

**Environmental**

**Ecocentrism**  
(nature centred)

Holistic world view. Minimum disturbance of natural processes. Integration of spiritual, social and environmental dimensions. Sustainability for the whole Earth. Self-reliant communities within a framework of global citizenship. Self-imposed restraint on resource use.

*Deep ecologists*

- 1 Intrinsic importance of nature for the humanity of man.
- 2 Ecological (and other natural) laws dictate human morality.
- 3 Biorights – the right of endangered species or unique landscapes to remain unmolested.

**Anthropocentrism**  
(people centred)

People as environmental managers of sustainable global systems. Population control given equal weight to resource use. Strong regulation by independent authorities required.

*Self-reliance soft ecologists*

- 1 Emphasis on smallness of scale and hence community identity in settlement, work and leisure.
- 2 Integration of concepts of work and leisure through a process of personal and communal improvement.
- 3 Importance of participation in community affairs, and of guarantees of the rights of minority interests. Participation seen as both a continuing education and a political function.

**Technocentrism**  
(technology centred)

Technology can keep pace with and provide solutions to environmental problems. Resource replacement saves resource depletion. Need to understand natural processes in order to control them. Strong emphasis on scientific analysis and prediction prior to policy-making. Importance of market and economic growth.

*Environmental managers*

- 1 Belief that economic growth and resource exploitation can continue assuming:
  - a suitable economic adjustments to taxes, fees, etc.
  - b improvements in the legal rights to a minimum level of environmental quality
  - c compensation arrangements satisfactory to those who experience adverse environmental and/or social effects.
- 2 Acceptance of new project appraisal techniques and decision review arrangements to allow for wider discussion or genuine search for consensus among representative groups of interested parties.

*Cornucopians*

- 1 Belief that people can always find a way out of any difficulties, whether political, scientific or technological.
- 2 Acceptance that pro-growth goals define the rationality of project appraisal and policy formulation.
- 3 Optimism about the ability of humans to improve the lot of the world's people.
- 4 Faith that scientific and technological expertise provides the basic foundation for advice on matters pertaining to economic growth, public health and safety.
- 5 Suspicion of attempts to widen basis for participation and lengthy discussion in project appraisal and policy review.
- 6 Belief that all impediments can be overcome given a will, ingenuity and sufficient resources arising out of growth.

Adapted from Figure 10.1: The evolution of environmentalist objectives and strategies in the seventies, page 372. First published in O'Riordan, T. 1981. *Environmentalism* London, UK. Pion Limited.

**Figure 7.1**

The range of environmental philosophies.