

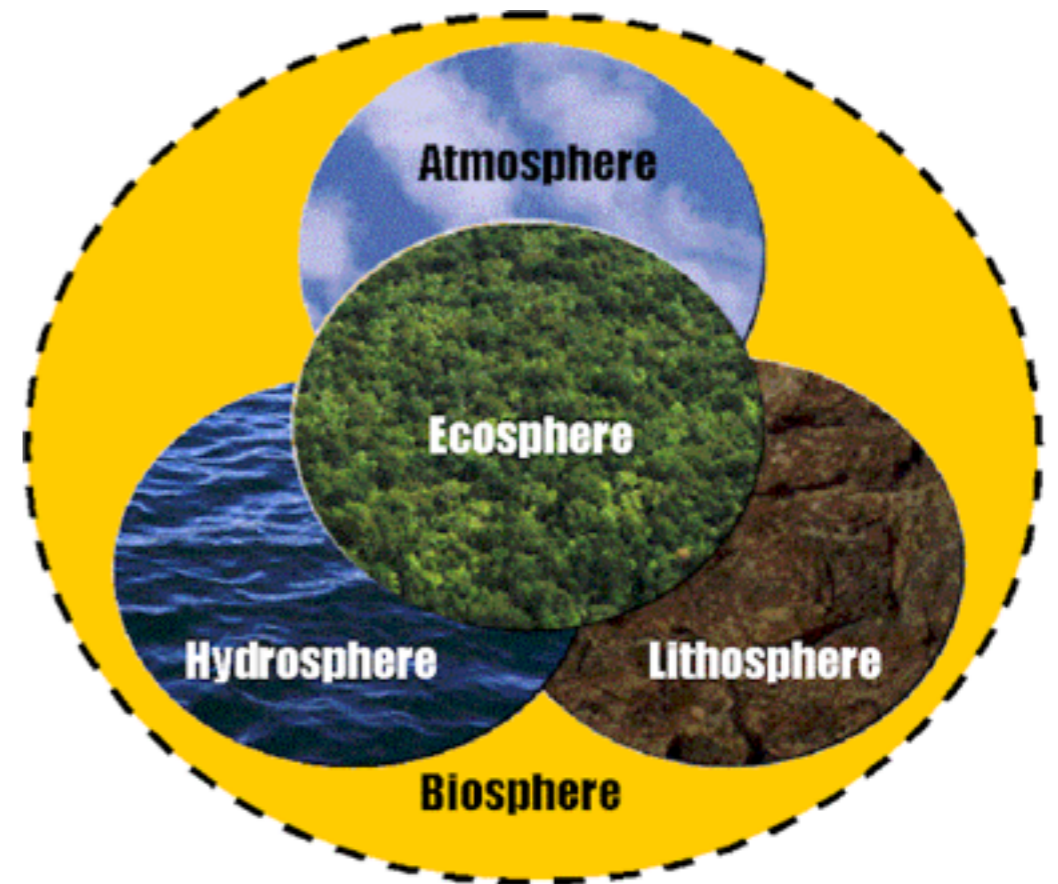
# Natural Capital

So you think you're green?



# Natural Capital

**Commonly referred to as “resources,” natural capital includes the core and crust of the earth, the biosphere itself - teeming with forests, grasslands, wetlands, tundra, kelp forests, deserts, and other ecosystems - and the upper layers of the atmosphere.**



