

Environment and its Issues



Manash Jyoti Bhuyan
Assistant Professor
P. G. Department of Geography
Nowgong Girls' College

Concept of Environment

The word **environment** refers to all ecological units which are naturally present on earth in the form of land, water, air, soil, forest, sunlight, minerals, living organisms etc.

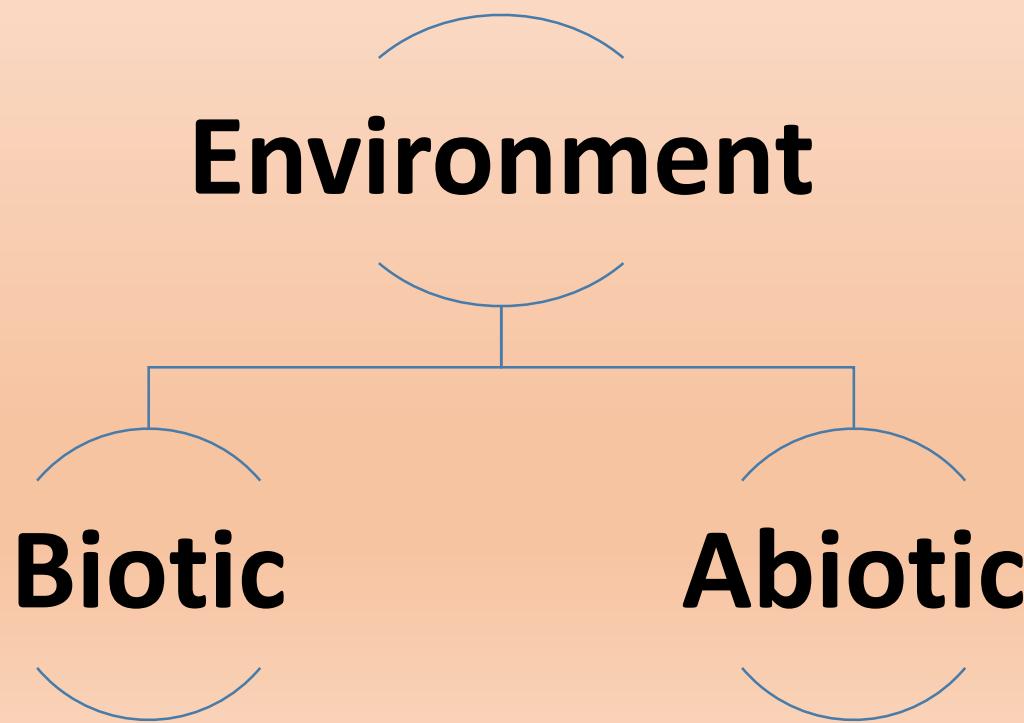
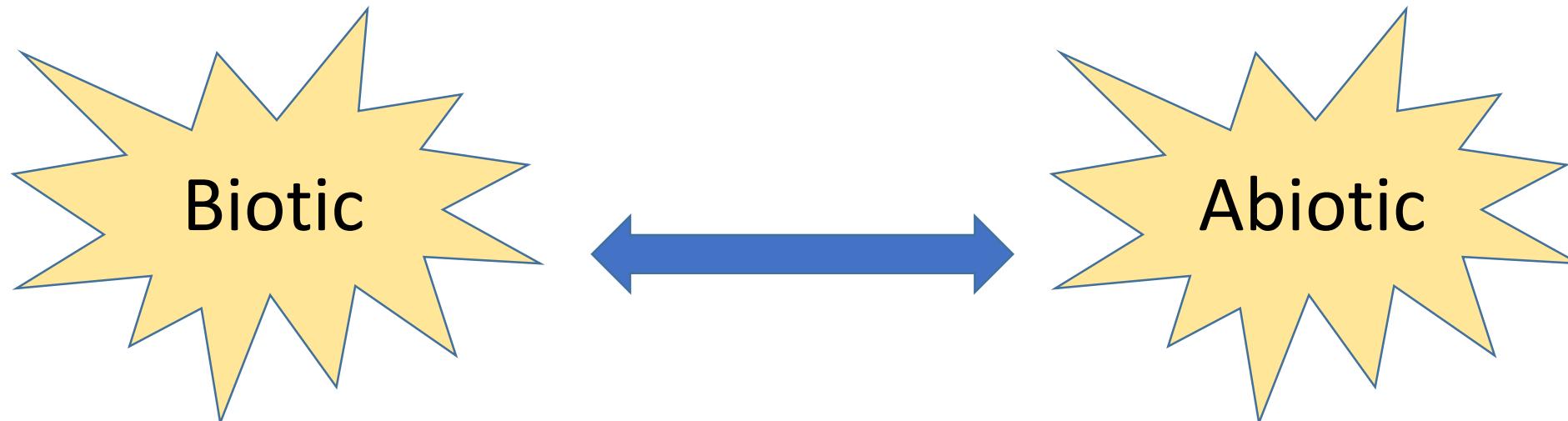


