



CLOSER  
TO  
NATURE



Coordinator  
KRAP ASD



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# ECOSYSTEM SERVICES





# What are Ecosystem Services

**Ecosystem services are the benefits we get from nature – for free! These include clean air, fresh water, pollination of plants, and even the joy we experience from being in nature.**





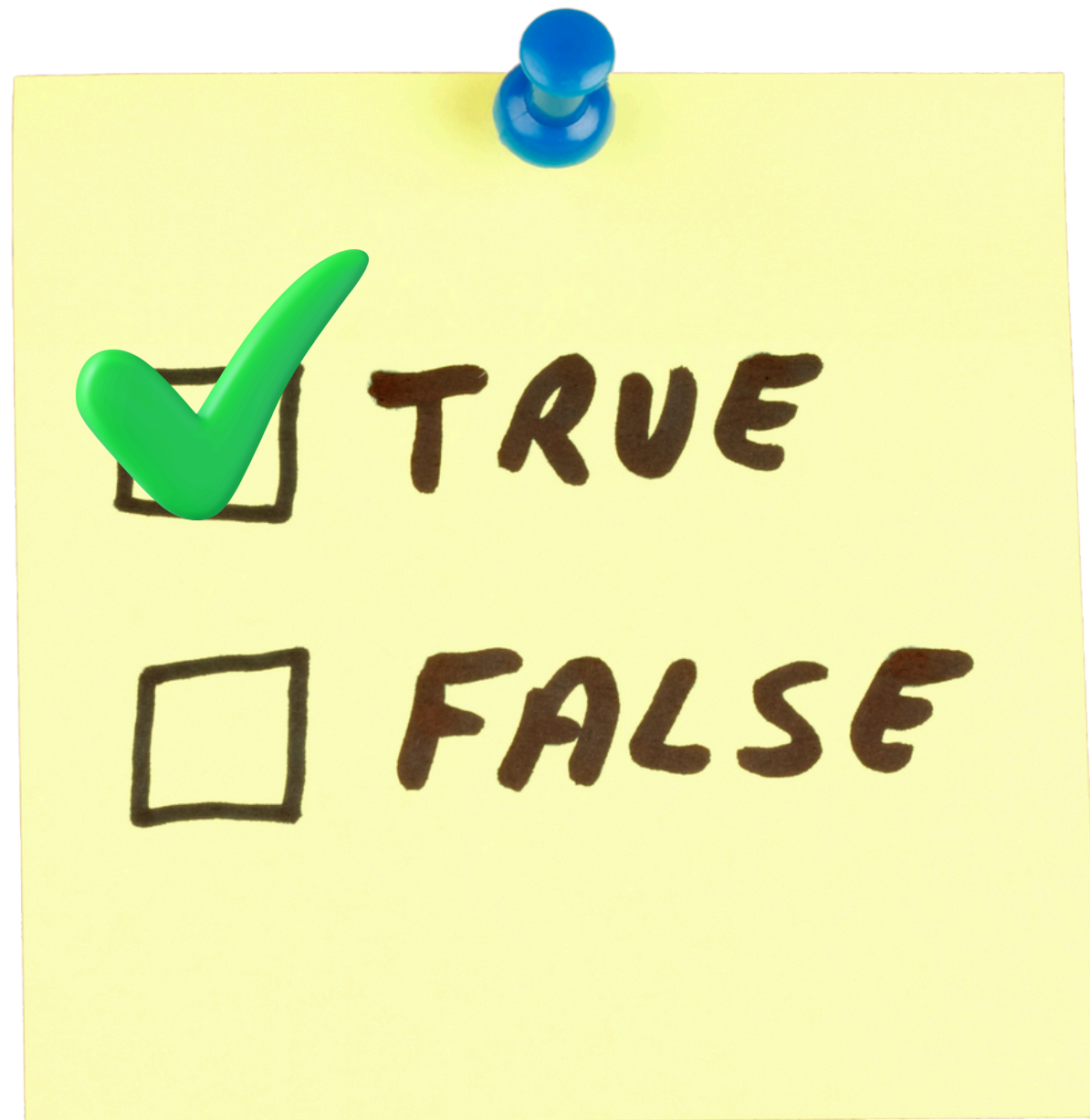
**1.6 billion people rely on forests for food, fuel, employment, and shelter.**

