

biodiversity

the variety of living organisms on earth and the recognition of the need to maintain and protect this diversity

biosphere

the realm of earth that includes all plant and animal life forms

cadastral map

a map which shows property boundaries

counter-urbanisation

a marked decline in the total population, or growth of the population, of large metropolitan areas and the subsequent growth of smaller urban centres at their expense

ecological dimension

describes the relationship between people and the environment and the effect that they have on each other

<p>ecologically sustainable development</p>	<p>using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so the ecological processes are maintained so that quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased</p>
<p>ecosystem</p>	<p>a system formed by the interaction of all living organisms (plants, animals, humans) with each other and with the physical elements of the environment in which they live</p>
<p>environment</p>	<p>the 'total surroundings' including the components of the biophysical world, and the cultural, social, political and economic contexts of people</p>
<p>environmental impact assessments</p>	<p>a detailed study for a proposed development that identifies and describes the environment, predicts any likely changes that might result from such a proposal, assesses the significance of any predicted changes and reports through an environmental impact statement which makes provision for community consultation</p>
<p>exurbanisation</p>	<p>a process whereby people, usually affluent, move from the city to rural areas but continue to maintain an urban way of life either through long distance commuting or technology</p>

geographical issues	areas of concern that arise due to changes resulting from the interaction within environments and which can be investigated from spatial and/or ecological dimensions
geographical processes	the combination of physical and human forces that form and transform our world
GIS	Geographical Information Systems: integrated computer tools for the handling, processing and analysing of geographical data
mega cities	very large agglomerations of at least 10 million inhabitants
nation-state	the political unit of people living in a defined territory, with government authority in their economy, political organisation and external security

non-government organisations (NGOs)	groups of people in the community focused around a common aim whether it be to raise money for projects, environmental action, political or social change
spatial dimension	describes where things are and why they are there
spatial exclusion	refers to the defence of luxury lifestyles which have resulted in restrictions in spatial access and the freedom of movement of other urban dwellers. It is manifest in 'high security suburbs', 'walled estates' and security conscious retail-business complexes
spatial interdependence	the degree to which phenomena depend on each other for development and/or survival. Spatial interdependence implies that a spatial association exists
spatial patterns	a key theme in geography that includes the concepts of location, distribution, spatial organisation and spatial differentiation

sustainability	the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
transnational corporations (TNCs)	large business enterprises with a number of branches operating in several countries but with usually a central head office in a developed country, whose powers transcend national boundaries
urban village	distinctive residential districts comprising a clustering of people with a common culture and forming an identifiable community
World city (global city)	a large city that has importance to the operation of the global systems of finance, trade, politics, communications, aid, tourism and entertainment