

Ecosystem Management: From Alarm to Action

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1 Unsustainability

At times it seems that there is nothing more captivating than territorial disputes within broadcast media. Whether in relation to the Realpolitik of armed conflicts, penalty attributions for climate change or attempting to define what sustainable development means for themselves. Such disputes rarely appear a domain for inspirational reason and struggle to be much of an example to follow. Within such a context, one may seek common society founded upon ideal principles through individual agreements. A good example of such efforts is the work of John Rawls in *"The Law of Peoples"*. However, whilst such contracts may appear ideal, they appear incomplete.

Rawls acknowledges that *"Peoples have a duty to assist other Peoples living under unfavourable conditions that prevent their having a just or decent political and social regime."* However, he seems to neglect the reality that everyone apparently lives under unfavourable conditions and, hence, has an obligation of service to the commons. Is it realistic that such an ideal society wouldn't be subject to an imperfect system of Nation States? Could a State of Nature be the root cause of such an imperfect regime? How could such a State of Nature be defined? If one were subject to such a regime, could there be a social expectation to serve in the common interest? What reasonable actions could an individual take to effectively serve? How could such actions be implemented, so as to develop a reasonable community?

There appears substantial duty that can be realised by simply paying attention to ones homework. A duty apparently shared by all, whatever ones walk of life. The outcome of such a perspective is a *"best we can do society"*, rather than anything approaching Rawls's *"ideal society of Peoples"*. Our argument is that the *"best we can do society"* actually provides the more complete form of contract that Rawls followers would need to meet their ends. What follows is a paper intended to set out a new and reasonable theoretical framework, underpinned by the idea of a *"Commonwealth of Peoples"*. Such a framework is designed so that followers can take effective action in the interest

of one global commons, with minimal attendance to the Realpolitik of Nation States. It is focussed on demand-side assurance and investment advisory to private entities, whilst holding a global perspective. Providing a platform that has the potential to universally scale across all end-use services.

One begins this investigation by establishing an understanding of common ecosystem performance, identifying methods for making an "*Ecosystem Performance Observation*". This is followed by developing a suitable cost-benefit ratio for "*Service Ratings*", with careful application of the Ecosystem Performance Observation formulae. Further, Service Ratings may be benchmarked against peers and compared to inform tailored service investment advice. This theoretical framework is supported with worked examples for each indicator, together with some ideas of suitable technologies for application.

2 Ecosystem Performance Observations

3 Service Ratings

4 Conclusions