Integral Ecology, Frugality and Intrinsic Value of Nature

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Fight for the Artic

For millennia, a thick layer of sea ice has defended the pristine, beautiful and utterly unique marine world of the Artic waters around Svalbard, in the Barents Sea. But global warming is melting the ice and industrial fishing has started moving in, leaving a trail of destruction behind.
Svalbard, the Barents Sea

Svalbard's seas hold some of the last pristine environments left on earth, home to some of our planet's most incredible and mysterious creatures which thrived in this remote area that was off-limits to humans, protected beneath the ice.
Beluga whales, narwhals, sea butterflies and lion's mane jellyfish

Because of global warming, the Barents Sea has lost 59% of its sea ice coverage since 1980 – uncovering new territory open to exploitation by industrial fishing fleets. We've barely even begun to discover all the incredible natural wonders beneath the Arctic ice.
Greenpeace in Action

The Arctic Sunrise will watch over the Arctic, protecting its marine life from destructive, profit-driven fishing.
Laudato si’ calls for frugal consumption and accepting the intrinsic value of nature

Frugality

We “generates so much waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary”. (Pope Francis 2015 para 123)

We should “modifying consumption, developing an economy of waste disposal and recycling” (Pope Francis 2015 para 180)
„We have too many means and only a few insubstantial ends”. (Pope Francis 2015 para 203) To develop „more sober lifestyles, while reducing their energy consumption and improving its efficiency”.
(Pope Francis 2015 para 193)
„a decrease in the pace of production and consumption can at times give rise to another form of progress and development. (Pope Francis 2015 para 191)

“an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. (…) It is the conviction that ‘less is more’.” (Pope Francis 2015 para 222)
Simplicity “allows us to appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack”. (Pope Francis 2015 para 222)

“Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs” (Pope Francis 2015 para 223)

Intrinsic value of nature

Natural beings and ecosystems “have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system”. (Pope Francis 2015 para 140)
“environmental protection cannot be assured solely on the basis of financial calculations of costs and benefits. The environment is one of those goods that cannot be adequately safeguarded or promoted by market forces”.
(Pope Francis 2015 para 190)

Nature in mainstream economics

The value of natural entities is calculated on the basis of their usefulness for humans and expressed in money terms.
Price is a wrong model

By the market mechanism the value of natural entities cannot be determined.

John Gowdy
Rensselaer University
New York

There is no algorithmic solution

Ecological and social values are basically incommensurable.

Joan Martinez-Alie
Univ. Autonoma
Barcelona
The Commonwealth of Life

Decisions and policies related to nature require making qualitative and multiperspective considerations and the proper use of wisdom.

Sustainable Financial and Economic Systems