

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910298449903321
Titolo	Earth Stewardship : Linking Ecology and Ethics in Theory and Practice / / edited by Ricardo Rozzi, F. Stuart Chapin III, J. Baird Callicott, S.T.A. Pickett, Mary E. Power, Juan J. Armesto, Roy H. May Jr
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2015
ISBN	3-319-12133-2
Edizione	[1st ed. 2015.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (464 p.)
Collana	Ecology and Ethics, , 2198-9729 ; ; 2
Disciplina	179.1
Soggetti	Life sciences Ethics Ecology Life Sciences, general
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index.
Nota di contenuto	Foreword; Peter Raven -- Acknowledgements -- 1. Introduction; Ricardo Rozzi et al -- PART I. A BIOCULTURAL APPROACH TO EARTH STEWARDSHIP -- 2. Earth Stewardship and Biocultural Ethics: South American Perspectives; Ricardo Rozzi -- 3. Ecological Science and Practice: Dialogues across Cultures and Disciplines; Sharon E. Kingsland -- 4. Biogeochemistry and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Practices in Japan; Hideaki Shibata -- 5. Aesthetic and Moral Appreciation of Nature in Philosophical Traditions of China; Shan Gao -- 6. The Antlers of a Trilemma: Rediscovering Andean Sacred Sites; Fausto O. Sarmiento -- 7. Spirituality and the Pachamama in the Andean Aymara Worldview; Vicenta Mamani-Bernabé -- 8. Andean Llamas and Earth Stewardship; Roy H. May, Jr -- 9. The Politics of Earth Stewardship in the Uneven Anthropocene; Laura Ogden et al -- PART II. INTEGRATING STEWARDSHIP ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND SCALES -- 10. The Centennial Return of Stewardship to the Ecological Society of America; J. Baird Callicott -- 11. Earth Stewardship: An Initiative by the Ecological Society of America to Foster Engagement to Sustain Planet Earth; F. Stuart Chapin III et al -- 12. Geographical and Thematic

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Sommario/riassunto

Earth Stewardship implies a paradigm shift that links facts and values, multiple forms of ecological knowledge and practices, and broadens the mission of the ecological sciences. To confront global environmental change it is necessary, but not sufficient, to conduct long-term socio-ecological research. It is also necessary to act. Earth stewardship calls on ecologists to engage not only in the production of knowledge, but also in public discourse, decision making, education, and governance. As a means of engaging science and society in rapidly reducing current rates of anthropogenic damage to the biosphere, the Ecological Society of America (ESA) launched the Earth Stewardship Initiative in 2009. Since then, this call for action has been appealing not only to ecologists, but also to anthropologists, sociologists, engineers, economists, religion scholars, philosophers, conservation biologists, other professionals, decision makers, and citizens interested in environmental, economic, and social sustainability. This book advances the Stewardship Initiative toward a planetary scale, presenting a range of ecological worldviews, practices, and institutions in different parts of the world and to use them as the basis for considering what we could learn from one another, and what we could do together. Today, inter-hemispheric, intercultural, and transdisciplinary collaborations for Earth Stewardship are an imperative. Chapters document pathways that are being forged by socio-ecological research networks, religious alliances, policy actions, environmental citizenship and participation, and new forms of conservation, based on both traditional and contemporary ecological knowledge and values. “The Earth Stewardship Initiative of

the ESA fosters practices to provide a stable basis for civilization in the future. The biocultural ethic emphasizes that we are co-inhabitants in the natural world; no matter how complex our inventions may become” (Peter Raven).
