

## **Environmental Ethics**

### **Some cases:**

- PCBs and Kanemi's rice oil—Japan 1968
- Asbestos in the air/drinking water
- land subsidence

### **Views of nature:**

1. anthropocentric - human centered, conservation justified in terms of human needs for a livable environment
2. non-anthropocentric - nature centered, humans are only a part of nature and human worth must be understood from a holistic ecological perspective

### **Some discussion questions:**

1. Is it reasonable to put much effort into saving endangered species?
2. Are humans (or Americans) duty bound to preserve all forms of natural life?
3. Are there any ethical reasons why landowners may be constrained from doing whatever they want to their properties?
4. Do wealthy people or nations have the right to impose controls on the environment (emissions, etc.) when such controls will harm the underprivileged more (in the short term) than the rich?