



1.01 Environmental Value Systems (EVSs)

IB ESS

Read pgs 2-15

Learning Objectives:

- Define what is meant by **EVSs**
- Outline the main factors that define different **environmental philosophies**
- Describe the **key historical influences** on the development of the modern environmental movement
- Describe how these philosophies influence **decision-making** on environmental issues
- Justify **your own view** on environmental issues

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How do historical events affect the development of environmental value systems (EVSs)?
2. What other influences are important to the development of environmental movements and EVSs?
3. What are the viewpoints of different EVSs?

Environmental Value Systems (EVSs)...

WHAT are THEY?

- A particular worldview or set of paradigms that shapes the way individuals or societies perceive and evaluate environmental issues

WHAT are THEY INFLUENCED BY?

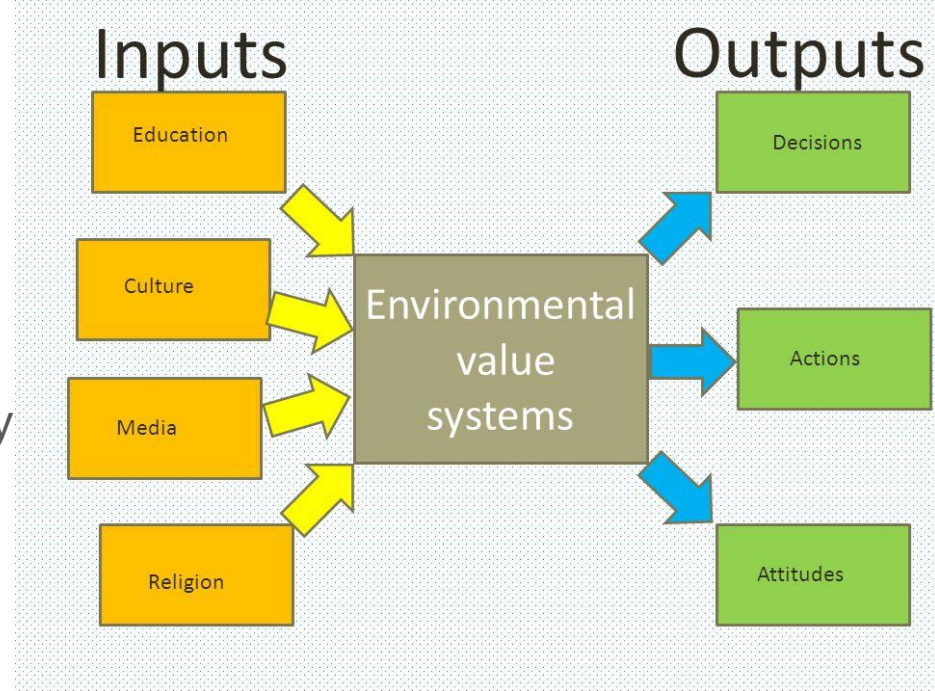
- Culture (including religion), economy, sociopolitics, technology development and historical events



ScienceSauceOnline.com

3 categories of EVSs:

1. Ecocentric - nature centered
2. Anthropocentric - people centered
3. Technocentric - based on technology



- EVS is individual
- impossible to say that any EVS is wrong
- Every individual and each society will have its own EVS

Anthropocentric

Humans are at the centre

What should we do about global climate change?

Raise taxes on petrol/fuel

*Take action so that it does
not harm us in the future*

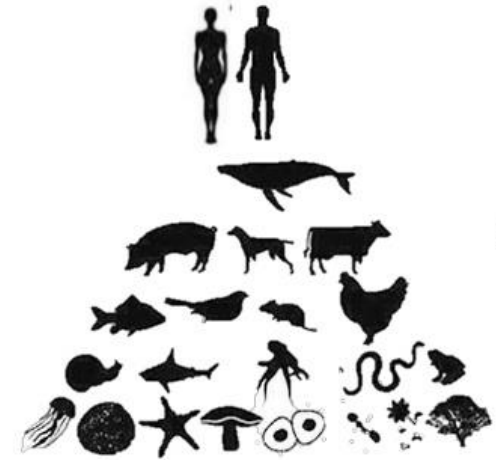
Ecocentrists

- **Nature-centered**, holistic view of world
- Likely to distrust modern technology & large-scale production
- Prefer to **maintain natural environmental systems** on a small scale
- View themselves as being **under nature's control** rather than controlling it
- Foresee a limit to Earth's resources
- **All life is inherently valuable** & is not simply for use by humans
- People should not harm any species (useful or not) & must preserve ecosystems
- Human as a species is no more important than any other
- Ethically obligated to **limit our use of Earth's resources**
- EXTREME = deep ecologists (believe nature has more value than humanity)

