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*Julien Lanouette-Babin*

### Managing Natural Resources on a Daily Basis

For thousands of years, fauna (animals and humans) and flora (plants) have coexisted on Earth. According to the Brundtland Report, sustainable development is one that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". To achieve this development, it is important to apply good management of our natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals. In this article, I will explain this concept of management and provide some tools used by professionals to help them in their work. Also, I will give you some suggestions that you can apply every day to follow the principles of sustainable development in your life.

Natural resource management (NRM) is a type of resource management with a particular focus on how it affects the quality of life of present and future generations. Also, NRM deals with managing the way people and natural landscapes interact. According to the US Bureau of Land Management, the most active areas of natural resource management are fisheries management, wildlife management, sometimes associated with ecotourism and range-land management, and forest management. Note that NRM approaches may vary depending on the type of ownership where natural resources are located: state, private, community or public (open access).

Natural resource management issues are inherently complex and controversial. However, different approaches exist to apply the principles of NRM. One approach is to combine conservation objectives with the generation of economic benefits for rural or local communities. Another approach, integrated natural resource management, is a process of managing natural resources in a systematic way while including multiple aspects of natural resources to achieve the production objectives of producers and other direct users as well as community objectives.





Several tools can be used by professionals to develop NRM approaches. Various audit frameworks, such as environmental audits or internal audits, help stakeholders identify areas for improvement and describe policies expected by the general public. Also, computer models are very useful in assisting NRM development; geographic information systems (GIS) are one of them and are powerful analytical tools, as they are able to overlap data sets to identify linkages. In addition, these information systems provide the capacity to capture and analyze spatial and geographical data.

Ultimately, NRM is mainly done by professionals and engineers who will make the best possible plans with the data at their disposal. However, there are several things you can do on a daily basis to apply NRM principles in the spirit of sustainable development:

- Follow the rules set by park staff or other types of public lands;
- Apply the concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle that are included in the 3RE theory (see articles written in the April to June 2021 ASEQ-EHAQ newsletters for more details);
- Support organic farming and environmentally friendly products that respect the planet;
- Use regional or local resources and reduce your carbon footprint on Earth;
- Consult the ASEQ-EHAQ's Eco Living Guide ([www.EcoLivingGuide.ca](http://www.EcoLivingGuide.ca)) for other initiatives you can take.

#### Online links:

- The Brundtland report, Written by LinusWealth, Sustainable Environment, published on July 3rd 2018, [https://www.sustainable-environment.org.uk/Action/Brundtland\\_Report.php](https://www.sustainable-environment.org.uk/Action/Brundtland_Report.php)
- Bureau of land management, US department of the interior, consulted on June 7th 2021, <https://www.blm.gov/>
- Natural resource management, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, last modification made on May 25th 2021, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_resource\\_management](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_resource_management)



- Geographic information system, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, last modification made on June 13th 2021, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic\\_information\\_system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_information_system)