

On common ground: managing human-planet relationships.

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On common ground: managing human-planet relationships

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Abstract : The book addresses the needs of public and private sector decision-makers operating in a world where actions are increasingly being governed by environmental constraints. The central challenge is to find alternative forms of development for a sustainable future. Part I examines the necessity for a fundamental shift in thinking concerning environmental imperatives and human-environment relationships. Part II presents an overview of key environmental topics in a conceptual framework.

offers an introduction to a number of specific issues of current global environmental concern: watershed management; deforestation; urbanization; polluted or over-exploited water supplies; atmospheric degradation and global warming; desertification; soil degradation and erosion; famine; species loss; sustainable agriculture; population pressure and generation; the ocean ecosystem; and energy use. In each case an overview of the system or ecosystem is offered along with a discussion of salient problems and brief examples or case histories. Finally, part IV considers the human aspect of sustainable development. Realizing the vision of sustainable futures will ultimately depend on how successful the integration of systems that govern human needs, in production activities with those of the natural environment will be.

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