Fig.: Components of Environment

Components of Environment

Biotic element are those elements like human, birds, animals, plants, and microorganisms.

Whereas non-biotic elements are those which have no life like air, sunlight, water, land, soil, minerals etc. further it is also divided among four different sphere viz. biospheres, lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere.

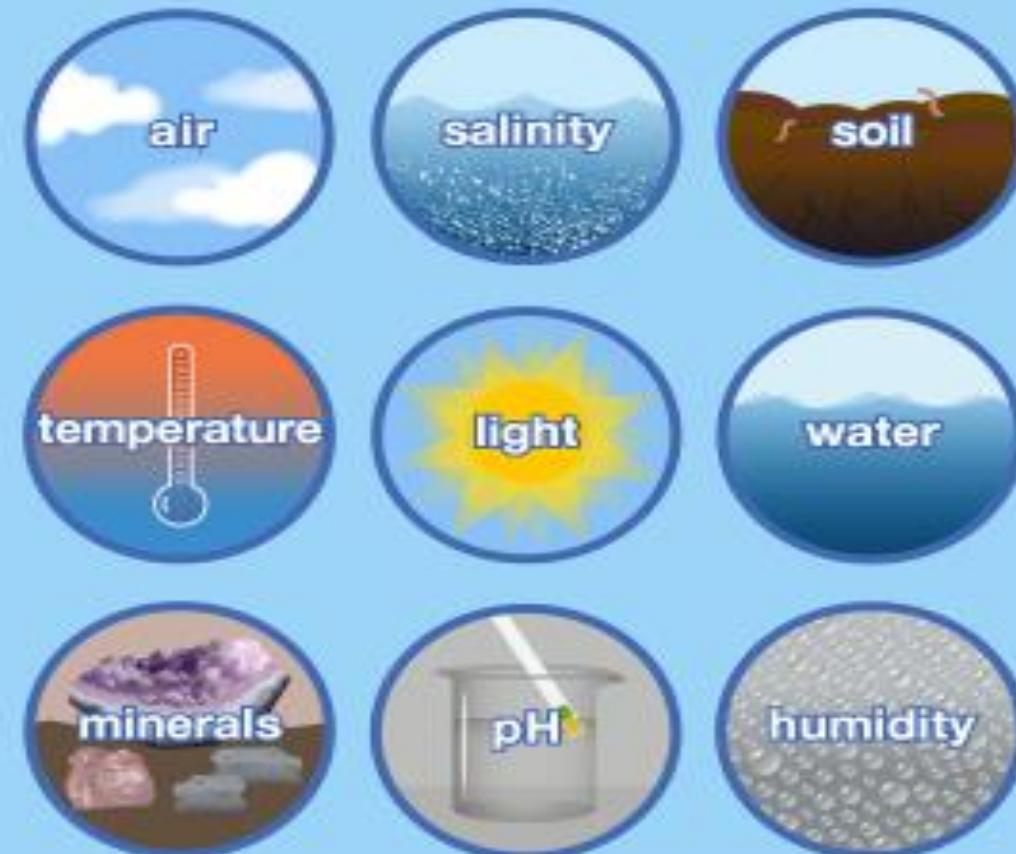


Components of Environment

Biotic Factors



Abiotic Factors



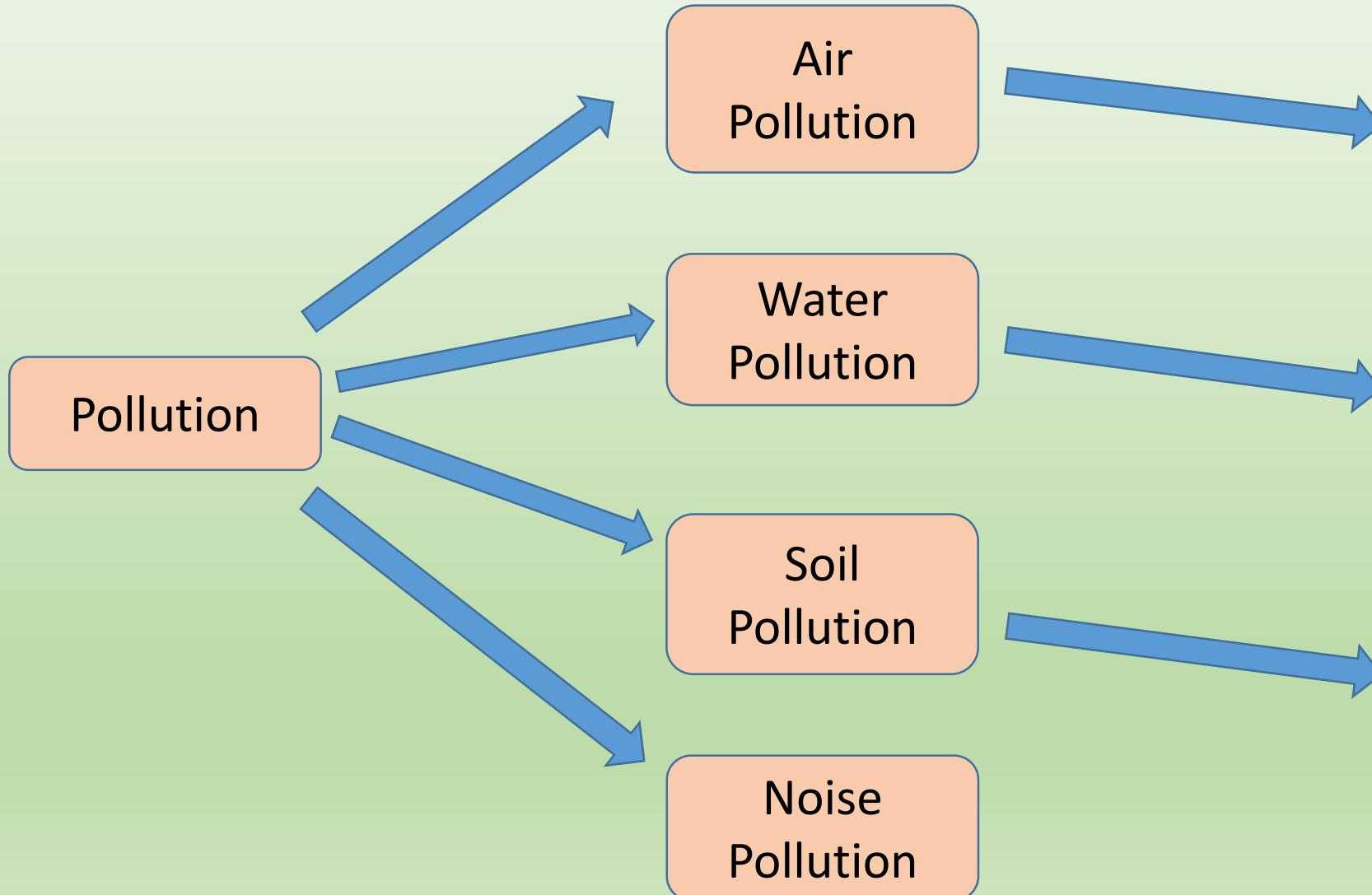
Environment Issues

Environmental issues are defined as problems with the planet's system (air, water, soil etc.) that have developed as a result of human interference or mistreatment of the planet.

