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Deep Ecology

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Problems

(1) Deep Ecology versus Shallow Ecology

(2) Arne Naess' Deep Ecology Platform

(3) Self-realization and Well-being

Deep Ecology versus Shallow Ecology

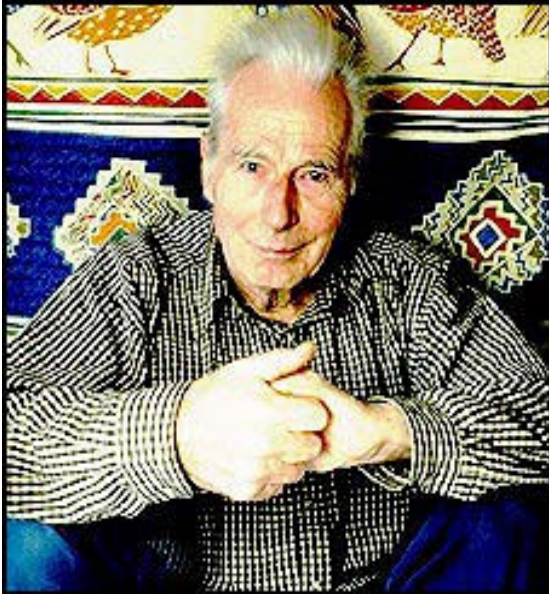


Nature-centered worldview
nature has intrinsic value
(independently of human
use)



Human-centered worldview
nature has instrumental
value only (dependent on
usefulness for humans)

Arne Naess (1912-)



**Norwegian
philosopher,
founder of the Deep
Ecology movement,
inspired by
Heidegger, Spinoza
and Gandhi**



**Ecology, Community
and Lifestyle –
Outline of an Ecosophy
(1989, Cambridge
University Press)**

The Deep Ecology Platform

- (1) The flourishing of human and non-human life on Earth has **intrinsic value**. The value of **non-human life forms** is **independent** of their usefulness for human purposes.

The Deep Ecology Platform

2. Richness and diversity of life forms are values in themselves and contribute to the flourishing of human and non-human life on Earth.

The Deep Ecology Platform

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

The Deep Ecology Platform

4. Present **human interference with the non-human world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.**

The Deep Ecology Platform

- 5. The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of non-human life requires such a decrease.**

The Deep Ecology Platform

- 6. Significant change of life conditions for the better requires **change in policies**. These affect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures.**

The Deep Ecology Platform

- 7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating **life quality** (dwelling in situations of intrinsic value) rather than adhering to a high standard of living.**

The Deep Ecology Platform

8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an **obligation** directly or indirectly **to participate** in the attempt to implement the necessary changes in a **non-violent** manner.

Self-realization and Well-being

- **The universal right to self-unfolding includes plants and animals**
- **Humans are not isolated units, but have ecological consciousness which is capable of appreciating their relations with all other life forms and the the Earth as a whole**

Self-realization and Well-being

- **Development from the ego to a greater and extended self**
- **To live a rich life with simple means**
- **Happiness is linked to wholeness (not to material wealth)**

Summary

- (1) **Deep Ecology** advances a **nature-centered worldview** where natural entities are valuable independently of human use.
- (2) **Arne Naess's Deep Ecology Platform** acknowledge the **intrinsic value** of **human and non-human life forms**.
- (3) We should develop an **extended self**, which permits to live a **rich life with simple means**.