

**PANEL DISCUSSION SUSTAINABILITY THE DEFINITION FOR
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF
THE TERM**

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The definition for Sustainable Agriculture in multidimensional and the understanding of the term varies greatly from person to person. For some people, Sustainable Agriculture is more of a philosophy that can border on anti-science. Science and the resulting technologies can be used in ways that run counter to Sustainable Agriculture, but science and technology can also be used to enhance sustainability of our agriculture systems. This presentation, presentations by panel members, and interactions with panel members will focus on three foundational principles of Sustainable Agriculture. 1) Profit - any system that is to be adopted and used by large number of farmer must be profitable. 2) Stewardship - we must marshal our science and technology to that we provide future generations with soils, crops, and environments that are better than the ones we inherited. 3) Quality of life - farms are not islands, but integral components of communities. Real world examples of sustainable agriculture systems will demonstrate these principles.

Putting Sustainability in Perspective

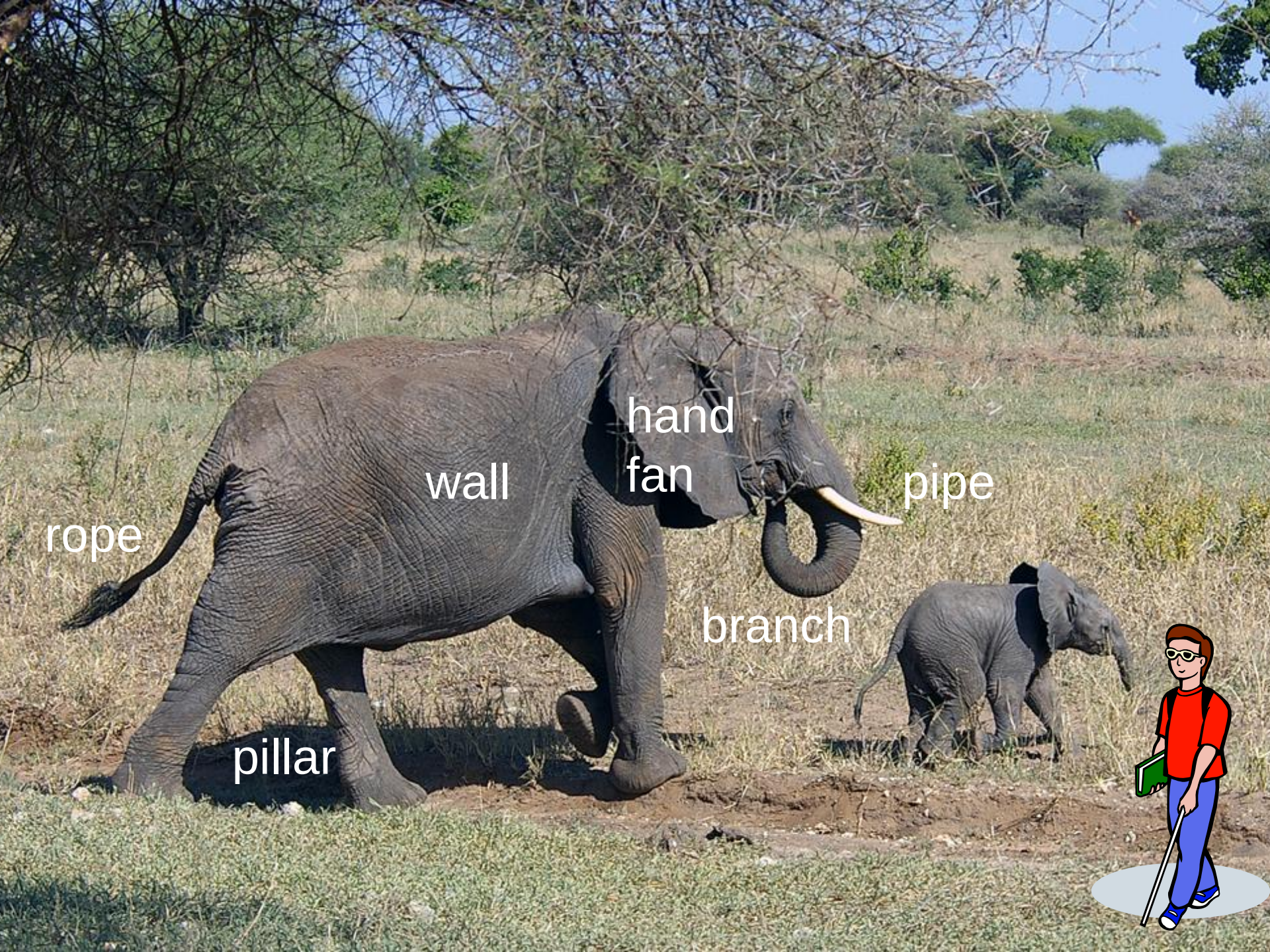


Bill Wiebold
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USA

Definition of sustainability depends on perspective

Definition of sustainability depends on perspective





rope

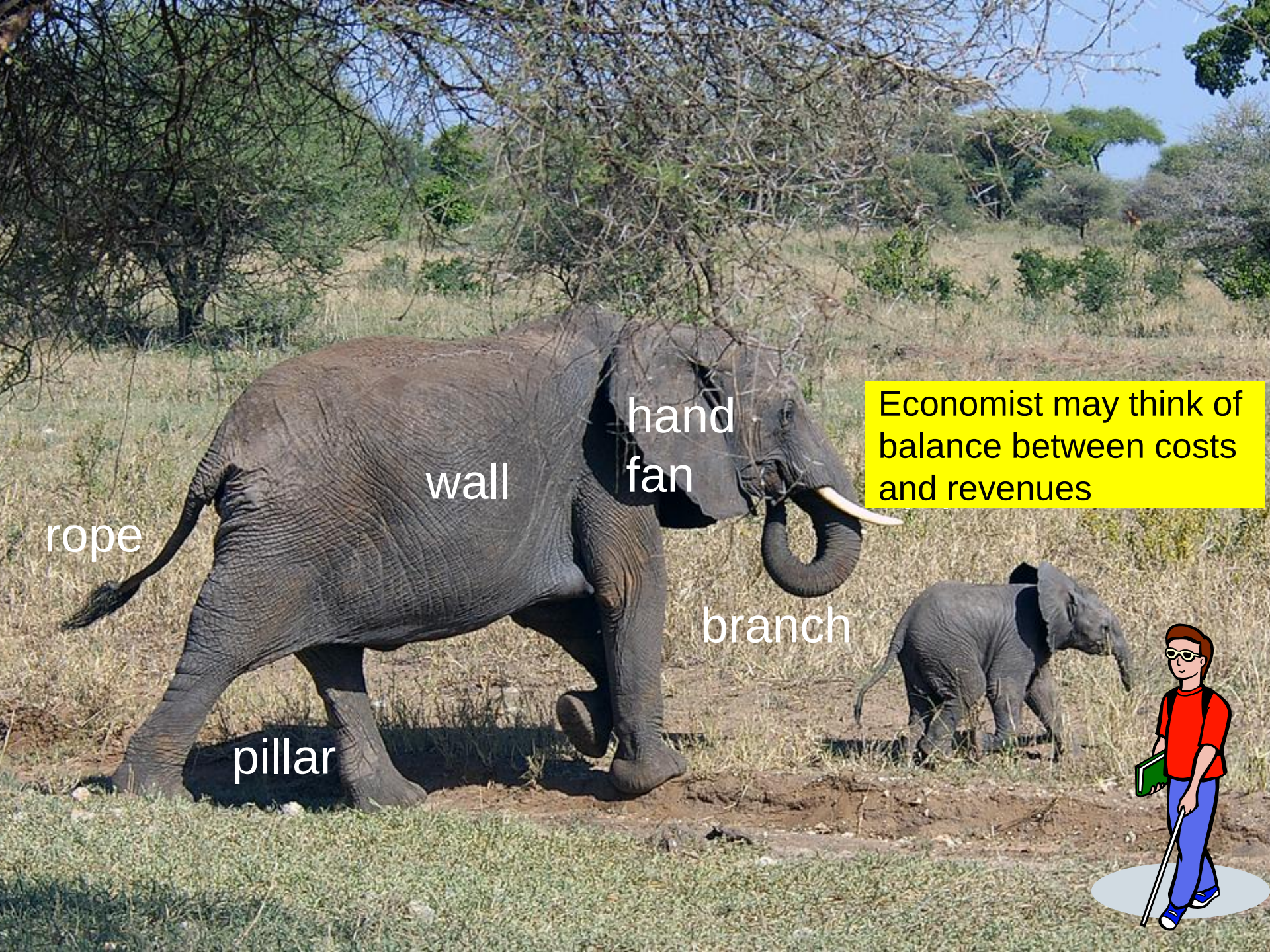
pillar

wall

hand
fan

branch

pipe



rope

pillar

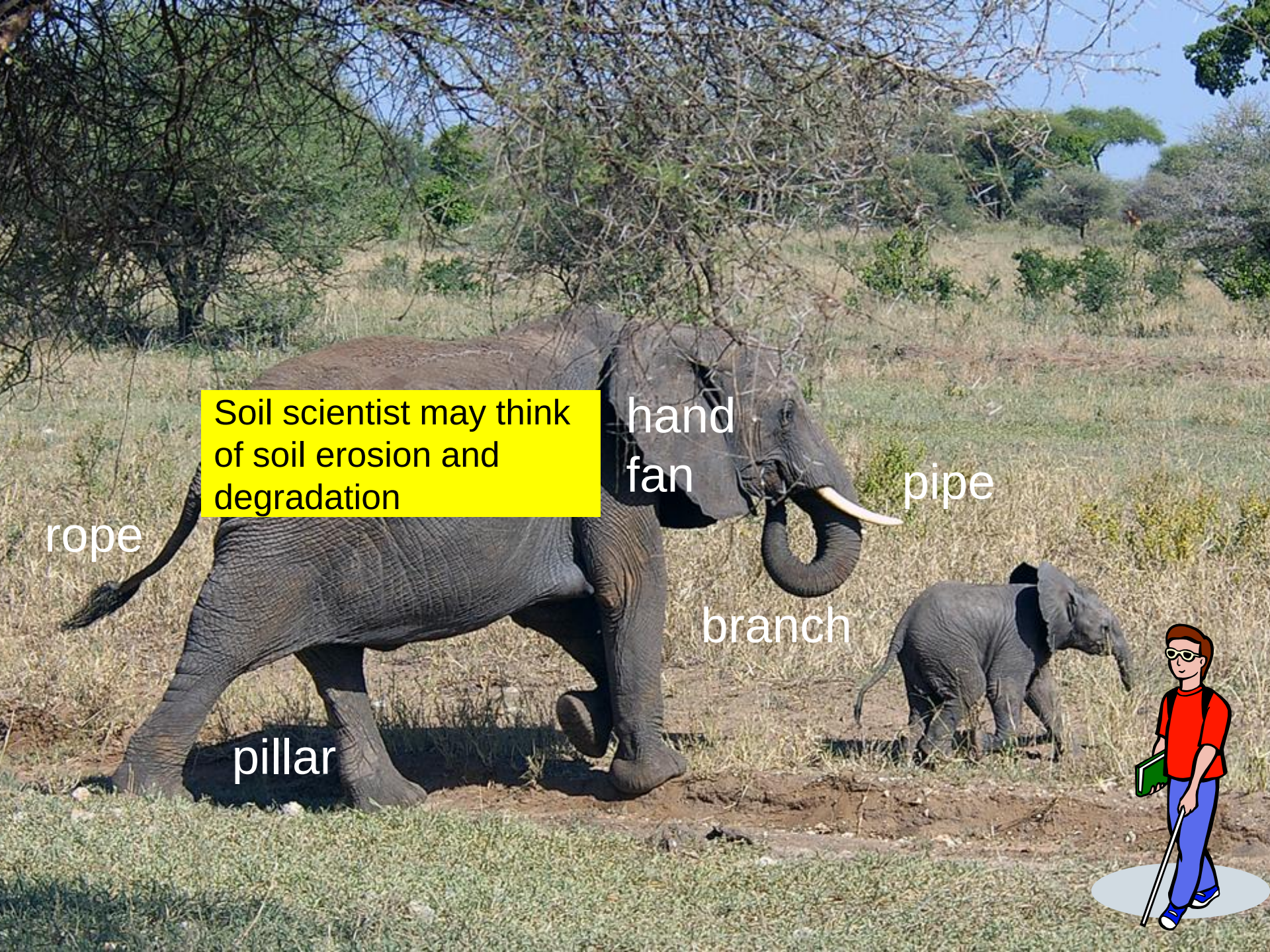
wall

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Economist may think of
balance between costs
and revenues





