

## REFERENCES

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## BOOK Review

### Caring for the earth

by D.J. van Niekerk

*Caring for the Earth: South Africa—A strategy for sustainable living*, by John Yeld. Southern African Nature Foundation in partnership with the World Conservation Union. Soft cover. Tel.: (02231) 72801.

The publication of *Caring for the Earth—South Africa* is a significant step in the follow-up to *Caring for the Earth*—the parent document which was published in 1991 by IVCN, UNEP and WWF—published by the South African Nature Foundation in partnership with the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

A golden thread runs through this most stimulating book: 'South Africans must now undertake the difficult task of rehabilitating those eco-systems that have been seriously degraded, and conserving those that remain healthy and productive'.

According to author the ultimate goal is a global sustainable society, which can be achieved by applying the following nine principles for sustainable living:

- respect and care for the community of life
- improve the quality of life

- conserve the Earth's vitality and diversity
- minimize the depletion of non-renewable resources
- keep within the Earth's carrying capacity
- change personal attitudes and practices
- enable communities to care for their own environments
- provide a national framework for integrating development and conservation
- create a global alliance.

The author expands the argument by suggesting suitable priority actions for each of the nine principles.

Part 2 of the book discusses areas where additional actions for sustainable living is required. These include land, energy, water agriculture, forestry, population, growth, marine resources, the coastal zone, urbanization, environmental education, mining, commerce and industry, and alien invasives, as well as individual action.

The author concludes with recommendations as to how strategy should be implemented with specific reference to funding the transition to sustainability.