

## CORECO

Corporate environmental responsibility and the ecosystem approach

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Sites of research: Department of Comparative Religion (UT), Department of Biology (UT), Finland Futures Research Centre (UT), MTT Agrifood Finland

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The aim of this project has been twofold: (1) to study the models of corporate environmental responsibility and (2) to study corporate responsibility in terms of the ecosystem approach, aiming at a systems-based understanding and management of social and ecological systems. The key task is to identify and systematise the models of environmental responsibility, how they are related to economic and social responsibility, and how these models cohere with the ecosystem approach in environmental impact assessment. The principal outcome will be an understanding of how environmental issues are integrated into social and business decision-making, and what their implications in both environmental and economic terms are.

The data has been collected from key informants in business organizations and from the selected areas of environmental impacts. The methods have been those of qualitative ethnography (thematic interview, participant observation, systematic data elicitation methods, textual studies), and systems thinking. The theoretical tools of the project have come from ecosystem thinking, cultural studies and business studies.

Publications:

Kamppinen M & Nurmi P (ed.) *Vastuullinen liiketoiminta ja systeemiajattelu* (Corporate responsibility and systems thinking) (Coreco research papers, University of Turku 2007, 166 pp.)

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systems. Case study Finnish Forest Lapland. *Ecological Complexity*, doi:10.1016/j.ecocom.2009.12.002

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Heinonen, Jenni 2010: *Maahanmuuttajayrittäjät ja vastuullinen liiketoiminta* (Immigrant entrepreneurs and corporate responsibility). Coreco project, University of Turku. 67pp.

Vihervaara P 2010: *Impact of the Globalizing Forest Industry on Ecosystem Services: Corporate Responsibility and the Sustainable Management of Coupled Human-Environment Systems*. Annales Universitatis Turkuensis Ser A11 Tom 248. Doctoral dissertation (Section of Biodiversity and Environmental Science, University of Turku).

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Vihervaara P, Marjokorpi A, Kumpula T, Walls M & Kamppinen M (in print): Ecosystem services of fast-growing tree plantations – A case study on integrating social valuations with land-use changes in Uruguay. *Forest Policy and Economics*.