



Note 17
Planning for the future of Land Management
A philosophical framework
June 2021

What is land management?

Working with *Nature* for economic advantage and societal fulfilment

The five judgements required to ensure sustainable and economic land management

1. Logic (The science of Reason)
 - *Nature* is the primary source of all food, materials, beauty, energy, drugs, etc
 - Its exploitation by Society is the foundation of human progress

2. Ethics (The morality of Society)
 - *Nature* must be respected – when it is abused, it fails to deliver
 - *Nature* must be allowed to recover after delivery
 - *Nature* must be returned to a position of un-compromised sustainability after being exploited
 - Subject to the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics: irrecoverable energy is lost in all cases of change

3. Aesthetics (The beauty in Design)
 - If left alone (for long enough) *Nature* always looks right
 - If things don't look right, they aren't right – and they must be allowed to recover
 - Subject to the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics: the recovery path will never return the original conditions

4. Rhetoric (The messages of Persuasion)
 - *Nature* must be the first **consideration** of Society
 - Economics is the critical **determinant** in extracting benefits for Society from *Nature*
 - Sustainability is the critical **obligation** for Society when drawing on the benefits provided by *Nature*

5. Politics (The art of Compromise)
 - Being: How we extract what we want from *Nature* without destroying what we leave for the future
 - Being: How we strike the right balance among the competing constituencies in Society for the benefits from *Nature*, in a fair and equitable way