do with garbage.



Sustainability

Sustainability is a way of organizing society that enables the improvement of people's quality of life.

Sustainability takes into account the needs of the environment.

Sustainability is a way of organizing society while taking care of the environment.

Environmentalism

Environmentalism is a social movement that defends the right of all living beings to live in harmony with the environment, to live in harmony with everything that surrounds us.

Environmentalism raises political demands to modify people's ways of life so that we can find that harmony.

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