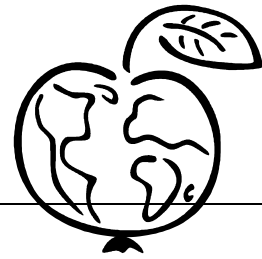


# Key Terms

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**Ecology** - the study of how organisms interact with each other and their physical environment

**Biodiversity** - the variety of life on our planet, (measurable as the variety within species, between species, and the variety of ecosystems)

**Carrying Capacity** - the maximum number of individuals of a given species that a site can support during the most unfavorable time of year, without causing deterioration of the site

**Ecological Footprint** - a calculation that estimates the area of Earth required to supply the resources that an individual demands, as well as to absorb the wastes that the individual produces

**Sustainable Development** - Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

**Global Commons** - natural assets outside national jurisdiction (e.g., oceans, outer space, Antarctica)