



# SUSTAINABILITY

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- **Ecological balance** refers to a state of equilibrium (balance) in the community of organisms in an ecosystem.
- An ecosystem is stable when its species and organisms remain relatively the same over time.



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- It is normal for ecosystems to change slowly over time from natural causes.
  - Some ecosystems have never reached a state of balance due to frequent disturbances.
- Problems arise when changes occur too quickly.

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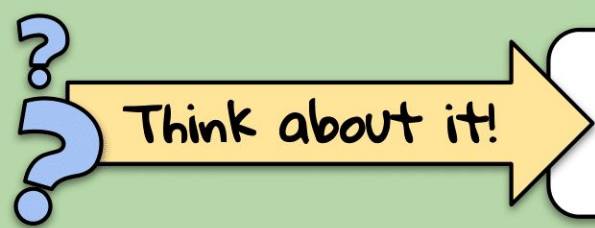
- There are a number of ways that ecological balance can be disrupted.
- **Natural disruptions:**
  - Wildfires
  - Tornadoes
  - Hurricanes, floods
  - Volcanic eruptions



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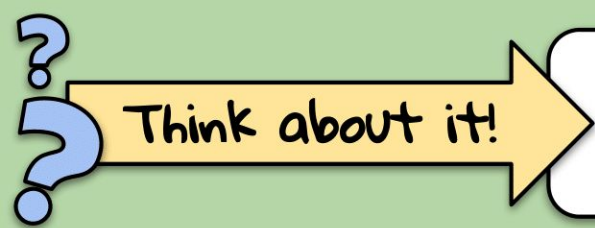
- Environmental disruptions can be caused by humans.
- **Human disruptions:**
  - Deforestation and clear-cutting of forests
  - Overuse of boats and motorized water vehicles
  - Introducing invasive species into new habitats



What positive contributions can humans make to promote sustainability and ecological balance?



Plastic pollution



What is ecological balance? What things affect ecological balance in ecosystems?





Reflect on your  
own actions.

Do they reflect  
positively or  
negatively on  
ecosystems?



# INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit practices and perspectives contribute to environmental sustainability.
- In October 2018, Dehcho First Nations and the Government of Canada announced the creation of the first Indigenous protected area, Edézhíe, in Canada.



# INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

- This 14 218 square kilometre area is located in the Dehcho region of the Northwest Territories.
- It protects an area of spiritual and ecological importance to the Dehcho and Tłichô Dene.

Why is it important to establish protected areas?





Answer the sustainability questions below.

What Indigenous perspectives regarding environmental sustainability are you familiar with?

What can you do to expand your knowledge of these perspectives?