

**James Aronson**

**CNRS, France & MBG, USA**

[james.aronson@cefe.cnrs.fr](mailto:james.aronson@cefe.cnrs.fr)

(in coll. With Prof. James Blignaut and the RNC Alliance)

[www.rncalliance.org](http://www.rncalliance.org)

**Restoring natural capital - a priority for global society: Getting scientists, economists and politicians to work together**



CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE



Missouri Bot. Garden

## Basic definitions

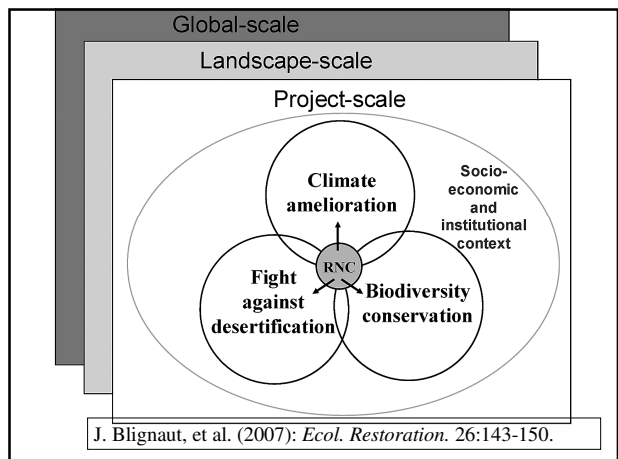
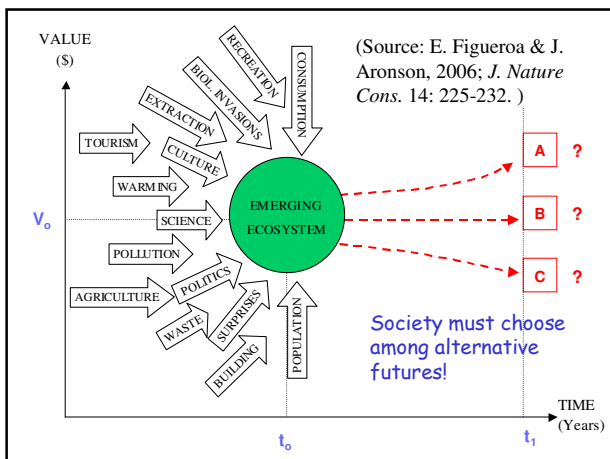
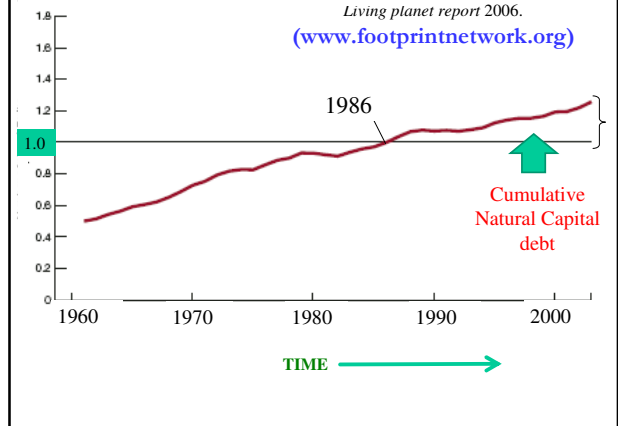
- **Natural Capital:** The stock of natural resources that are renewable (ecosystems, organisms), non-renewable (petroleum, coal, minerals, etc.), replenishable (the atmosphere, potable water, fertile soils), and cultivated (crops, forest plantations, etc.), and from which flow natural goods and services (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005).
- **Restoring Natural Capital (RNC):** Investment in natural capital stocks and their maintenance in ways that will improve the functions of both natural and human-managed ecosystems, while contributing to the socio-economic wellbeing of people, through holistic restoration of ecosystems, ecologically sound improvements to lands managed as production systems for useful purposes, improvements in the utilization of biological resources, and the establishment or enhancement of socio-economic systems that facilitate the incorporation of knowledge and awareness of the value of natural capital into daily activities
- (Aronson, Milton & Blignaut, eds 2007. *Restoring Natural Capital: Science, Business, Practice*. Island Press).

- **Abstract:** Increasing human population growth and resource consumption place ever-greater stresses and demands on all ecosystems to deliver goods and services. Thus, we must alter consumption patterns and invest much seriously in restoring natural capital (RNC).
- Investing in Natural capital, also known as ecological infrastructure, should be seen as an investment rather than a cost, as noted by the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) program of the EU and the UN. This will require new paradigms to be developed in a transdisciplinary fashion.
- In particular, climate change, biodiversity + ecosystems, and desertification can and should all be addressed simultaneously. RNC-thinking facilitates meeting this challenge.

## EARTHS

Living planet report 2006.

([www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org))





*Brown World:* leaking, not autogenic, unhealthy  
*Green World:* sustainable, autogenic, healthy

For more info on the ecology-economics interface related to restoration, please visit: [www.rncalliance.org](http://www.rncalliance.org)