



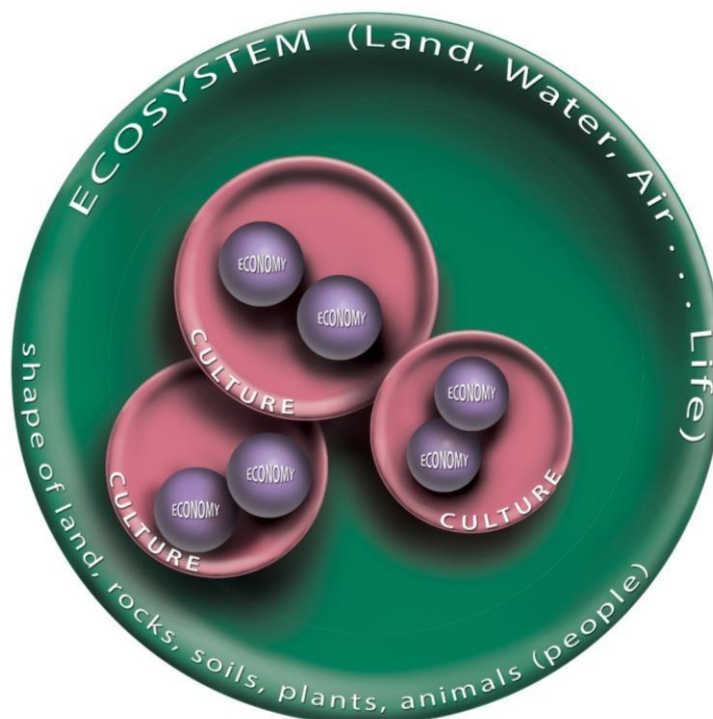
**The Silva Forest Foundation**  
*The Forest Sustains Us, We Do Not Sustain the Forest*

[www.sivafor.org](http://www.sivafor.org)  
[hhammond@netidea.com](mailto:hhammond@netidea.com)  
Phone: 250-226-7222

**Nature-Directed Stewardship--a short definition**  
by  
**Herb Hammond**

Preface: A *hierarchical relationship* underpins ecologically and culturally sustainable protection and use of ecosystems. Economies are part of human cultures, and human cultures are part of ecosystems. Therefore, protecting ecosystem functioning provides for healthy human cultures and the economies that are part of these cultures. This understanding is the foundation for a respectful, *kincentric relationship* where human beings see themselves as related to all beings and as dependent upon the integrity of all aspects of ecosystems, i.e. home systems.

**Hierarchical Relationship for Nature-Directed Planning**



*Nature-directed Stewardship*, guided by Indigenous knowledge and western science, is a practical, tested way of manifesting a kincentric relationship.

*Note: Nature-Directed Stewardship (NDS) was formerly termed Ecosystem-based Conservation Planning (EBCP) by the Silva Forest Foundation*

**Definition:** Earth-based values underlie a system of ecosystem *protection, restoration, and human use*. As a first priority, nature-directed stewardship plans (NDSP) maintain natural ecological integrity and biological diversity across the full range of spatial and temporal scales. NDSPs also provides for ecologically and culturally sustainable communities and their economies. A key part of NDS is the establishment of *networks of ecological reserves at multiple spatial scales*, meaning that nature-directed stewardship plans are appropriate for areas as large as continents, and as small as backyards.

