

	Public goods	Common goods	Global common goods (GCGs)
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available to all; others cannot be prevented from enjoying them (non-excludable);</li> <li>Equally beneficial for users who have paid and those who have not contributed to their financing or have contributed to a lesser extent;</li> <li>Use of public goods does not diminish their value or availability (non-rivalrous);</li> <li>Requires mediation; ownership is with the state, not markets;</li> <li>Provision corresponds with the state but can be delegated to third parties (private companies);</li> <li>In contrast to common goods, does not convey a sense of commonality among a group of individuals, but rather a political binding constituted collectively within a particular society (usually a country);</li> <li>The economic framing has been criticized for centring on individual wellbeing. One different approach is 'global public goods' that benefit everyone in the world in the present and future and focus on planetary wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available at no cost to anyone who wishes to make use of them (non-excludable);</li> <li>Promotes benefit for all (not advantaging any one group or class), but if one person uses these resources, it reduces another person's ability to use them (rivalrous);</li> <li>Ownership belongs to everyone – shared resources; managed by custom, tradition, grassroots practices etc.;</li> <li>However, when they become scarcer, governments may exercise their sovereignty within their jurisdictional borders and intervene (e.g. establishing quotas, regulations and other control and distribution mechanisms);</li> <li>Can be created by public or private goods (e.g. research can create common goods);</li> <li>In the singular, the term is understood as the collective requirement/desire of any society. Yet, more difficult to define as its meaning has changed over time;</li> <li>A new framework of 'common good' is needed, but this is difficult to achieve in today's large and pluralistic societies. The politics of the common good has been reduced to the level of communities or, at most, to a country level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like public goods, GCGs are also non-excludable and non-rivalrous, but are differentiated by having benefits that cross borders and being global in scope;</li> <li>Like common goods, GCGs have a shared or common interest;</li> <li>When such commonality is related to shared values of enforcement, production, distribution, access, preservation, protection etc for GCGs, we are also talking about global citizenship;</li> <li>States cannot act extraterritorially on GCGs without global consensus;</li> <li>States might recognize the rights of the world citizens to their commons, but a 'global guardian' to provide or guarantee GCGs would be difficult to set up because States can only exercise coercive power within the limits of their territory;</li> <li>To construct a framework for the GCG thus remains highly aspirational. Even though the UN exists, almost all of its actions on GCGs (e.g. conventions) are soft law and not legally binding.</li> </ul>
Examples	<p>Street lighting National defense</p>	<p>Fishing Forests Beaches</p>	<p>Human rights Oceans Ozone layer Antarctica (the only asset protected by international treaty)</p>
Use in higher education	<p>The right to access to higher education is a public good. We cannot prevent other people from being holders of the same right (non-excludable), nor can the exercise of such right by one person reduce the ability of another to exercise it (non-rivalrous).</p>	<p>Higher education as a whole is also a common good. For example, according to Argentine law, all people after completing secondary studies have the right to enter the University (the grade point average does not matter and there are no entrance exams). It is not excludable, but it is rival because public supply does not grow at the same rate as demand.</p>	<p>Knowledge drives the generation of further knowledge and is key to human development. For that reason, it is considered a GCG. That said, some knowledge may be protected by the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) e.g. a patent placed on a new drug. However, the belief that knowledge, in a broad sense, is a GCG is so ingrained that certain products protected by IPRs are being contested by social movements.</p>

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