



Common Boundaries

The Theory and Practice of Environmental Property

By **Michael Cox**

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REVIEWS

“Common Boundaries will quickly become a must-read book for researchers and students interested in environment, governance and property. A brilliant meditation on the origins of cooperation and a critical analysis of prospects for sustainability, this thought-provoking contribution pushes the boundaries of what we know and identifies future directions we must go.”

— *Arun Agrawal, Samuel Trask Dana Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan*

“Michael Cox has written a very readable account of the theory and practice of collective action as applied to environmental governance. Embedding his discussion in the framework provided by Garrett Hardin and especially Elinor Ostrom, he moves seamlessly from game theory to case studies, exploring various mechanisms, for example involving boundaries and property rights, that can lead to cooperation and collective action. The book will be of interest both to students across a wide spectrum, and to interested non-specialists.”

— *Simon Levin, James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University*

“Michael Cox’s synthetic effort succeeds at offering an updated institutional theory of the diversity of environmental property rights. He does so by aptly weaving foundational concepts and empirical research on collective action, evolutionary biology, behavioral economics, environmental psychology, among others. The result is a theoretically innovative and policy-relevant contribution for students and practitioners seeking more nuanced approaches for environmental governance, better reflecting the diverse ways humans interact with a rapidly changing environment.”

— *Xavier Basurto, Truman and Nellie Semans/Alex Brown & Sons Professor, Duke University*

ABOUT THE BOOK

How do we – and how should we – engage with the natural environment through the concepts of rights and responsibilities? In this book, Michael Cox develops the theory and practice of environmental property rights, moving beyond simplistic assumptions that do not reflect the diversity of arrangements we see in the world. Recognizing this diversity will help us craft better responses to environmental problems in the future with an interdisciplinary foundation in what has worked, or not worked, in the past. Synthesizing a variety of methods and disciplines, Cox explores rights-based environmental policies as well as different cultural approaches to environmental ownership. The result is a book that helps the reader understand the full range of possibilities when it comes to environmental ownership.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Cox is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at Dartmouth College. He has a PhD in Public Affairs from Indiana University, where he studied under Elinor Ostrom.

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