

Theoretical and practical problems with ecosystem capacity, condition, and conversion

Conclusions

- The description of capacity in physical and monetary terms is inconsistent – it cannot be both a characteristic of a physical flow and a characteristic of a monetary asset
- The requirement that accountants decide what is sustainable in order to measure capacity is not appropriate
- The description of capacity and conversion is management dependant, open to interpretation (what is distinct and persistent?) and has implications for the measurement of ecosystem extent and condition
- The units of observation and their aggregation affect the recording of condition, conversion and capacity

Questions

- Do you agree with the conclusions?
- Have others encountered these theoretical and practical issues?
- If so, how have they or how could they be addressed?

A woodland ecosystem in poor condition with low ecosystem capacity

OR

An agricultural ecosystem in good condition with high ecosystem capacity

When does it convert from one to the other?

