

## **Glossary**

<b>Desertification</b>	Denuding and degrading a once-fertile land, initiating a desert-producing cycle that feeds on itself and causes long-term changes in soil, climate, and biota of an area.
<b>Diminishing Returns</b>	A condition in which unrestrained population growth causes the standard of living to decrease to a subsistence level where poverty, misery, vice, and starvation makes life permanently drab and miserable. This dreary prophecy has led economics to be called "the dismal science."
<b>Ecological Development</b>	A gradual process of environmental modification by organisms.
<b>El Niño</b>	A climatic change marked by shifting of a large warm water pool from the western Pacific Ocean towards the east. Wind direction and precipitation patterns are changed over much of the Pacific and perhaps around the world.
<b>Environmental Ethics</b>	A search for moral values and ethical principles in human relations with the natural world.