

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DEEP ECOLOGY

George Sessions and Arne Naess, 1984

1. Inherent value

The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman Life on Earth have value in themselves (synonyms: intrinsic value, inherent value). These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.

2. Diversity

Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.

3. Vital Needs

Humans have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy *vital* needs.

4. Population

The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of nonhuman life requires such a decrease.

5. Human Interference

The present human interference with the nonhuman world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.

6. Policy Change

Policies must therefore be changed. These policies affect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.

7. Quality of Life

The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating *life quality* (dwelling in situations of inherent value) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.

8. Obligation of Action

Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to try to implement the necessary changes.