

Due by 27th June, 2005

Defining Natural Capital

Objective

The concept of natural capital is central to Environmental Science 101. The objective of this lab is to introduce you to the concept by class discussion and independent research.

Overview

The textbook defines natural capital as:

“The earth’s natural materials and processes that sustain other species and us.”

Assignment

Your assignment for this laboratory is to formulate your own definition of natural capital and to give 3 detailed examples of natural capital (what it is, how it sustains other species and us, why it is important). How is this different from a pure economic view of capital? Both your definition and your examples will be presented to the class at the beginning of Laboratory 1. You will also need to turn in your definition and examples, typed. This should be a minimum of 1 page.

Submit Lab 1a & Lab 1b together as a complete report by the 27th June, 2005.

Reports submitted without your name, class and date will not be accepted.

Include the following points in your report

Text book definition (0.5)

Your definition (1)

How does your definition compare to the textbook definition and why do you feel your definition is better suited for the term ‘Natural Capital’ (1)

How is natural capital different from economic capital (0.5)

Three examples (2x3): Name of resource (0.5)

How is it a natural capital (0.5)

How is it important to other species, which species (0.5)

Is it in any way affected by/under threat due to humans? If applicable, how to preserve it (0.5)

Presentation: Proper heading and subheadings (0.25)

Grammar, spelling, complete sentences (0.5)

Research depth (0.25)