

3rd National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment  
Education for a Sustainable and Secure Future

**Environmental Security**

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Recommendations:

Environmental Security is the maintenance, restoration, and protection of ecosystem services, such as soil productivity, availability of water, pollination, and others. These services are essential to the maintenance of all living systems of which human social, political, and economic systems are part. Education across all sectors is important to achieve the required paradigm change. To this end:

Funding agencies like the National Science Foundation should support multidisciplinary research on the complex social, political, economic, and cultural relationships inherent in environmental security issues.

Federal resource management agencies and educational institutions should promote transboundary, collaborative, multidisciplinary cooperation on the science and management of ecosystem services.

Federal resource management agencies and educational institutions jointly should develop concrete strategies and tools aimed at critical analysis, understanding, and interpretation of complex ecosystem interactions and dynamic relationships, such as dynamic simulation modeling.

National decision makers need to include ecosystem science and scientists in national security policies and activities where they relate to the environment.

Educational programs should be developed to build intellectual capacity, awareness, and emergency preparedness to deal with chronic and acute ecological degradation and its consequences.

Private foundations and NGOs in environmental education should support and encourage curriculum design in primary and secondary school programs on the subject of ecological sustainability and the vulnerability of ecosystem services.

The public media should be encouraged and assisted to convey the understanding derived from research in environmental security.