

ENVIROMENTAL ETHICS

WHAT IS THE BASIS OF OUR MORAL OBLIGATIONS REGARDING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?



ANTHROPOCENTRIC APPROACHES

OUR OBLIGATIONS REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT ARE TO BE DETERMINED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF HUMAN INTERESTS

HUMAN WELFARE

HUMAN LIFE DEPENDS ON NATURAL NECESSITIES

Necessities as breathable air, drinkable water, and eatable food are essential. In the absence of overriding moral considerations, pollution is morally unacceptable precisely because it is damaging to the public welfare.



SENTIENTIST APPROACHES

THE INTERESTS OF SENTIENT BEINGS DETERMINE OUR OBLIGATIONS REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

ALL BEINGS VALUE

INTRINSIC NOT INSTRUMENTAL

All sentient beings, not just human beings, are seen as having inherent (intrinsic) value and not merely instrumental value.



BIOCENTRIC APPROACHES

ECOCENTRICM AND DEEP ECOLOGY

Our moral obligations with regard to the environment involves a biotic ("relating to life"), biocentric or ecocentric view.

ENVIRONMENTAL HOLISM

MORAL ECOSYSTEMS AND DEEP ECOLOGY

A moral standing to ecosystems - a unit made up of a community of living things taken in conjunction with the nonliving factors of its environment- constitutes a biocentric approach is also called ecocentric.