Soil scientist may think
of soil erosion and
degradation

rope

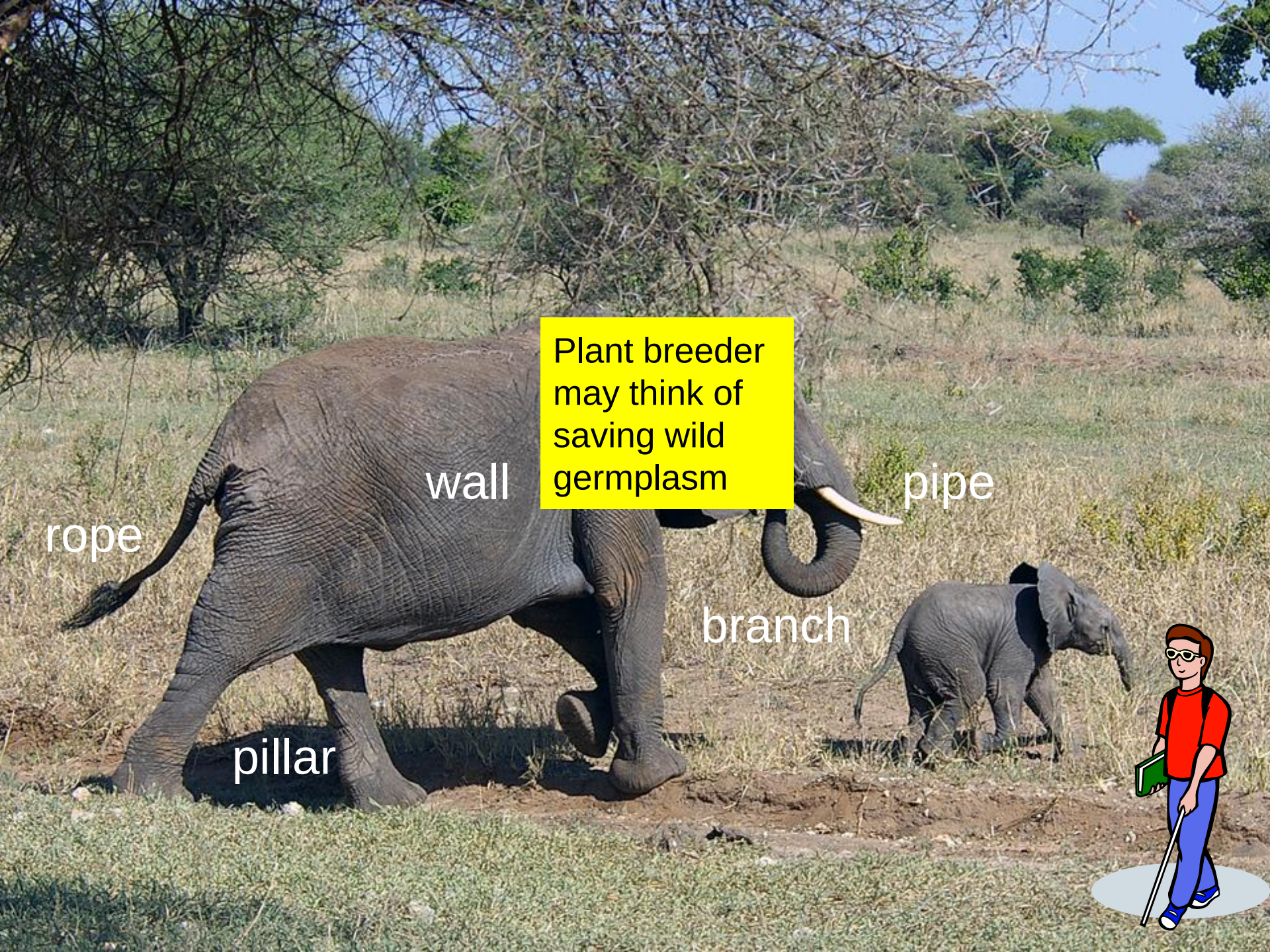
hand
fan

pipe

branch

pillar





rope

wall

Plant breeder
may think of
saving wild
