

## A Few Definitions

This workshop will cover a broad range of topics, with participants coming from many disciplines and backgrounds that may not always share common language. These are some terms that may be referred to throughout this workshop, along with commonly found definitions for these terms, to help provide context and understanding for the workshop attendees.

Biodiversity is the rich variety of living things that, woven together, support and sustain life on Earth. This “fabric of life” encompasses humans and animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms; the variations in individual traits within each species; and the diverse ecosystems they create.

Source: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26384/biodiversity-at-risk-todays-choices-matter>

Conservation is the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

Source: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/wcs-004.pdf>

Ecosystem health is a metaphor used to describe the condition of an ecosystem, by analogy with human health. There is no universally accepted benchmark for a healthy ecosystem; rather, the apparent health status of an ecosystem can vary, depending upon which metrics are employed in judging it, and which societal aspirations are driving the assessment.

Source: <https://ipbes.net/glossary/ecosystem-health>

Global Change means changes in the global environment (including alterations in climate, land productivity, oceans or other water resources, atmospheric chemistry, and ecological systems) that may alter the capacity of the Earth to sustain life.

Source: <https://www.globalchange.gov/about/legal-mandate>

Human health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Source: <https://www.who.int/about/governance/constitution>

Nature refers to the natural world with an emphasis on its living components. Within the context of western science, it includes categories such as biodiversity, ecosystems (both structure and functioning), evolution, the biosphere, humankind’s shared evolutionary heritage, and biocultural diversity. Within the context of other knowledge systems, it includes concepts such as Mother Earth and systems of life, and it is often viewed as inextricably linked to humans, not as a separate entity.

Source: <https://ipbes.net/glossary/nature>

Public health is “the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals.” — CEA Winslow

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/training/publichealth101/public-health.html>