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**Introduction to Environmental Management**

Environmental management is a process concerned with human–environment interactions, and seeks to identify: what is environmentally desirable; what are the physical, economic, social and technological constraints to achieving that; and what are the most feasible options

Environmental management displays the following characteristics:

● it supports sustainable development;

● it is often used as a generic term;

● it deals with a world affected by humans

● it has to integrate and bring together different development viewpoints;

● it seeks to co-ordinate science, social science, policy making and planning;

● it is a proactive process;

● it recognises the desirability of meeting, and if possible exceeding, basic human needs;

● the timescale involved extends well beyond the short term, and concern ranges from local to global;

● it should identify opportunities as well as address threats and problems;



**Note that :**

* Environmental management is developing. It has still to be adequately adapted to suit all conditions, and will continue to have to be improved.
* Environmental management demands a proactive approach to development and must integrate closely with other regulations.
* Without proactive environmental management, development is unlikely to be sustainable and people will be more vulnerable to disasters.



Environmental management goals include:

● sustaining and, if possible, improving existing resources;

● the prevention and resolution of environmental problems;

● establishing limits;

● founding and nurturing institutions that effectively support environmental research, monitoring and management;

● warning of threats and identifying opportunities;

● where possible improving ‘quality of life’;

● identifying new technology or policies that are useful.







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Environmental managers may follow risk-aversion strategies, including:

● working to safe minimum standards;

● adopting sustainability constraints;

● following a ‘win–win’ or ‘least regrets’ approach

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Environmental management may be subdivided into a number of fields, including (not in any particular order):

● sustainable development issues;

● environmental assessment, modelling, forecasting and ‘hindcasting’ (using history or palaeoecology for future scenario prediction), and impact studies;

● corporate environmental management activities;

● pollution recognition and control;

● environmental enforcement and legislation;

● environment and development institutions (including NGOs) and ethics;

● environmental management systems and quality issues;

● environmental planning and management;

● assessment of stakeholders involved in environmental management;

● environmental perceptions and education;

● community participation for environmental management/sustainable development;

● institution building for environmental management/sustainable development;

● biodiversity conservation;

● natural resources management;

● environmental rehabilitation/restoration;

● environmental politics;

● environmental aid and institution building.

**What is an Environmental Management System?**

The part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing achieving and reviewing the environmental policy.” ISO14001







