

# **BOOK REVIEW**

**D. Egan, E. E. Hjerpe, J. Abrams (Eds.): HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION. INTEGRATING SCIENCE, NATURE, AND CULTURE.** – Island Press, Washington, Covelo, London, 2011, 410 p., ISBN-978-1-59726-689-5.

The book demonstrates an interlinking approach to the areas of natural and social sciences implying fruitful results for life in human affected landscape and its ecological restoring. In twenty-four chapters (plus introductory Chapter I and Synthesis in Chapter 26) grouped by four to form six parts of the book written by experts from around the world, it offers practical and theoretical knowledge, analysis, models, and guidelines for optimizing human participation in restoration projects. The book parts are as follows: I – Participation: Volunteers, II – Participation: Collaboration, III – Power: Politics, Governance, and Planning, IV – Power: Restoration, Economics, V – Perspective: Eco-cultural Restoration, VI – Perspective: Restoration-based Education. The structure resembles the points emphasized in the research approach by Naveh (2007) and also some attempts for the field integration within Middle-European territory (e.g. Kovář 1993, 1994, 1999).

Investigation of multidimensional human considerations (economic, social, and cultural values and the role they play in maintaining, restoring, or sustaining ecosystems) is put forward as the base for informed decisions (also Kovář et Maděra 2010). The assumption, that projects, designed for the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems, have to be economically viable and socially desirable as well as ecologically sound, is presented as the foundation of success. Key issues for management and society comprise of determining who decides what the optimal condition for an ecosystem is, what desirable parameters for an ecosystem should be, how and when that situation is to be attained, and how economic, social, and cultural values will be affected and mitigated for, where possible.

The book introduces often-neglected aspects of ecological restoration: It tests relationships between land managers and stakeholders, local people and volunteers, scholars/students as well as experienced specialists in a range of disciplines. The importance of the the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions is often higher than technical or biophysical knowledge. This up-to-date synthetic publication describes successful restoration in a world inhabited by humans. It contributes substantially to both, theory and practical application and is without a doubt useful for students as well as practitioners.

*Pavel Kovář\**

## REFERENCES

- KOVÁŘ, P., 1993.** *Between nature and culture: looking for the sources of ethics.* IN: **SVOBODOVÁ H. ET UHDE J. [EDS.]:** Place in space. Human culture in landscape. Proc. of the Second Int. Conf. of the Working Group "Culture and Landscape", IALE, Žďár nad Sázavou, September 1992. Wageningen, pp. 35-38.
- KOVÁŘ, P., 1994.** *Ego-system and ecosystem: a problem of different scalings in society and ecology.* IN: **HANOUSKOVÁ I., LAPKA M. ET CUDLÍNOVÁ E. [EDS.]:** Proc. of the 1st Int. Conf. "Ecology and Democracy, The Challenge of the 21st Century", 6-9th September 1994, České Budějovice, pp. 18-19.

**KOVÁŘ, P. [ED.], 1999.** *Nature and Culture in Landscape Ecology (Experiences for the 3rd Millennium)*, The Karolinum Press, Praha, 414 p.

**KOVÁŘ, P. ET MADĚRA, P., 2010.** *Adapting landscapes and response to global ecological change (Editorial)*. Journal of Landscape Ecology, 3(2): 5-6.

**NAVEH, Z., 2007.** *Transdisciplinary challenges in landscape ecology and restoration ecology*. Springer, Landscape Series, Volume 7, Dordrecht 2007, 423 p.

---

\* Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Benátská 2, 128 01 Prague 2, Czech Republic,  
e-mail: kovar@natur.cuni.cz