germplasm

pipe

branch

pillar



Biofuel engineer
might think of
carbon footprint

wall

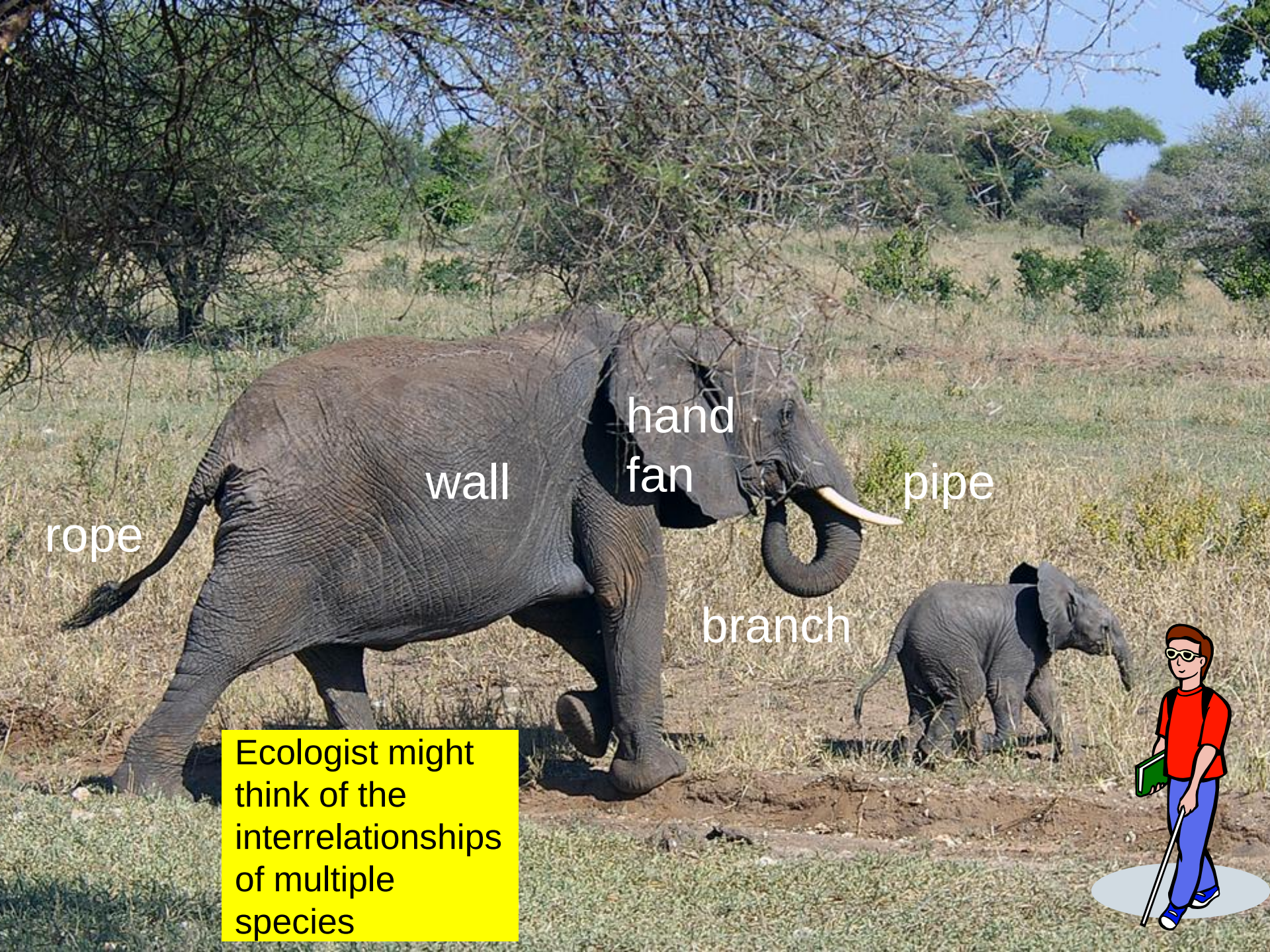
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rope

