

Mitchell, Bruce, ed. (1991) *Resource Management and Development*. Toronto, Oxford University Press, 240 p. (ISBN 0-19-510777-6)

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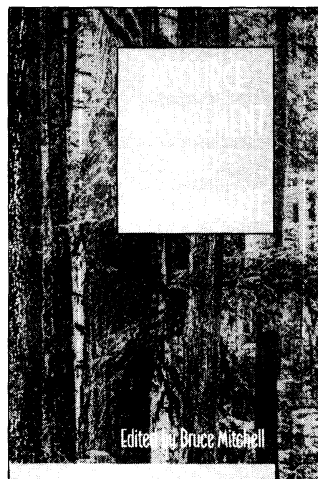
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profitable, mais qui connaît aujourd'hui bien des difficultés; quant aux investissements de Lavalin hors du secteur de l'ingénierie, ils furent la cause directe de la faillite de l'entreprise.

Si l'intérêt de l'ouvrage que signe ici Niosi est incontestable, on pourra lui reprocher son caractère monographique, qui permet difficilement de rendre compte de l'évolution de cette industrie dans son ensemble et d'en apprécier l'importance dans l'économie québécoise et canadienne. De plus, le choix des firmes étudiées dans le cadre de ces monographies est discutable: trois firmes dominantes, pour reprendre l'expression des auteurs, qui font pratiquement figures d'exception parmi les 4 410 sociétés de génie-conseil que comptait le Canada en 1986. On peut certes se demander dans quelle mesure des firmes de l'envergure de Lavalin, SNC et Momenco sont représentatives de l'industrie de l'ingénierie canadienne, où les petites sociétés sont largement prédominantes.

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MITCHELL, Bruce, ed. (1991) *Resource Management and Development*. Toronto, Oxford University Press, 240 p.
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Many recent books discuss the management of Earth's precious, yet often limited, natural resources in the face of increasing development pressures. Geologic, economic, political and social approaches have been presented. This book provides a broad-based geographic approach, with all but one of the twelve contributors identified with a geography department or division.

The book is divided into three parts, Emerging Concerns, Enduring Concerns (the bulk of the book), and Responses. Overall the book is united under the theme of conflict and uncertainty with a Canadian focus. Emerging Concerns opens with a rather technical discussion of climate change by Kenneth Hare. There are sections

of this chapter which may prove somewhat daunting to the intended audience, introductory university students; however, if they persevere, they will discover a well-written, informative analysis of the contemporary situation. The other chapter in this part deals with waste management in Canada. Virginia MacLean suggests the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycling should form the basis for modern waste management strategies. Unfortunately, no discussion of the important role played by composting facilities is included.

Enduring Concerns opens with an overview of agricultural and rural resources by M.J. Troughton. Using a rather lengthy historical perspective, he argues that the Canadian rural system is in danger of disintegration. A similarly bleak picture of Canada's forest industry is painted by Jules Dufour. Both articles are critical of current management practices. Dufour uses a recent management strategy developed by the Québec government to demonstrate how the interest of resource industry and resource users can be reconciled.

In a chapter on wildlife management, David Gauthier calls for a kinder, gentler approach to resource management and development. This approach is echoed in Philip Dearden's chapter on parks and protected areas. Both authors use the example of conflict over the destiny of the bison herd in Wood Buffalo National Park to argue for a more integrated ecosystem approach to environmental management. The theme of an integrated ecosystem approach is also presented in Reid Kreutzwiser's chapter on water resources. He suggests consideration of the economic and environmental effects on all users is necessary.

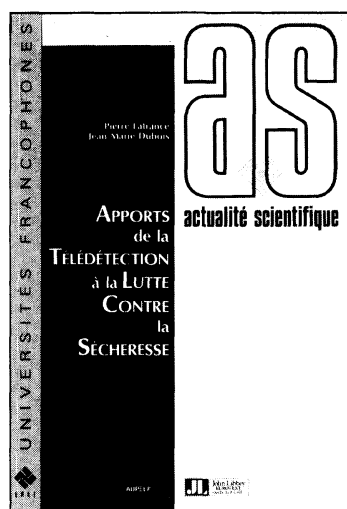
The next two chapters, by Paul Harker and Keith Storey, focus on the management of energy resources in Canada. The title of Harker's chapter, *Energy and Minerals in Canada*, is somewhat misleading since the chapter focuses on oil and electricity, and lacks a detailed discussion of minerals. Storey provides a thoughtful and up-to-date analysis of the Hibernia project in Newfoundland. His chapter is an excellent overview of environmental assessment and management in the context of a large-scale project.

The three chapters of Responses provide analyses of management approaches used to lessen the uncertainty apparent in some resource management issues. Thomas Merredith gives an excellent review of environmental assessment in Canada, clearly defining and explaining necessary terms and policies. Gordon Nelson defines sustainable development, a conservation strategy, and heritage in the context of national parks and protected areas. Many of his comments reflect back on points made in previous chapters. Finally, Bruce Mitchell sums up by introducing the concept of a BEAT approach to resource management: Balance, Ecosystems, Adaptiveness, Teamwork. He suggests the ecosystem approach proposed by other contributors must be integrated but cannot be comprehensive to the point where all detail is lost. A recognition of the interrelationships between the biophysical, human, and economic systems is necessary, but within a narrowly defined management framework.

Overall, despite the wide variety of topics discussed and a certain unevenness of writing style, this is an extremely valuable addition to the field of resource and environmental management. The book is well edited, focussed and provides a clear message. We must communicate and co-operate in order to reduce the conflict and uncertainty evident in resource and environmental issues. This book could be used as an adopted course text in relevant introductory or senior university courses.

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LAFRANCE, Pierre et DUBOIS, Jean-Marie (1990) *Apports de la télédétection dans la lutte contre la sécheresse*. Montrouge, John Libbey Eurotexte, 320 p. (ISBN 0-86196-261-3)



L'ouvrage regroupe 26 communications des Journées de télédétection de Thiès (1989) traitant, dans leur grande majorité, d'applications de la télédétection en milieu sec. Dix-neuf textes se rapportent à des exemples pris en Afrique de l'Ouest, trois en Afrique du Nord, un en Asie du Sud-Est et un en Amérique latine; enfin deux communications sont d'ordre méthodologique, sans référence à un territoire donné.

Comme la majorité des ouvrages publiés à partir de colloques, l'ensemble apparaît parfois inégal, mais la sélection faite par les éditeurs n'est pas à mettre en cause. Il est en effet hautement souhaitable, dans des recherches nouvelles comme les applications de la télédétection, d'envisager les différentes pistes présentées par les chercheurs: les recherches «aux marges» sont plus souvent génératrices d'ouvertures scientifiques prometteuses que les classiques applications, hélas parfois routinières.