☐ **TRUE**

☐ **FALSE**



**1.6 billion people around the world depend on forests for wood, food, fuel, employment, and shelter.**





**Forests and trees support 4 billion people, including small-scale farmers.**

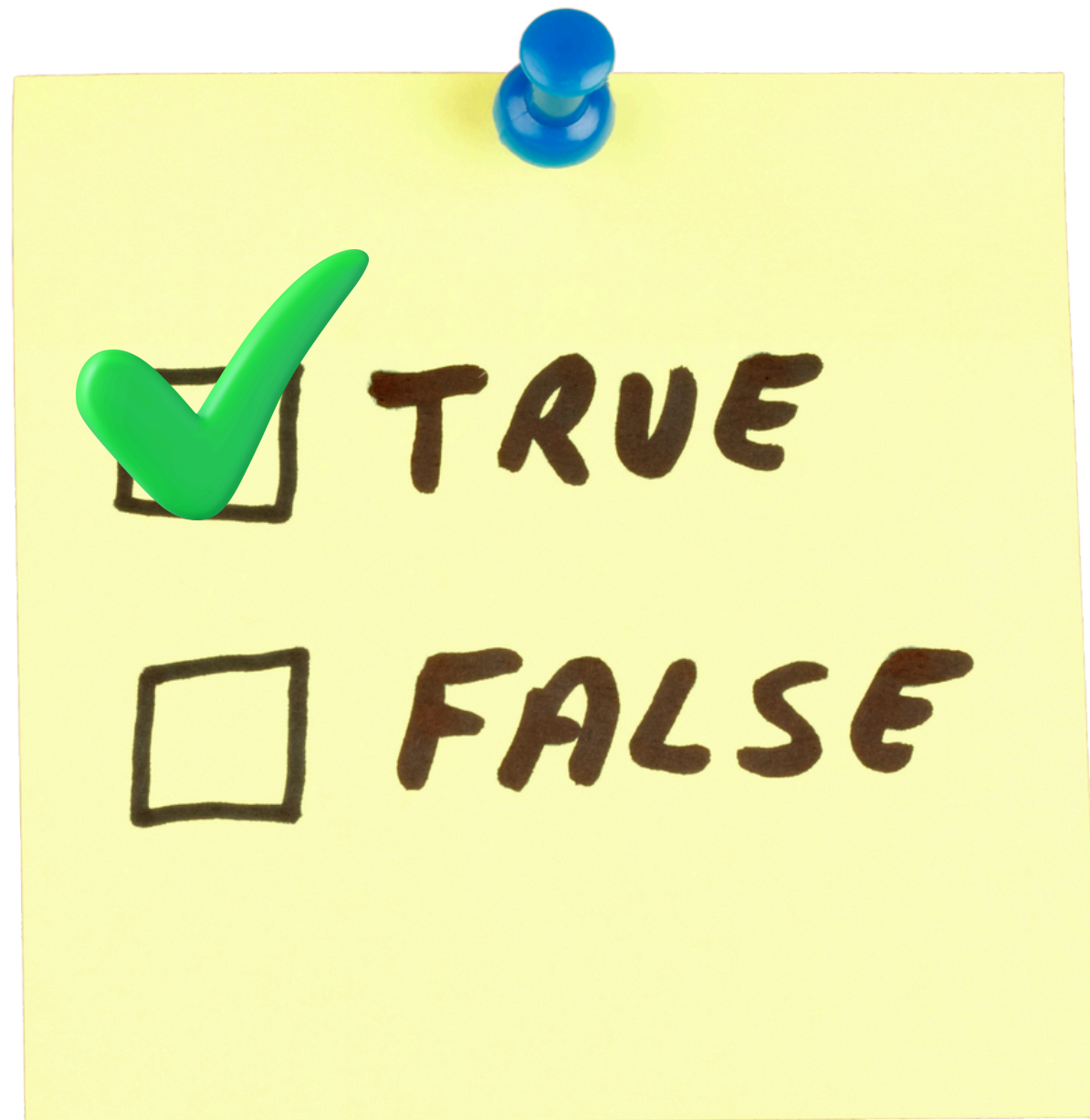
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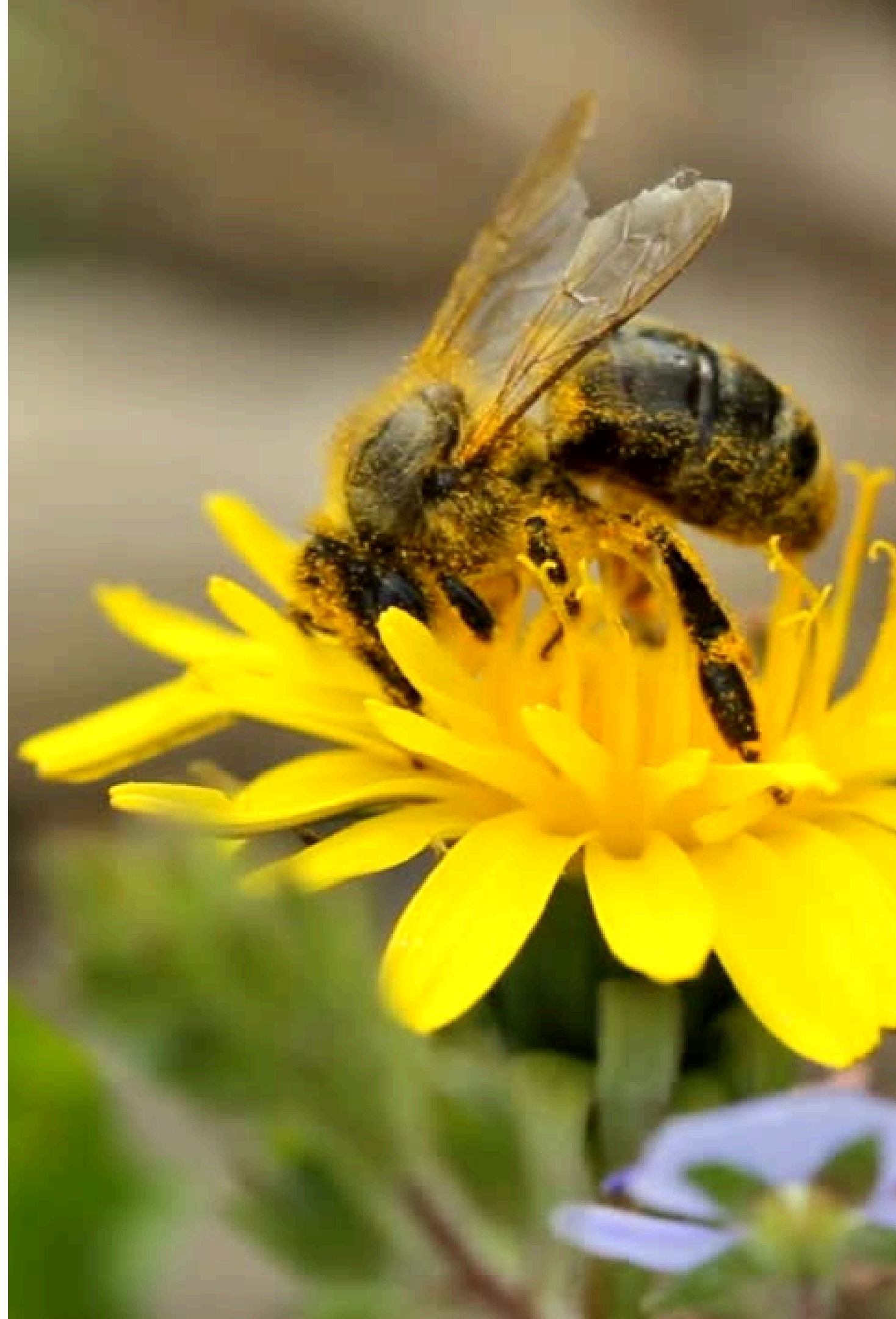