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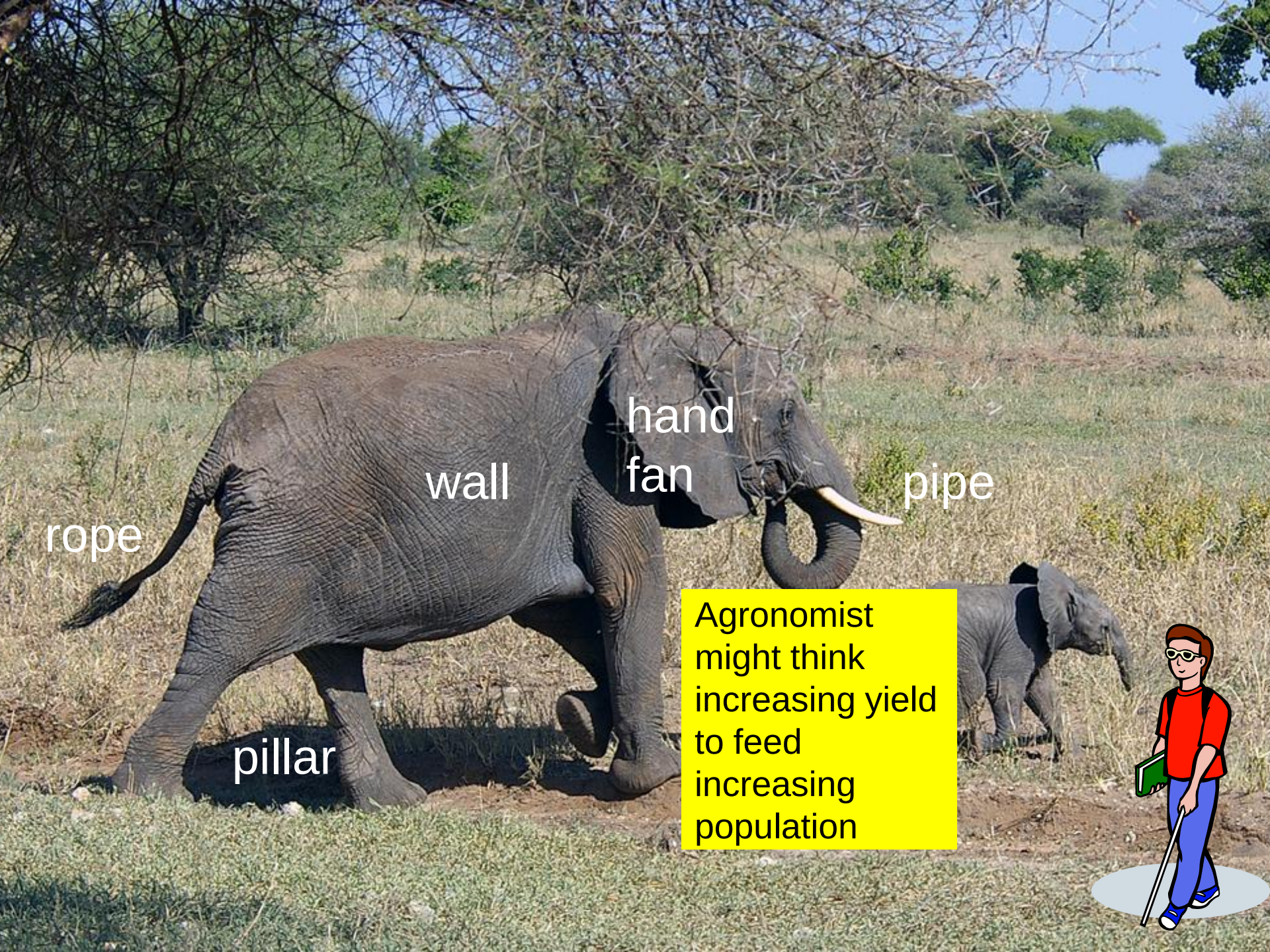
hand
fan

branch

pipe

Ecologist might
think of the
interrelationships
of multiple
species





rope

wall

hand
fan

pipe

pillar

Agronomist
might think
increasing yield
to feed
increasing
population



Sustainability is an attempt to merge ecology and economy into one system

Sustainability means living life of dignity in harmony with nature

Sustainability means renewing resources at a rate equal to or greater than the rate at which they are consumed