# 2 categories of Natural Capital

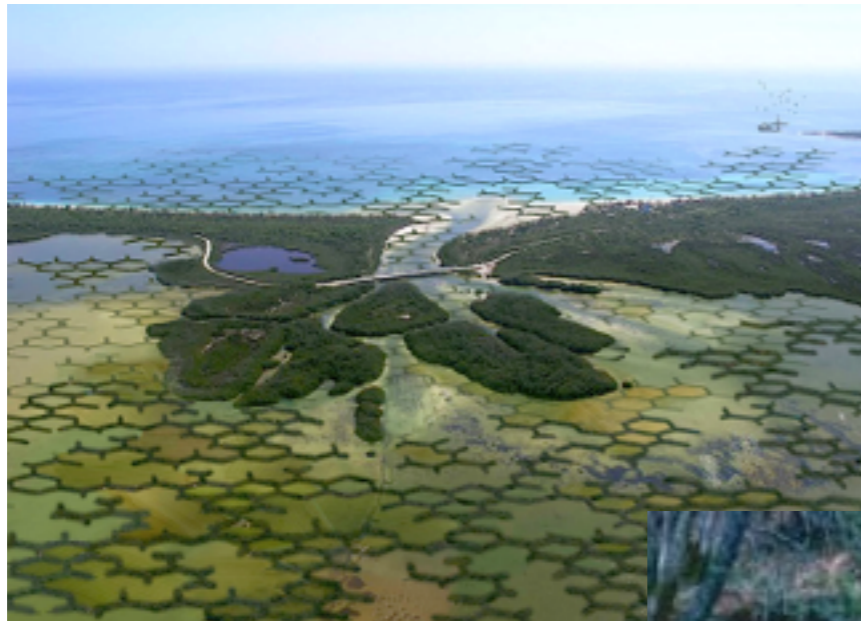
1. **Renewable** - *living* species and ecosystems which, if used sustainably, can be replaced by natural productivity (photosynthesis!) as fast as they are used (e.g. food crops, timber).
2. **Non-Renewable** - Resources that are replaced over geologic scales of time. That cannot be replaced as quickly as they are consumed. (Eg. Oil, gas, diamonds, groundwater, soil)

# NATURAL CAPITAL and INCOME

- **Natural capital is the term used for ‘natural resources’ which can be exploited to produce natural income of goods and services.**
- **The natural income is the wealth created from any sustainable yield rate of harvest from the stocks. Sometimes referred to as the replenishment rate.**
- **The stock is the present accumulated quantity of natural capital. It is a supply accumulated for future use; a store.**
  - **e.g. trees as timber that can be harvested and sold for money.**



- **Natural capital provides a wide variety of valuable ecosystem services including flood control, climate stabilization, maintenance of soil fertility, and even beauty and play.**



# Values of Natural Capital:

- **Economic value:** can be determined from the market price of the goods and services it produces.
- **Ecological value:** have no formal market price. Photosynthesis, nitrogen-fixation, soil erosion control are essential for human existence, but are taken for granted.
- **Cultural value:** Where people interact with nature, providing outdoor recreation or learning or well-being Eg. Parks, gardens or forests.
- **Intrinsic value:** When something has a value of its own irrespective of the economic value.
- **Aesthetic value:** have not market price and may not provide identifiable commodities, so they are unpriced or undervalued from an economic viewpoint.
- **Spiritual value:** The resources have a value spiritually and may be sacred to a group of people. The spirit animals to the Cree peoples of North America.



- **Globally, and within the bioregion, natural capital is being depleted through over-harvesting, development, poor agricultural practices, toxic contamination, transport and other causes.**





