



# what exactly *are* ecosystem services?



*answer #1*

They are ***all***  
**ecosystem**  
**services!**





*answer #2*

*“To understand and value the  
critical functions natural systems  
provide to humankind,  
as a means to insuring a mutually  
sustainable future.”*





## Experts currently recognize five categories of ecosystem services:

- **provisioning services**

*foods (including seafood and game) and spices; water in all its forms and functions; pharmaceutical and industrial products; energy including wind, wave, hydropower, biomass.*







## Experts currently recognize five categories of ecosystem services:

- provisioning services
- **cultural services**

*cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration;  
recreational experiences (including ecotourism);  
scientific discovery.*





## Experts currently recognize five categories of ecosystem services:

- provisioning services
- cultural services
- **preserving services**

*genetic and species diversity for future use; accounting for uncertainty; protection of options.*





## Experts currently recognize five categories of ecosystem services:

- provisioning services
- cultural services
- preserving services
- **supporting services**

*purification of water and air; crop pollination and seed dispersal; pest and disease control.*





## Experts currently recognize five categories of ecosystem services:

- provisioning services
- cultural services
- preserving services
- supporting services
- **regulating services**

*Carbon sequestration and climate regulation; waste decomposition and detoxification; nutrient dispersal and cycling.*







**Experts currently recognize five categories of ecosystem services:**

- **provisioning services**
- **cultural services**
- **preserving services**
- **supporting services**
- **regulating services**



**PROVISIONING**

services provided by natural systems



**Wild foods**



# PROVISIONING

services provided by natural systems



Wild foods



**PROVISIONING**

services provided by natural systems



Medicine / digitalis



# PROVISIONING

services provided by natural systems



Wood products



**PROVISIONING**

services provided by natural systems



**Fertile soils & bacteria**





# PROVISIONING

services provided by natural systems



Solar

Tidal



Alternative energy

**PROVISIONING**

services provided by natural systems



**Water in all its uses /** Hygiene, manufacturing, cleaning, growing, cooling



# PROVISIONING

services provided by natural systems



Commercial & recreational fishing



# PROVISIONING

services provided by natural systems



Clean water

# PROVISIONING

services provided by natural systems



**Clean air**

**CULTURAL**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Eco-tourism**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Recreation**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Healthy environment**



**CULTURAL**

**services provided by natural systems**



**Spiritual renewal**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Inspiration**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Personal reflection**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Nourishment**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Native american traditions**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Natural systems as education & inspiration**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Scientific inquiry**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**Community**



**CULTURAL**

services provided by natural systems



**A sense of wonder**

# **PRESERVING**



**PRESERVING**

services provided by natural systems



**Species diversity**



**PRESERVING**

services provided by natural systems



**Preserving & sustaining**



# **PRESERVING**

services provided by natural systems



**Maintaining habitats**



**PRESERVING**

services provided by natural systems



**Diverse and healthy habitats**



# SUPPORTING



**SUPPORTING**

**services provided by natural systems**



**Pollination**



**SUPPORTING**

services provided by natural systems



**Seed dispersal**



**SUPPORTING**

**services provided by natural systems**



**Bio-filtering of water**



**SUPPORTING**

services provided by natural systems



**Pest and disease control**



**SUPPORTING**

services provided by natural systems



**Exchange between marine and terrestrial environments**



**SUPPORTING**

services provided by natural systems



**Storm-water management**



**SUPPORTING**

services provided by natural systems



**Waste decomposition**



**SUPPORTING**

services provided by natural systems



**Nutrient cycling and sediment abatement**



# REGULATING



**REGULATING**

services provided by natural systems



**Water temperature**



**REGULATING**

services provided by natural systems



**Climate regulation / Carbon sequestration in plant life**



# REGULATING

services provided by natural systems



**Climate regulation / Carbon sequestration in soil**



# REGULATING

services provided by natural systems



**Climate regulation / Carbon sequestration in wetlands & the ocean**



