

We benefit from nature in various ways. This could be from bees and insects pollinating crops, which we can then eat, to being able to enjoy a nice walk in the countryside. These are known as ecosystem services.

Ecosystem services can be split into 4 categories these include:

- Provisioning
- Regulating
- Supporting
- Cultural

Provisioning services

Provisioning services are what we take from the ecosystem. This includes food, raw materials for building, water, and energy sources.

Regulating services

These are the benefits we receive from the regulation of ecosystem processes. This includes water purification as it flows through the water cycle and the pest and disease control that differing temperatures or weather brings.

Supporting services

Services that are necessary to allow all other services and processes to occur. Examples of supporting services are nutrient recycling, soil formation and primary production of materials.

Cultural services

These benefits that do not result in materials. Instead these benefit people through personal enrichment and positive experiences. This can be enjoy a walk or sports in the local environment, using the environment in cultural festivals or customs and using natural systems for education or research.

Now that you have an idea about what ecosystem services are research how we benefit from and use the environment and nature in our daily lives in Malta.

Links

<http://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Conservation/Ecosystem-Services.aspx>

<http://www.greenfacts.org/glossary/def/ecosystem-services.htm>

<https://www.mepa.org.mt/file.aspx?f=9219>

References

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis. [Island Press](#), Washington. 155pp, here: p.40