

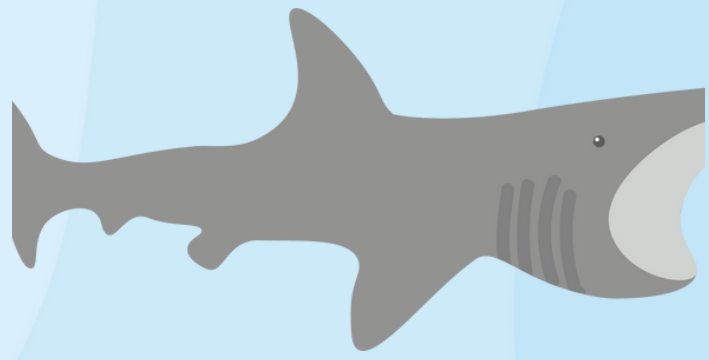
# BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

**Our planet is in a state of ecological crisis.**

Globally, habitats are being destroyed and species are becoming extinct faster than ever before.



Aside from the intrinsic value of our natural environment and its inhabitants, this destruction poses a great risk to humans because we are reliant upon the 'ecosystem services' which biodiversity and ecosystems provide.



## **Human life relies on ecosystem services**

Ecosystem services are the benefits provided to humans by the natural environment and its inhabitants.

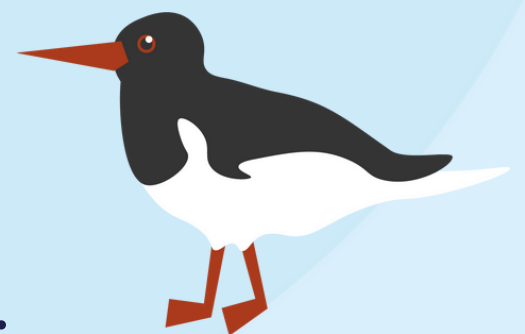
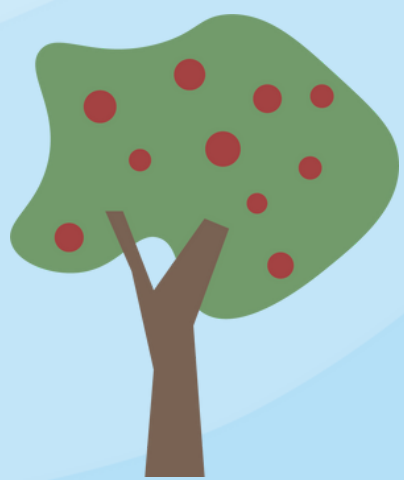
For example:

The provision of food and building materials and the air, water and soil cycles which support their growth

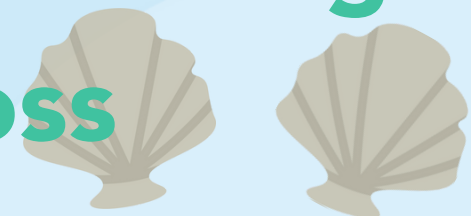
The pollination of crops by insects

Natural flood defences and erosion control

Benefits to wellbeing from access to outdoor spaces.



## **Tackling climate change means tackling biodiversity and habitat loss**



The ecological crisis and the climate crisis are intrinsically linked because the ability of natural habitats, like forests, to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is being damaged.

For public bodies this means undertaking their functions, and making decisions, in ways which protect the natural environment from harm and help to rehabilitate habitats which have been damaged,

