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An ecosystem refers to the interactions between living (biotic) and non living (abiotic) things within an area, as well as the interactions of the atmosphere, lithosphere, biosphere and hydrosphere. However many of these ecosystems are at risk meaning that once they are damaged, even in the smallest way, they will take a long time to rebuild naturally. This is seen in the coral reef ecosystem in ~~Palau~~ <sup>Palau</sup> as well as well as the forest area within the Cúc Phương National Park in Ninh Bình, Hà Nội, Vietnam. These ecosystems are at risk due to the human activities and, pollution and development which occur within these ecosystems.

The coral reefs in Palau, a small island near the Philippines are known for their beautiful intrinsic value of coral and sea life. Over ~~to~~ one thousand different array's of ~~species~~ sea species inhabit these coral reefs causing tourists and a range of human activity to occur surrounding and within

this ecosystem. This includes fishing, diving ~~as well as many boats~~ ~~as well as many boats~~ boating as well as housing developments and tourist developments e.g. hotels. This ~~type~~ human activity causes a large amount of pollution and disturbance within this ecosystem. As Plava is extremely coral reefs are extremely popular for diving, there are a large number of them. However, diving influences the coral reefs negatively as there disturbance of the <sup>coral species</sup> habitat ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ causing the ~~the~~ species to migrate. ~~the~~ This is also similar to fishing ~~is~~ which is also popular within this ecosystem ~~is~~ due to the vast array of fish species. However as fishing kills ~~and~~ ~~and~~ or takes the fish out of their natural habitat this ecosystem is negatively effected. This is because the less amount of fish there are the less amount of food the species which feed on the fish have, <sup>causing an disruption upon</sup> ~~distributing~~ the food chain. As well as this the pollution of the

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surrounding ~~urban~~ housing developments and hotels damages the water causing the coral and the fish to be poisoned and die, disturbing the food chain again.

Similar problems also occur within Cúc Phong National park in Vietnam where the forest ecosystem, although a preserved national park is also being highly influenced by human activity. Due to human pollution within the park (seen in source E) animals whose habitat's reside within the park are negatively effected as the polluted items are damaging to not only the animals homes but also the animals. As the biosphere and lithosphere of the park is effected so is ~~everything~~ the whole ecosystem as it is highly vulnerable and has a lack of inertia.

This diagram shows how when one thing within the ecosystem is effected all is. As rain (from atmosphere) provides water making the soil healthy making the banana trees grow providing food for the monkey. ~~from monkey~~ monkey waste provides soil for the trees to grow again.



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As the ~~soil~~ pollution disrupts the soil within the national park the whole ecosystem is disrupted (shown in diagram).

This indicates the importance of maintaining ecosystems, or leaving ecosystems to grow naturally without human disturbance. As through human disturbance both ecosystems (Palau coral reefs and Cúc Phong National park forest) are placed at risk.