**Pollinators contribute to  
25% of global food crops.**

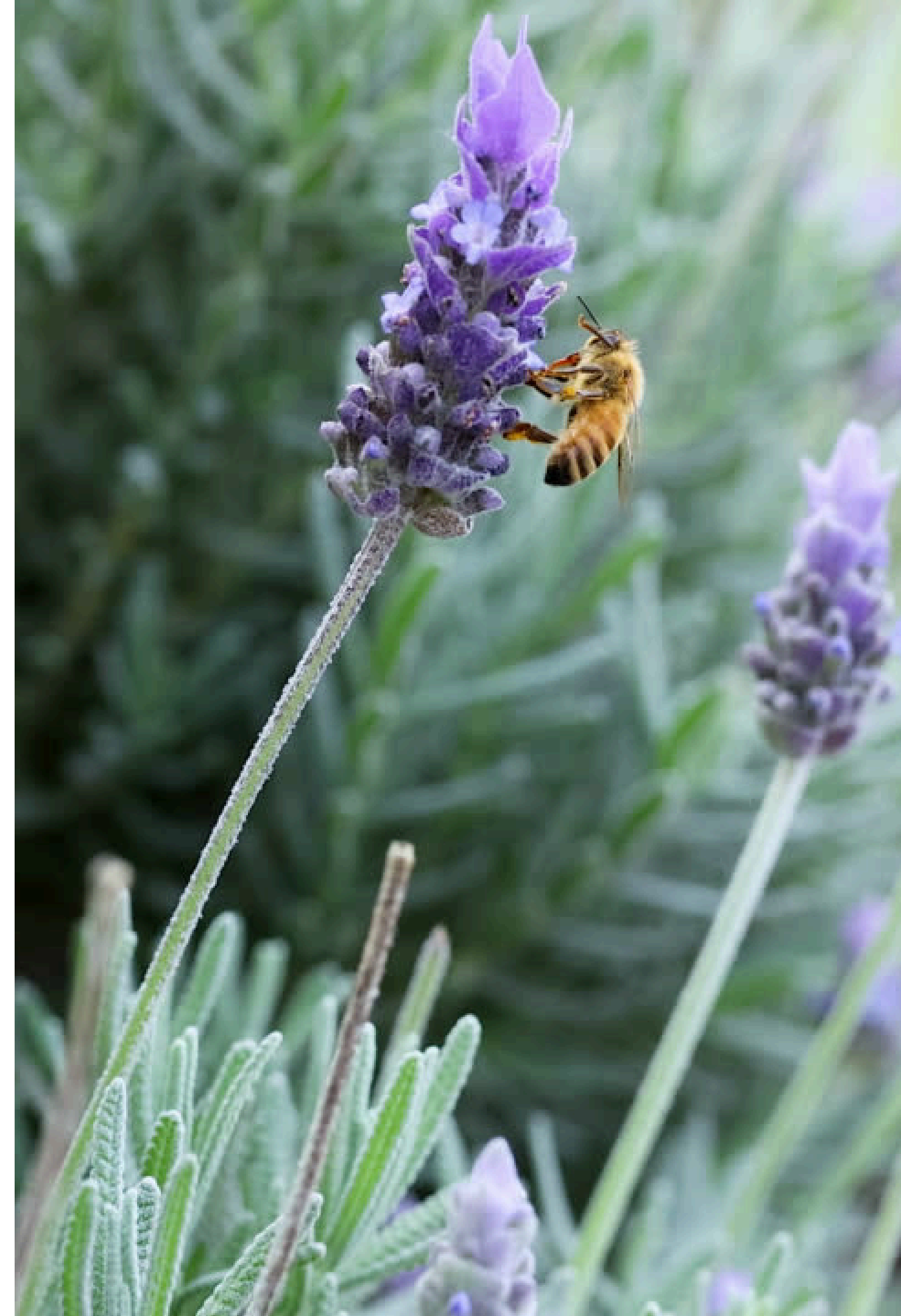
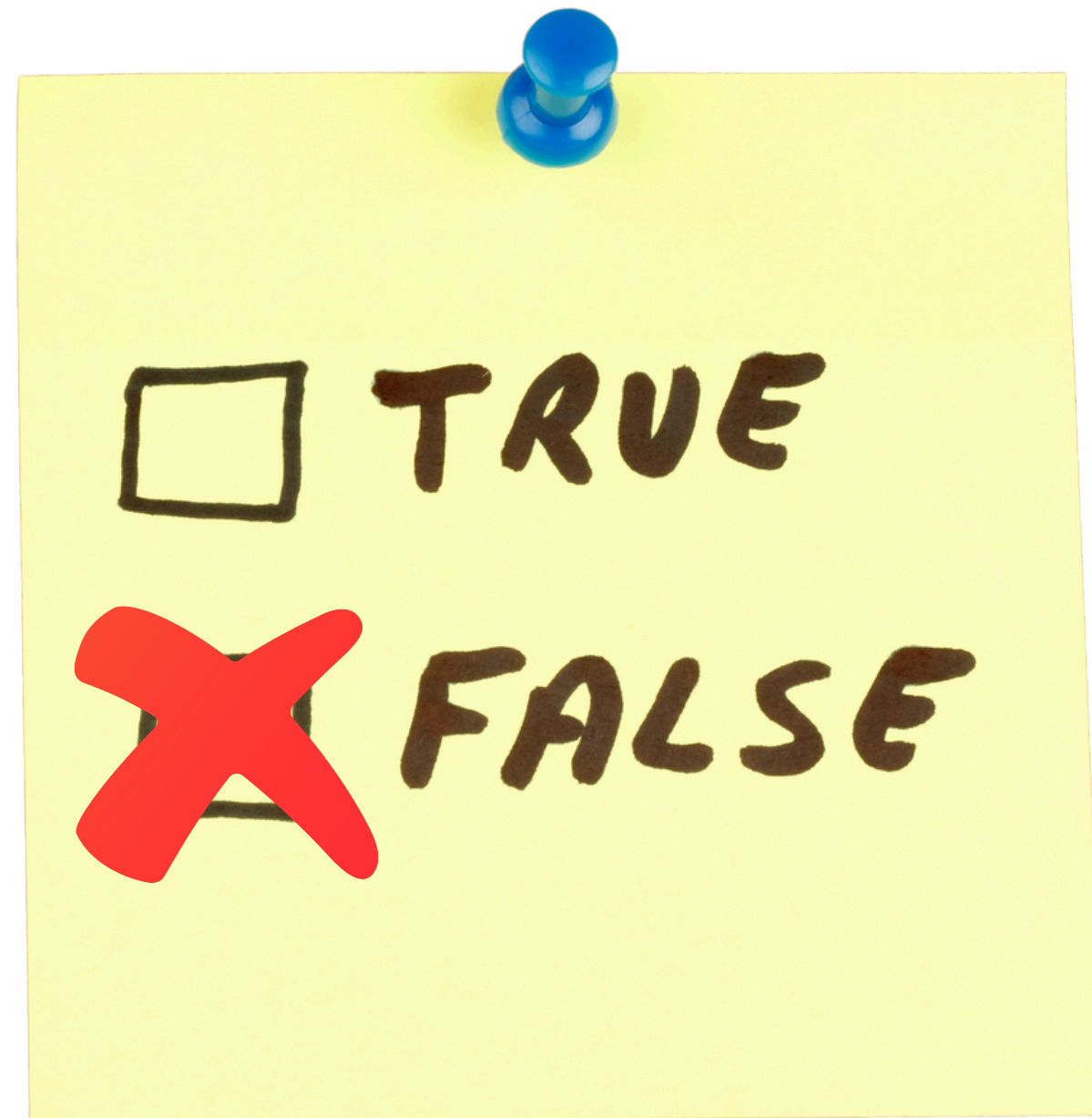
☐ **TRUE**

