

# Key players in ecosystem management

There are a number of different key players that are involved in ecosystem management. These key players can be grouped on the scale in which they act, some examples of key players can be seen below:

## International Players:

There are 150 treaties in place internationally that are helping to protect ecosystems. Of these there are 5 which are the most important, these are:

1. **RAMSAR Convention** - wetland conservation signed in 1971 that has been adopted by 147 countries
2. **World Heritage Convention** - this convention designates and protects sites which are outstanding in culture and nature. It was signed in 1972 by over 180 countries.
3. **The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** - this was signed in 1973 to reduce the trade of endangered animals goods e.g. ivory, tiger skins, etc. It has been adopted by 166 countries
4. **The convention on the conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals** - this was signed in 1979 and adopted by 90 countries in 2005. It prevents the shooting of migrating birds e.g. over Malta
5. **The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea** - this protects the oceans and was signed by 148 countries

## Global Players:

1. **Transnational Corporations** - these are involved and are the ones that exploit the goods/services that the ecosystem provides the most. However many are increasingly moving to greener start-ups which produce less carbon in order to improve their public image
2. **Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs)** - Examples of NGOs that are involved in ecosystems and the climate are Greenpeace and the WWF which both play pivotal roles in conservation. The WWF is working in over 100 countries, with its mission to stop degradation of natural environments, educating people to be more sustainable. There are also smaller, local NGOs such as FAN. FAN is working in eastern Bolivia to conserve biodiversity by using natural resources in a sustainable way.
3. **Other International Organisations** - UN agencies, the World Bank, The World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation

## National Player:

1. **National Government** - these regulate and facilitate. They regulate because they establish and enforce laws to conserve the genetic biodiversity, as well as protecting many different areas and species. They also help to regulate the levels of pollution and the introduction of invasive species in the country. National governments also fund the preservation, conservation and development, often through taxes and subsidies. Positive incentives have now been introduced by some governments e.g. paying farmers to be stewards of the landscape and farm in environmentally friendly ways.



### **Local Players:**

1. **Indigenous People** - these are often dependent on biodiversity for basic survival, with biodiversity for many being of spiritual significance. Locals also have the knowledge of local plants and their uses e.g. medicines
2. **Local fisheries/farmers** - these can conflict with conservationist because they live a subsistence lifestyle relying on the ecosystem for survival. Ecosystem management issues are becoming increasingly more likely in previously remote areas like the Amazon and Antarctic due to the increase in visitor pressure.
3. **Individuals** - these can join together and form special interests groups which degrade delicate areas. They also help though to conserve and protect areas

### **Individuals:**

Individuals all have different morals, beliefs and needs on each ecosystem and there conflicts can arise between different individuals. Food campaigns such as buying dolphin friendly tuna and local food, as well as the spotlight on 'food miles' are all helping to conserve ecosystems. Some people exploit ecosystems for recreational use, whilst others see it as spiritual experience and therefore help to protect ecosystems.