Sustainability means creating an economic system that provides for quality of life while renewing the environment and its resources

Sustainability is creating a world where everyone can have fulfilling lives and enjoy a rich level of well-being within the limits that nature can provide

Sustainability means taking the long-term view of how our actions affect future generations and making sure we don't deplete resources or cause pollution at rates faster than the earth is able to renew them

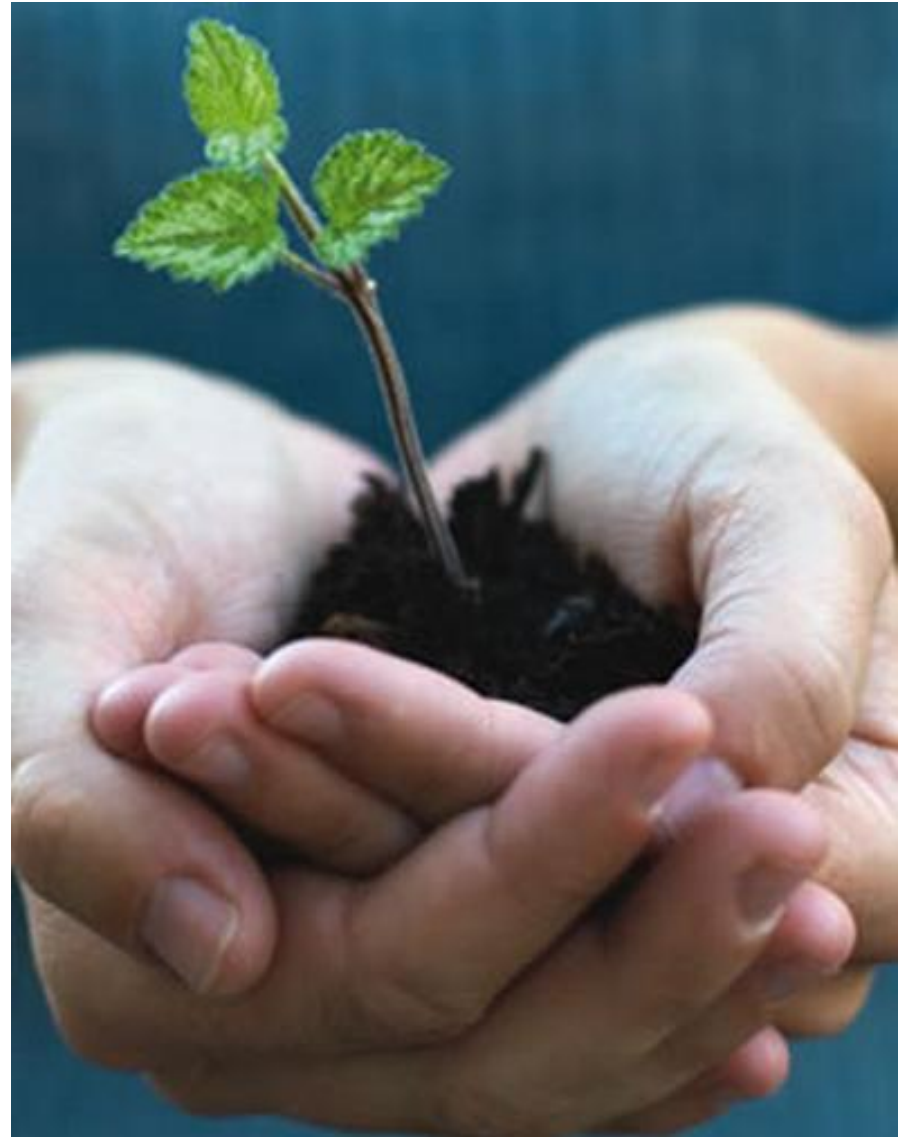
US Department of Agriculture

Satisfying human needs

Enhancing environmental quality, the resource base, and ecosystem services

Sustaining the economic viability of agriculture

Enhancing the quality of life for farmers, ranchers, forest managers, workers and society as a whole



Native Americans of the Iroquois Confederacy



“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations”







