

## **Progress in Resource Management and Environmental Planning**

**Timothy O. Riordan and Turner R. Kerry**

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*Reviewed by:*

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In the 304 pages of this book which is composed of eleven chapters including an introduction and a conclusion, the authors pretty well displayed an indepth analysis of resources development and its adverse impacts upon the environment. They could show how resource development without paying attention to the possible environmental deterioration could defeat its major purposes which are more income and more goods and services. Resource development is generally associated with environmental problems because it may pollute water and air and deteriorate the soil by one way or another. The end results of the environmental deterioration range from unhealthy conditions to partial or total loss of productivity. The social costs of resource development could be higher than the social benefits in the long run if not carefully done.

The authors gave examples of the adverse impacts of resource development in Britain, U.S.A. and India. They showed that the desertification that resulted from unplanned cutting of trees and clearing of forests in developing countries in order to expand cultivated land or for the use of timber as a source of energy and/or as building materials was a very high price paid for lack of environmental planning. It made the people more poor instead of making them better off by developing their resources. Rainfall, forests, range, grazing lands and wild life will be adversely affected if resource developers and policy makers didn't take into consideration the environmental impact of their policies. If the private sector is too much concerned by

maximizing its own profits, the government should be too much concerned with the social costs and the future generations and their rights in the available resources.

The authors also highlighted the importance of soil conservation and suggested the appropriate methods to achieve that objective especially when resource development could be responsible for it. Non-point pollution and soil run-off are common problems associated with resource development. As for water, they could show how the quality of water is declining and good quality water is becoming increasingly scarce and expensive all over the world. That is because of water pollution resulting mainly from certain resource development projects.

Another important point discussed in this book is resource recycling and the utilization of solid waste as a means of cleaning the environment and at the same time getting some benefits from them.

They concluded that resource development without planning and without taking into consideration all possible environmental problems associated with it, the social costs of development could be higher than its social benefits.

The book is useful and very important for all of those teaching resources and environmental economics, economic development and planning. It is also useful for researchers and those who are interested in project analysis and evaluation and policy makers engaged in any aspect of resource development in general and the environmental problems in particular. The famine experienced by some developing countries especially in Africa since 1984 to date is a living evidence of most of the arguments of this book. Also, the incidence of the disastrous environmental pollution by nuclear hazards and poisonous gases in the Three Miles Island (in U.S.A.) and the Chernobyl (in U.S.S.R.) electric power plants and the insecticide plant in Bhopal (India) made it clear that resource development without planning for the possible environmental problems could be fatal and its resulting dangers are irreversible.