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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
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 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.