Human have faced poor environmental conditions throughout history, but what we think of as environmental problems become more common and apparent with industrialization and urbanization.

Human activities in past decades have raised serious issues related to environment and its conservation.

Environment Issues



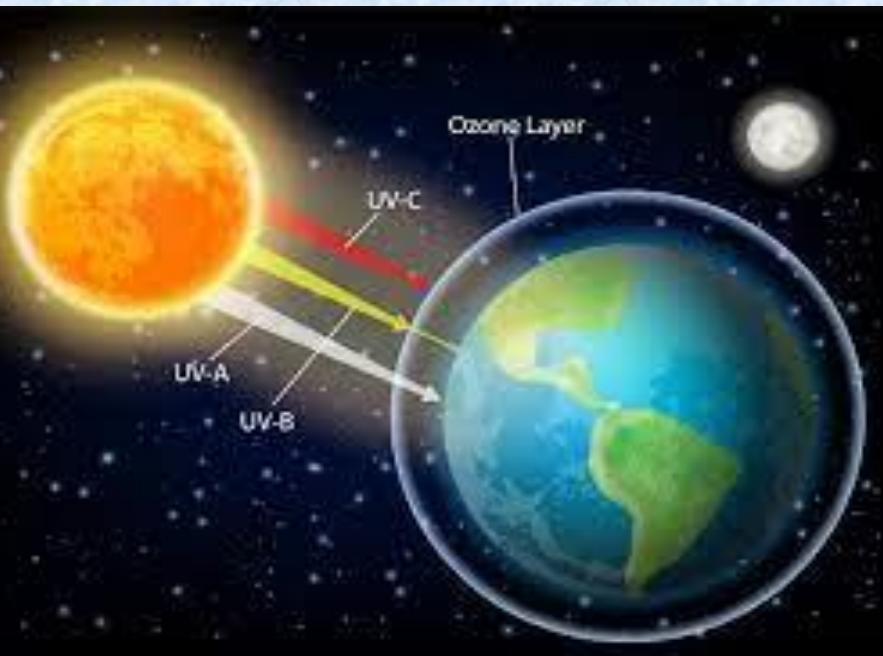
Global Warming

Global warming, the gradual heating of Earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere, is caused by human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels that pump carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