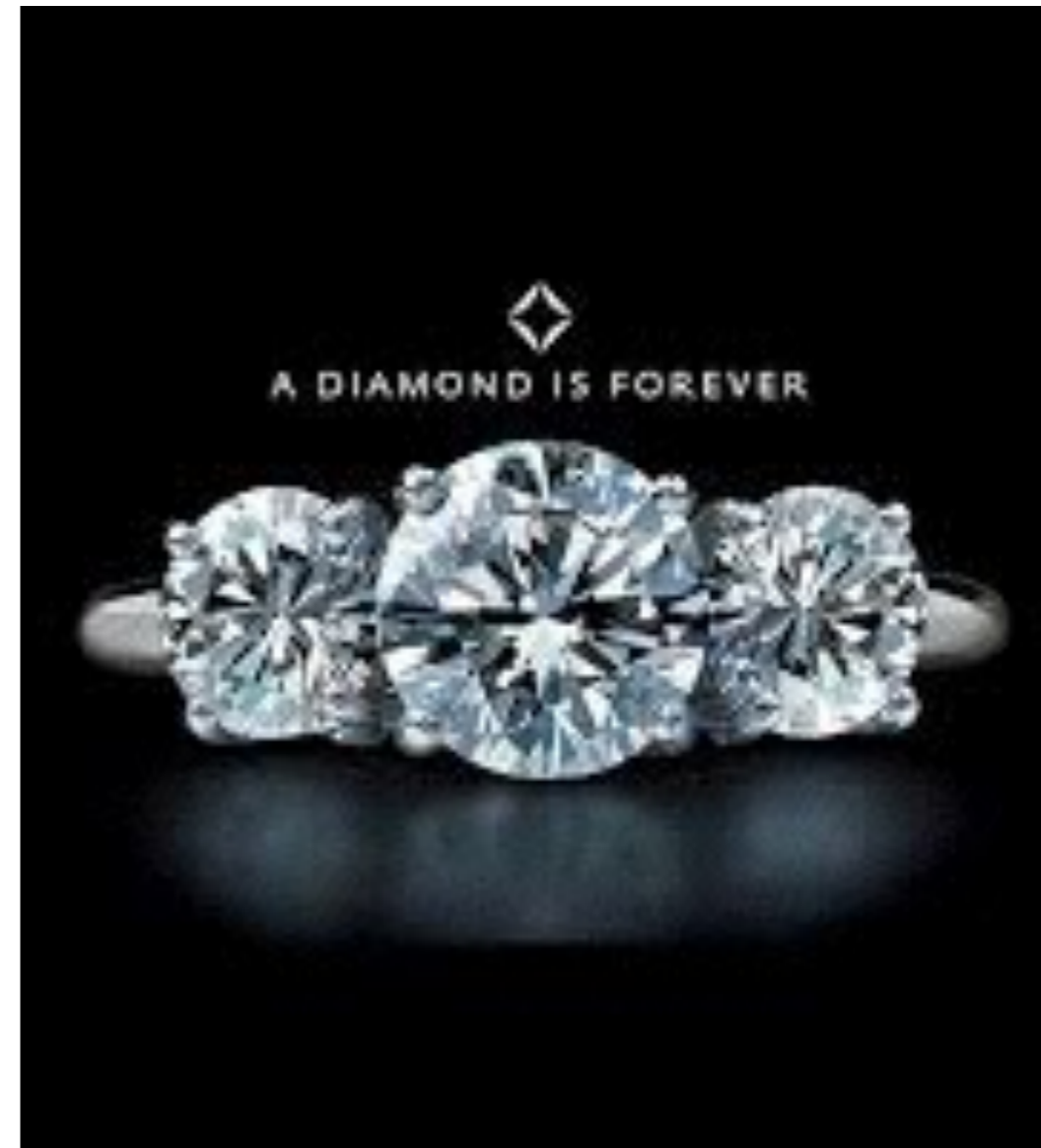
# Natural Capital can be protected through careful application of:

- **Ecological Land-Use to maintain habitat quality and connectivity for all species.**
- **A connected system of wildlands can coexist with productive rural areas and towns and cities, with each part of the landscape contributing to the stability of natural capital.**
- **Sustainable Materials Cycles prevent the systematic contamination of living systems.**
- **Social Capital contributes to a culture of sufficiency easing consumption pressures on natural capital.**

# Dynamic Value of resources

“Diamonds are  
forever”

DeBeers Diamond Slogan



# Resources are dynamic in nature.

- Diamonds, uranium, oil, lithium, cork, copper, carbon fibre.
- Value is dependent on the culture, social, environmental, political and technological factors.