

Intrinsic values of biodiversity

Experience, Meaning of Life



Intrinsic value is the value that an entity has in itself, for what it is, or as an end. Intrinsic Values of Biodiversity * All life has inherent worth — Every species has a value and role in nature. It has a right to exist, whether or not it is known to be useful to humans. All life is sacred and must be protected. Humans are no more important than other species. They all have a good of their own and both deserve to be valued. Thus everything has an equal right to exist simply because it already exists. Having this right will result in also having a "right" to have one's future survival guaranteed to an extent equal to any and all other species. * Ecosystems have intrinsic value as they provide emotional and aesthetic experiences - they are valued for their complexity, diversity, spiritual significance, wildness, beauty, or wondrousness. They offer an enormous variety of opportunities for recreation, and they clean our water, purify our air, and maintain our soil. They regulate our climate, recycle nutrients and provide us with food. They provide raw materials and resources for our medicines; they form the foundation on which we build our societies. As a result, species and ecosystems have subjective intrinsic value. HUNTING BY THE WILD ANIMALS IS AN UNETHICAL INTRINSIC VALUE REQUIRED FOR THE BALANCE IN A BIODIVERSITY It is important to maintain diversity as loss of one kind of species can result in the loss of another kind of species. For example, pollinators, if they are lost, then there is loss in plant species too as there are no organisms to spread the pollen grains so plants can reproduce. This loss in plants affects us human beings as we need plants to survive. They are essentially our primary source of food. It is essential to conserve the diversity of pollinators and sustain natural ecosystems in order to preserve

the quality of life for humans and all other species on the planet. " They are the most important set of animals to focus on for all conservation efforts and for our own long term viability as a species. The relationship between plants and pollinators is such that the reduction or loss of one affects the survival of both, and thus all of life. According to the natural-historical value view, natural entities, including species and some ecosystems, have intrinsic value in virtue of their independence from human design and control (Katz 1992) and their connection to human-independent evolutionary processes (Rolston 1986). This is the conception of intrinsic value that Soulé appeals to in his normative postulate: " Species have value in themselves, a value neither conferred nor revocable, but springing from a species' long evolutionary heritage and potential