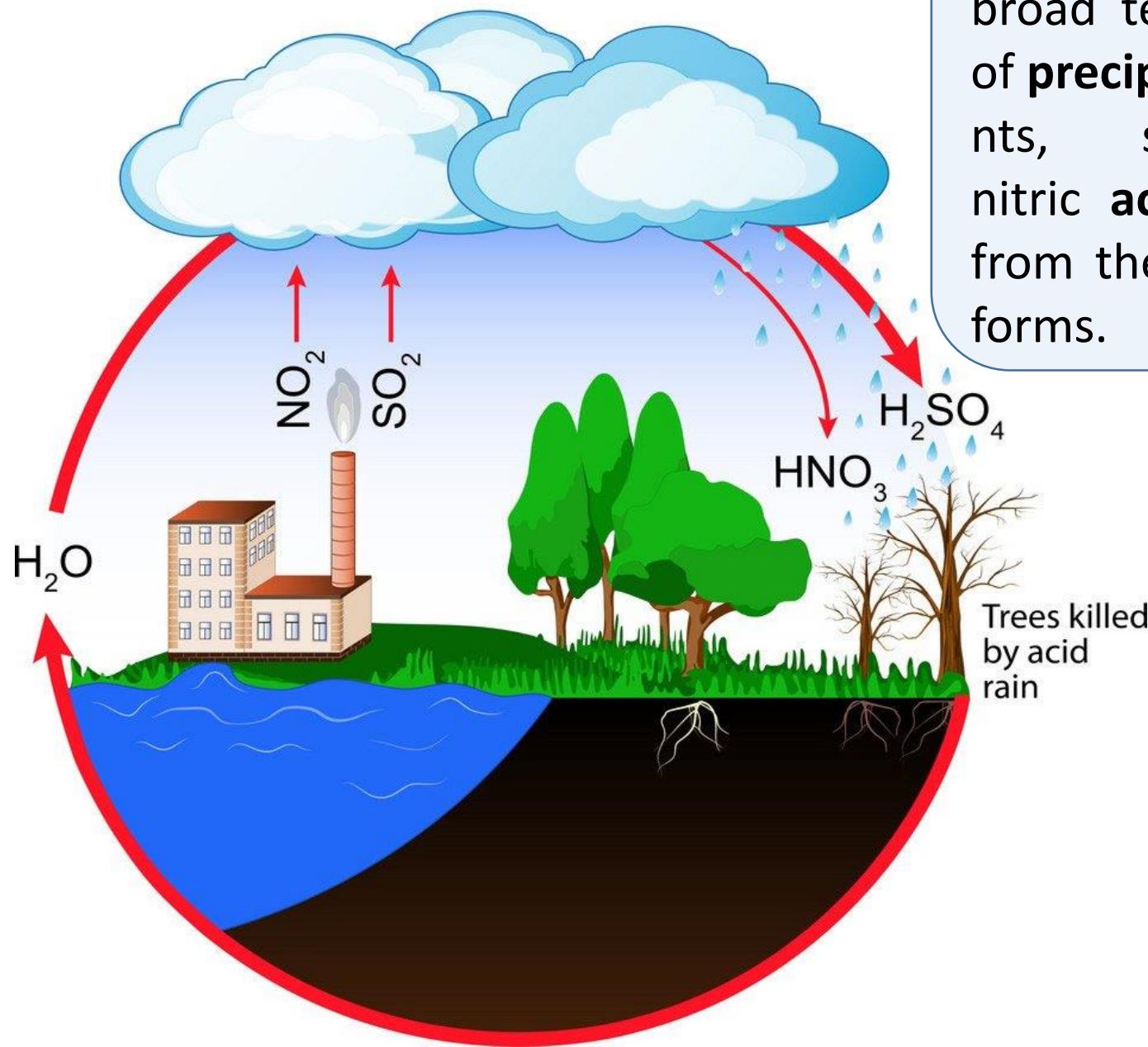
Ozone depletion

Ozone depletion is a major environmental problem because it increases the amount of ultraviolet (UV) radiation that reaches Earth's surface.



It increases the rate of skin cancer, eye cataracts, and genetic and immune system damage.

ACID RAIN



Acid rain, or **acid deposition**, is a broad term that includes any form of **precipitation** with **acidic** components, such as sulfuric or nitric **acid** that fall to the ground from the atmosphere in wet or dry forms.

This can include **rain**, snow, fog, hail or even dust that is **acidic**.



Deforestation

Deforestation is the permanent removal of trees to make room for something besides forest.

It can include clearing the land for agriculture or grazing, or using the timber for fuel, construction or manufacturing.



Desertification

Desertification is a type of land degradation in drylands in which biological productivity is lost due to natural processes or induced by human activities whereby fertile areas become increasingly arid.



'Climatic variations' and 'Human activities' can be regarded as the two **main causes of desertification**.