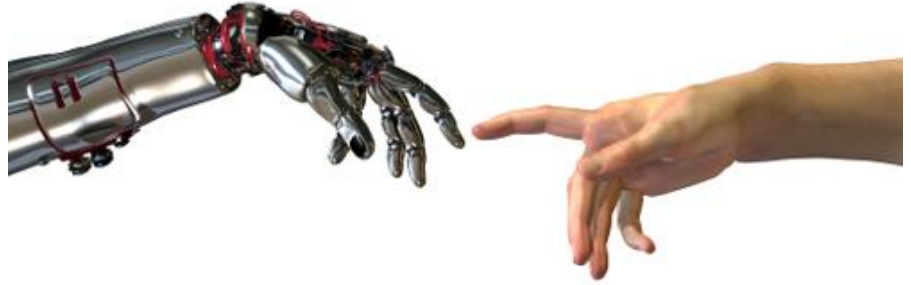


Anthropocentrists

- Include both ecocentric & technocentric viewpoints
- **Human-centered** value system
- Places humans as the central species
- Assesses the environment from an exclusively **human perspective**
- More likely the view in **MEDCs** (more economically developed countries)
- **Humans = dominant species** that manages the environment for its own gains



Technocentrists



- Believe the **brain power** and resourcefulness of humans will enable us to **control the environment** (solve environmental problems)
- Optimistic worldview
- Feel natural processes must be understood to be controlled
- Feel **scientific research** is important in policy making
- Humans + technology = solutions to scientific or political difficulties

Discuss where these individuals lie on the EVS continuum.

Click this link and **move down to slide 19**

**have book pg 6 in front of you (the EVS continuum with descriptors)

<https://www.uplifteducation.org/cms/lib/TX01001293/Centricity/Domain/235/1.1%20Environmental%20Value%20Systems2017.pptx>

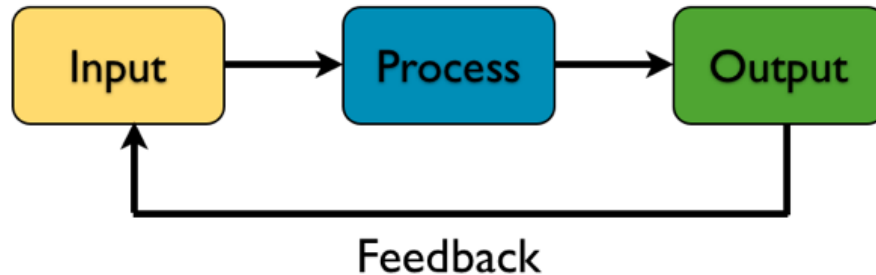
EVS = systems approach

INPUTS

- Education, experience, media influences (film, books, newspapers, etc), religious doctrines

OUTPUTS

- Courses of action & decisions (as determined by the processing of the inputs)



Ecological issues...

- Cross international boundaries
- Differences in EVSs → **conflict**
 - (EX. overharvesting ocean fish, and whaling)



Politics & EVSs

- One way individuals can express their own EVS = **political parties & discussion**
- **Green movements & politics**
 - Ecocentric ideology
 - Aim for ecologically sustainable society that protects the environment
 - International agreements
 - Ex. Green Party in New Zealand = called for reduction in destruction of rainforest & biodiversity loss, greenhouse emissions & climate change
 - Ex. Green Party in UK = called for international agreement to stop global deforestation

Green movements established in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Brazil and Colombia

Decision-making & influence of environmental philosophy

Environmental decisions are influenced by the EVS

Becomes IMPORTANT to evaluate the implications of different viewpoints

Your personal viewpoint on environmental issues

Where do you stand on the continuum (pg 6)?

- Based on your background, education, culture, society, influences & experiences (assumptions you've made & conclusions you've drawn)
- Guide your behavior, express who you are, & what you stand for
- Know what you value, what is important to you
- If you don't know...
 - Make choices out of impulse or instant gratification instead of out of reason & responsible decision-making

Investigate the relationship between gender (or age) and environmental attitudes

RQ: Is there a relationship between gender (or age) and environmental attitudes?

EX. pg 79 - 82 (IB skills & practice resource book)

Review questionnaire skills presented on pg 75-78 & prepare to collect your data