☐ **FALSE**





**Pollinators contribute to  
75% of global food crops.**





# Four Categories of Ecosystem Services (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

**Provisioning  
Services**



**Supporting  
Services**



**Regulating  
Services**



**Cultural  
Services**





## **Provisioning Services**



**Fruits, vegetables, trees, fish, and livestock are direct products of ecosystems that we have at our disposal. Provisioning services refer to all the benefits that can be obtained from nature. In addition to food, other types of provisioning services include drinking water, timber, firewood, natural gas, oils, plants that can be transformed into clothing and other materials, and medicinal benefits**



## **Regulating Services**



**Plants purify the air and filter water, bacteria decompose waste, bees pollinate flowers, and tree roots hold the soil in place to prevent erosion. All these processes work together to keep ecosystems clean, sustainable, functional, and resilient to change. Regulating services include pollination, decomposition, water purification, erosion and flood control, carbon storage, and climate regulation.**



## **Supporting Services**



**Ecosystems themselves would not be sustainable without the consistency of underlying natural processes such as photosynthesis, nutrient cycling, soil formation, and the water cycle. These processes enable the Earth to sustain not only entire ecosystems and humans but also its fundamental life forms. Without supporting services, provisioning, regulating, and cultural services could not exist.**



## **Cultural Services**



**The importance of ecosystems for the human mind can be traced back to the beginning of humanity when ancient civilizations painted images of animals, plants, and weather on cave walls. Cultural services are an intangible benefit that contributes to human development and cultural progress; they include the construction of knowledge and the spread of ideas, creativity arising from interactions with nature in music, art, and architecture, as well as recreation.**



# **Ecosystem Services & the Economy**

- **Many services are not priced in the market = they're undervalued**
- **Yet, the global value of ecosystem services is estimated at \$125–145 trillion/year**



**We are not just consumers of nature – we are part of it.**

**Thank you**

<https://www.zentrumib.org/>