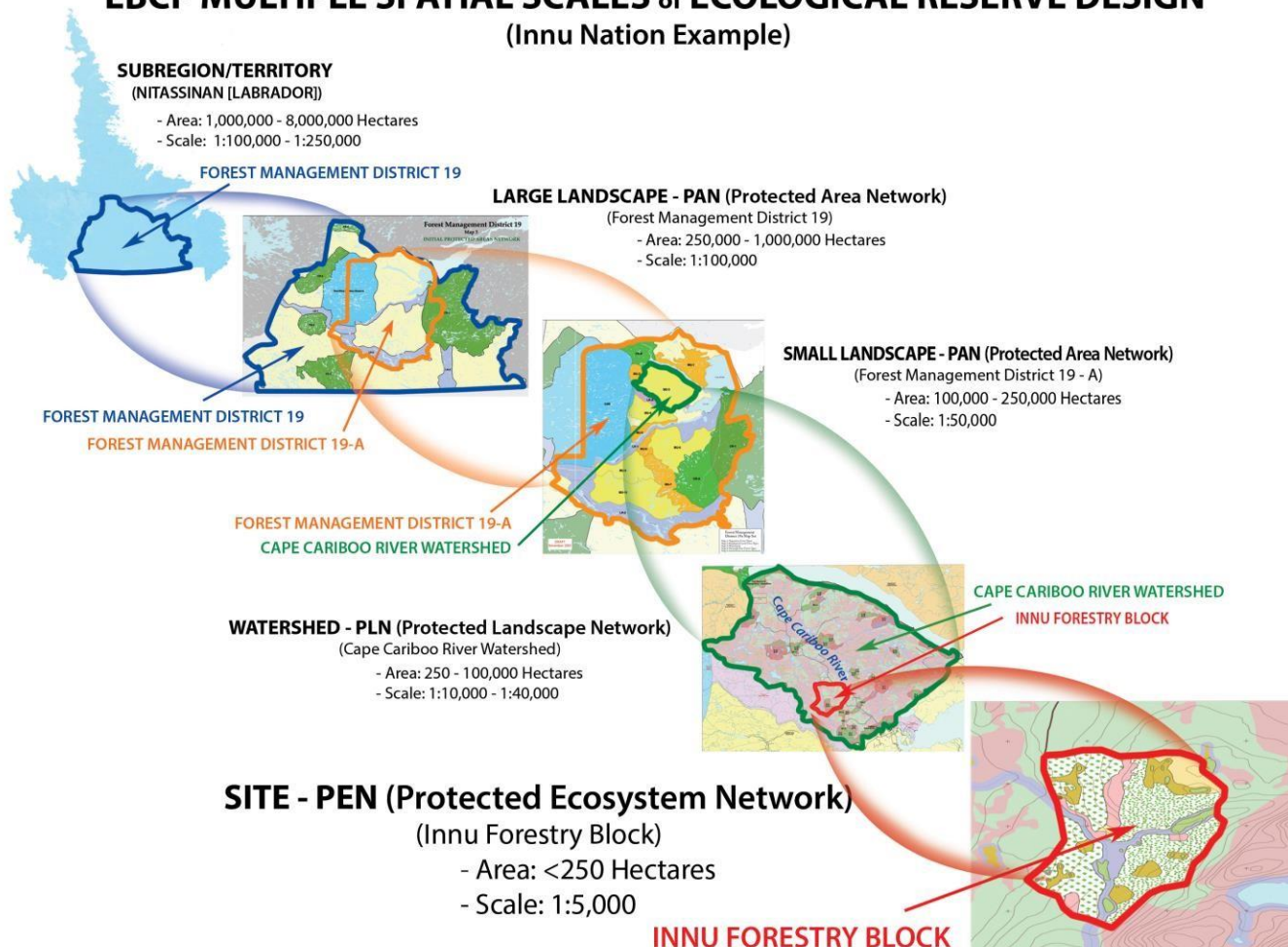
- **Natural** reflects pre-industrial ecological conditions and includes Indigenous management systems.
- **Ecological Integrity** means protecting, maintaining, or restoring natural ecosystem composition, structure, and function.
- Nature-directed stewardship plans are vital to **mitigate the effects of global heating** and **assist species to adapt to climate disruption**.
- Nature-directed stewardship planning is **inclusive** of a wide range of human activities, and recognizes that healthy human communities provide the necessary human resources to implement nature-directed stewardship plans.
- The NDS system of protection and human use may be applied to the **spectrum of ecosystems**, and to the **range of conditions** from unmodified landscapes to urban landscapes, and from terrestrial ecosystems to marine ecosystems.
- Diverse, conservation-based **community economies** are facilitated by nature-directed plans and, taken together, comprise a regenerative global economy.
- Moving to nature-directed stewardship planning and living may be achieved through a short **transition period** that shifts human activities from exploitation to restoration and regeneration. Transition means redistribution of wealth to fund restorative and regenerative activities. Transition shifts perverse subsidies that facilitate ecosystem exploitation, to ecologically and socially responsible subsidies that promote restoration and regeneration. The development of diverse, inclusive community-based economies founded upon nature-directed stewardship plans is the cornerstone of an effective transition period.

### Conceptual View of Nature-Directed Stewardship Plan



To protect Earth’s ecosystems, nature-directed stewardship plans exclude human activities from large areas and provide for connectivity and well distributed ecosystem protection where human activities occur.

## EBCP MULTIPLE SPATIAL SCALES of ECOLOGICAL RESERVE DESIGN (Innu Nation Example)



Across multiple spatial scales, NDSPs design *precautionary* networks of *ecological reserves*, i.e. protected areas, consistent with the recommendations of conservation biologists as expressed in E.O. Wilson's book, *Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, and with the ways that Indigenous management systems relate to the land and water—the ecosystems where they live. Design criteria for networks of ecological reserves respect ecological limits, maintain connectivity, and ensure protection of the range of landforms and ecosystem types. Components of protected networks are well distributed across the plan area.

### Experience:

Learning from Indigenous mentors and synthesizing western science, the Silva Forest Foundation (SFF) developed and applied the process of ecosystem-based conservation planning, now referred to as *nature-directed stewardship planning*. Working primarily with Indigenous people and other rural communities, SFF has developed more than 25 nature-directed stewardship plans (NDSPs) across Canada and facilitated the development of NDSPs in other parts of the world. Herb Hammond, nature-directed stewardship planner and forest ecologist, has led numerous workshops and conducted various analyses over the past 40 years to assist Indigenous nations and other rural communities to understand and implement nature-directed stewardship planning.

*Maintaining Whole Systems on Earth's Crown: Ecosystem-based Conservation Planning for the Boreal Forest*, was written in 2009 by Herb Hammond and published by SFF as a practical handbook to implement nature-directed planning and to evaluate existing plans and activities for their conformance with NDSP.

Principles:

Nature-directed stewardship planning consists of eight interdependent, interconnected principles.

- *Principle 1:* Focus on what to *protect*, then on what to use.
- *Principle 2:* Recognize the *hierarchical relationship* between ecosystems, cultures, and economies.
- *Principle 3:* Apply the *precautionary principle* to all plans and activities.
- *Principle 4:* Protect, maintain, and where necessary, restore *ecological connectivity* and the *full range* of *natural* composition, structure, and function of enduring features, natural plant communities, and animal habitats and ranges.
- *Principle 5:* Facilitate the protection and/or restoration of *Indigenous land use*.
- *Principle 6:* Ensure that the planning process is *inclusive* of a diversity of values and interests.
- *Principle 7:* Provide for *diverse, ecologically sustainable, community-based economies* that function within *ecological limits*.
- *Principle 8:* Practice *adaptive management*.