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ETHICAL SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: RECONCILING HUMAN NEEDS WITH CONSERVATION GOALS

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Abstract

The intersection of human needs and environmental conservation presents a profound ethical challenge in contemporary philosophy. This paper delves into the complex balance required to satisfy the demands of a burgeoning human population while safeguarding the planet's ecological integrity. By critically examining key ethical theories—utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics—the study explores the moral imperatives shaping our environmental interactions. It advocates for a holistic ethical approach that moves beyond anthropocentrism to integrate human welfare with the intrinsic value of nature. Through detailed analysis of case studies from varied cultural and ecological settings, the paper elucidates the ethical conflicts that arise in reconciling economic development, social justice, and environmental sustainability. The proposed model promotes a participatory and adaptive ethic, which emphasizes the necessity of flexible yet principled decision-making. This approach seeks to balance human rights with ecological constraints, offering a framework that addresses the often conflicting goals of human advancement and environmental preservation. By fostering a sustainable coexistence, the paper aims to honor the interdependence of all life forms and provide a practical path for ethical stewardship in a rapidly changing world.

Keywords: Environmental Ethics, Anthropocentrism, Holistic Approach, Sustainability, Ethical Theory, Social Justice, Participatory Ethics.

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