

Sustainability requirements: the challenge for all land stewards (managers??)

The utilization of land by humans is now having significant impact on the delivery of planetary ecosystem services.

We do need to careful and logical look at what ecosystem services need to be marshalled and delivered to have any chance for a sustainable future.

Perhaps it sounds trite and simplistic, but if we do not get planetary ecosystem services back into a robust and productive state, the planet is well on the way to becoming very uncomfortable, and massively challenging to all life forms – and not especially humans. (see: <https://theconversation.com/what-are-planetary-boundaries-and-why-should-we-care-213762>)

The discussion paper of course addresses how we might put some brakes on the impending exhaustion of one of these ecosystem services (ie planetary temperature and climate regulation) in the area of land use and agriculture. This is commendable – but has to be seen as very narrow in focus and perhaps not that useful as a stand-alone assessment, or approach

However it is a real opportunity

An opportunity to look at the suite of ecosystem services we need for proper and well defined sustainability.

Evolutionary systems which resulted in the earth's range of land forms, climate, weather, plants and animals, have produced an amazing array of diversity within all. The associations and interdependencies between and amongst them is a key to sustainability

Perhaps that is why we humans are pushing the planet into stress. We cannot deal with diversity. We keep working to control, regiment and conform. Neither flexibility nor vision are our strengths.

So this process being gone through might well be seen as close to an impossible task

If we are really interested in doing something smart about dealing with excess production of greenhouse gasses from our land utilisation practices then there is really no choice. We have to go back to basics and look at just what our land utilization practices are all about. What do we really want from the land?

We definitely could benefit from an audit of ecosystem services. We definitely could benefit by having a far more diverse approach to land utilisation. Excess production of greenhouse gasses is an outcome of mono-culturing of our practices.

Let's be brave

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