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Spirituality and Biodiversity Management

Leaders in Biodiversity Conservation: Botanic
Gardens in the 21st Century”
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Problems

- Which is an appropriate **management model** for **biodiversity conservation**?
- What role **spirituality** can play in the **future of the Earth**?

Biodiversity is an intrinsic value

Biodiversity cannot be reduced to its instrumental value.

It is more than its economic, social and ecological functions.

Biodiversity cannot be managed only in a materialistic, instrumental way suggested by mainstream economics.

Spirituality may play a key role in biodiversity management in the 21st century.

Spirituality



“people’s multiform search for the deep meaning of life that interconnects them to all living beings and to ‘God’ or Ultimate Reality”.

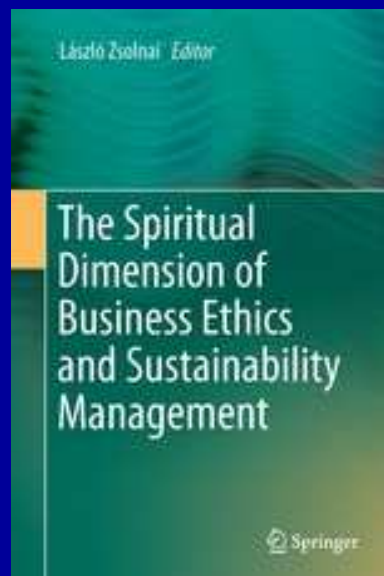
Spiritually based management

intrinsic motivation for action to **serve the greater good** of nature, future generations and society

and

measuring success in a holistic, multi-dimensional way, using broader value categories than money alone

Biodiversity can be preserved if we go beyond the materialistic and instrumental mindset of economics by embracing spirituality and non-material values. Within this non-materialistic framework cost-benefit calculations are no longer considered the essence of management but rather part of a broader concept of wisdom in leadership.



Sufficiency and Frugality

There is an older path to **reducing our impact on the planet** that feel familiar to **Evangelical Christians and Buddhists** alike. **Live simply. Meditate. Consume less. Think more. Get to know your neighbors. Borrow when you need to and lend when asked.** **E.F. Schumacher** praised that philosophy in his **Small Is Beautiful**: "Amazingly small means leading to extraordinarily satisfying results."

Renewing the Earth



Thank you!

