

Environmental Ethics

Understanding Our Moral Responsibility
Toward Nature



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What is Environmental Ethics?

- Definition:

The branch of philosophy that explores the ethical relationship between humans and the natural environment.

- Key Question:

How should humans interact with the environment?

Ethical Theories in Environmental Ethics

- Utilitarianism:

- Aims to increase overall happiness and reduce suffering.
- For the environment: Create policies that reduce harm and improve well-being.

- Deontology:

- Based on following rules or duties.
- For the environment: We have a moral duty to protect it, like not polluting, no matter the outcome.

Virtue Ethics:

Focuses on developing good character and virtues.

For the environment: Encourage traits like respect, care, and humility towards nature.

Environmental Justice:

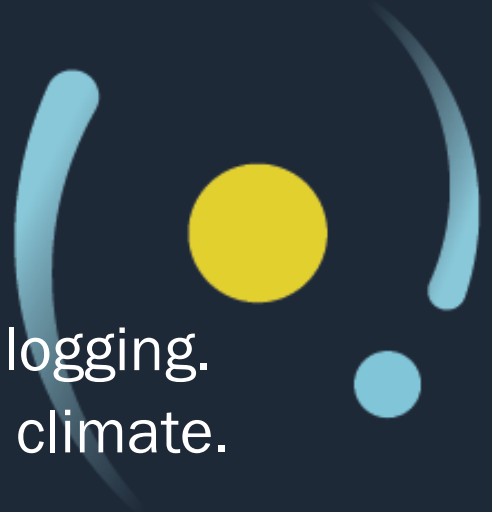
Ensures fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens.

Focuses on helping communities that are most affected by environmental problems.



Case Study

- Amazon Rainforest Deforestation:
 - Ethical problems with cutting down large areas for farming and logging.
 - Affects plant and animal life, indigenous people, and the global climate.
- Climate Change:
 - Responsibility of people, businesses, and countries to reduce climate change.
 - Focus on fairness and justice in dealing with climate effects.
- Endangered Species:
 - Finding a balance between human development and protecting endangered animals.
 - Examples: Efforts to save tigers and pandas.



• **Impact:** Respiratory diseases and reduced quality of life.

• **Ethical Focus:** Implementing policies for cleaner air and reducing emissions from vehicles and industries.

Earth Day Resources

■ Urban Air Pollution:

- **Issue:** High levels of air pollution in cities affecting public health.
- **Impact:** Respiratory diseases and reduced quality of life.
- **Ethical Focus:** Implementing policies for cleaner air and reducing emissions from vehicles and industries

■ **Water Scarcity:**

- **Problem:** Limited access to clean water in many parts of the world.
- **Impact:** Health issues, conflicts, and economic challenges.
- **Ethical Consideration:** Ensuring equitable access to water and sustainable management of water resources.



Environmental Ethics in Practice

■ Conservation Efforts:

- Protecting natural resources through sustainable practices.
- Example: Establishment of national parks and wildlife reserves.


■ Sustainability:

- Meeting present needs without compromising future generations.
- Practices include sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and reducing carbon footprints.

■ Animal Rights:

- Ethical treatment of animals, recognizing their intrinsic value.
- Includes opposition to factory farming, animal testing, and habitat destruction.

■ Pollution Control:

- Reducing harmful emissions and waste to protect environmental health.
 - Strategies include regulatory measures, technological innovations, and public awareness campaigns.
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Conclusion :

- Summary:

- Environmental ethics explores the moral responsibilities humans have toward the environment.

- Final Thought:

"The environment is where we all meet;
where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing
all of us share." – Lady Bird Johnson