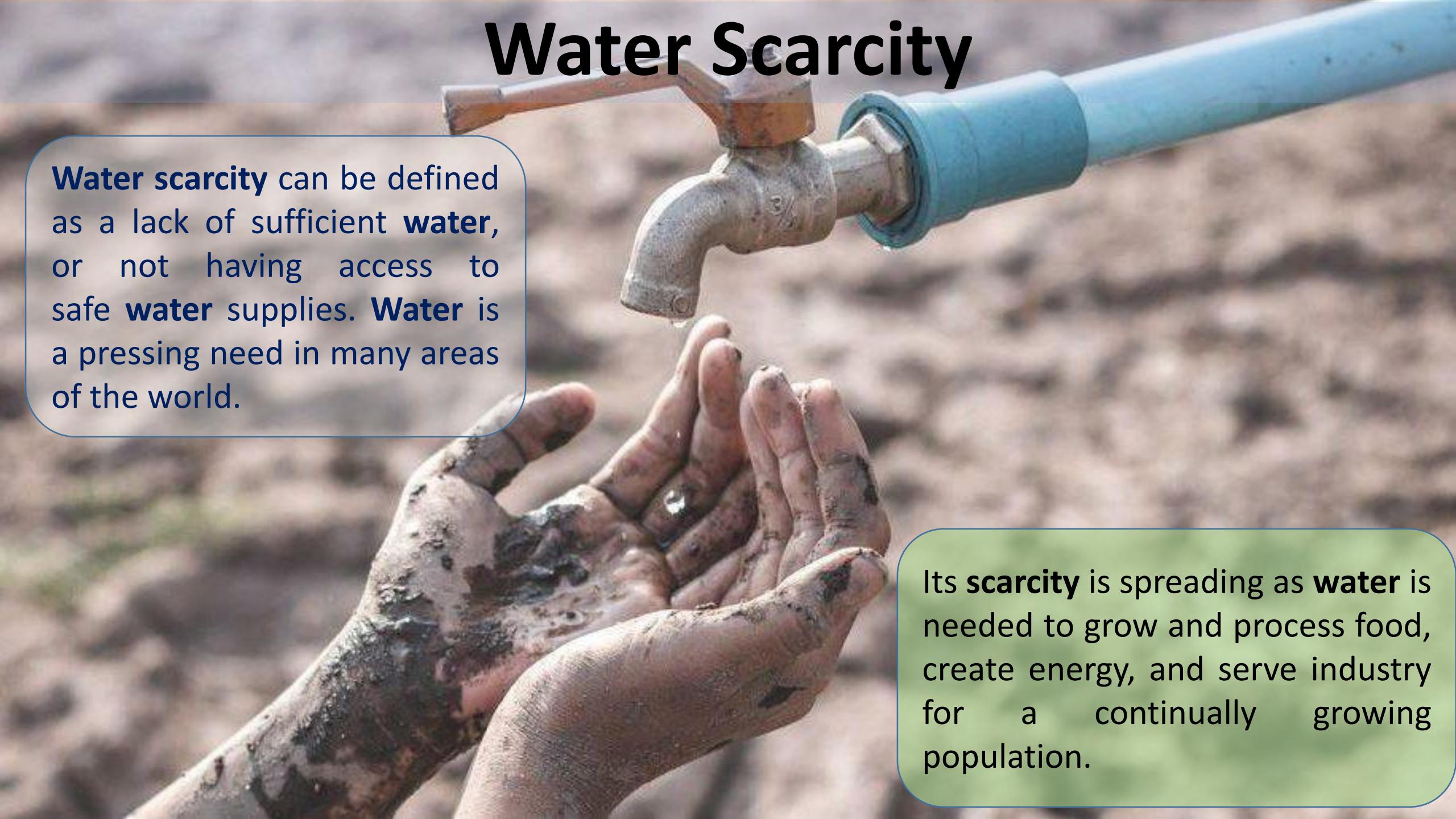
Waste Disposal

Waste disposal, the collection, processing, and recycling or deposition of the waste materials of human society.



The incineration of **waste**, while avoiding the issues of landfills, can cause other hazardous **environmental** issues instead. Plastic generally produces toxins, like dioxins as it is burning. The gases generated by incineration can pollute the air, and can contribute to the effects that cause acid rain.

Water Scarcity



Water scarcity can be defined as a lack of sufficient **water**, or not having access to safe **water** supplies. **Water** is a pressing need in many areas of the world.

Its **scarcity** is spreading as **water** is needed to grow and process food, create energy, and serve industry for a continually growing population.

Loss of Biodiversity

Biodiversity loss describes the decline in the number, genetic variability, and variety of species, and the biological communities in a given area.



This **loss** in the variety of life can lead to a breakdown in the functioning of the ecosystem where decline has happened.

Thank You