

## **ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT. IT'S ROLE AND PERSPECTIVES**

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A century ago, only a few prescient individuals were concerned about the sustainability of the variety of ecosystems that provide the commodities and services upon which humans depend. Large expanses of "the frontier" remained, the sea was considered unexplored and underexploited and the natural world was seen solely to provision human needs, as well as an infinite sink for human wastes and pollutants.

That's why nowadays appeared a new system of management called Ecological or Ecosystem Management. Ecosystem Management is as concerned with managing human activities as with managing lands and waters. There is little doubt that the resources upon which humans depend are delivered from ecosystems in finite quantity. Even more daunting is the fact that the delivery capacity of these resources is not distributed uniformly across the globe or in patterns that necessarily correlate with human demand.

Ecological management includes the following elements:

1. Sustainability. Ecosystem Management does not focus primarily on "deliverables" but rather regards intergenerational sustainability as a precondition.
2. Goals. Ecosystem Management establishes measurable goals that specify future processes and outcomes necessary for sustainability.
3. Sound ecological models and understanding. Ecosystem Management relies on research performed at all levels of ecological organization.
4. Complexity and connectedness. Ecosystem Management recognizes that biological diversity and structural complexity strengthen ecosystems against disturbance and supply the genetic resources necessary to adapt to long-term change.
5. The dynamic character of ecosystems. Recognizing that change and evolution are inherent in ecosystem sustainability, Ecosystem Management avoids attempts to "freeze" ecosystems in a particular state or configuration.

6. Context and scale. Ecosystem processes operate over a wide range of spatial and temporal scales, and their behavior at any given location is greatly affected by surrounding systems. Thus, there is no single appropriate scale or timeframe for management.

7. Humans as ecosystem components. Ecosystem Management values the active role of humans in achieving sustainable management goals.

8. Adaptability and accountability. Ecosystem Management acknowledges that current knowledge and paradigms of ecosystem function are provisional, incomplete, and subject to change. Management approaches must be viewed as hypotheses to be tested by research and monitoring programs.

Successful Ecosystem Management requires institutions that are adaptable to changes in ecosystem characteristics and in our knowledge base. But to view management as experimental is not to advocate capricious implementation of untried or avant garde actions. It is rather to acknowledge the limits of our understanding of even conventional management procedures to the complex array of ecosystem components necessary for sustained functioning.

Ecosystem Management is not a rejection of an anthropocentric for a totally biocentric worldview. Rather it is management that acknowledges the importance of human needs while at the same time confronting the reality that the capacity of our world to meet those needs in perpetuity has limits and depends on the functioning of ecosystems.

## **INNOVATION AND COMPETITION POLICY**

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There are two polar notions of competition policy in modern economics. One is competition policy as it coincides with antitrust policy and its enforcement. The other is that competition policy embraces any law or regulation that promotes or inhibits the free operation of the market mechanism. In this chapter we will discuss competition and competition policy in the new economic context definition.