



1. **Nature** is considered a construct of four **realms** – Land, Ocean, Freshwater and Atmosphere and **natural capital** is defined as the natural resources that provide benefits to us. On this basis, nature consists of stocks of environmental assets from which associated benefits flow to people and the economy.
2. **Biomes** are various regions of our planet distinguished by the type of plant life that the regions support, which reflect average rainfall and temperature patterns eg. tropical rainforests, open ocean, waters, deserts or lakes.
3. **Environmental assets** are naturally occurring living and non-living components of the Earth, for example, forests, wetlands, coral reefs and agricultural areas. Ecosystems are an important part of these assets, and the TNFD defines them as a dynamic complex of plants, animals and microorganisms, interacting with each other and their non-living environment.
4. **Ecosystems** support the provision of ecosystem services, which deliver benefits to business. These services fall into three categories:
 - Provisioning services are the contributions to benefits that are extracted or harvested from ecosystems (e.g. timber in a forest, freshwater from a river).
 - Regulating and maintenance services result from the ability of ecosystems to regulate biological processes and to influence climate, hydrological and biochemical cycles, and thereby maintain environmental conditions beneficial to individuals and society. Provisioning services depend on these regulating and maintenance services (e.g. the provision of freshwater depends on the ability of forests to absorb carbon and regulate climate change).
 - Cultural services relate to the perceived or actual qualities of ecosystems whose existence and functioning contributes to a range of cultural benefits (e.g. the recreational value of a forest or a coral reef for tourism).