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the way that we manage our land and so the way that we manage our rural lands is a major factor in reducing land degradation and to strive to achieve the goal of sustainable land use.

This book was chosen to convey its dominant theme: *to widen the field of resource management and use, market information systems for the paper management of physical resources*. It includes a number of critical components to such Resource Management Systems including remote sensing, geographical information systems (GIS), modelling, resource management and decision support systems. It covers the principles and practices associated with these components as well as their integration. The system is to emphasise the holistic way in which the management of resources must be conducted if we are to achieve the twin goals of maximising productivity and maintaining environmental quality.

It is clear that these physical resources may be managed adequately using current tools and techniques. However, this is rarely the case if the second criterion of resource management is adopted. How does this resource degradation have to do with resource management? Does our method of management affect the quality of that management, the nature of the resource management tools and how they are used to improve the levels of resource degradation? This chapter explores some of these issues.

After exploring the status of physical resources, specifically "Is there a reason to be concerned?" "What are the reasons why this situation exists," or "What is the nature of this concern?" it considers which types of these concerns can be addressed by the use of better management tools or techniques, or "How can better tools and techniques help deal with these concerns?"

Addressing the question of how can resource management use these tools and techniques, the chapter explores the characteristics of resource management that may be part of the problem and how can these tools and techniques address some of these limitations?"

The chapter then goes on to consider the nature of the information that is required for good resource management, and how geographic information fits into this role. It finishes with a description of how the book is structured to assist the reader in understanding the need and role of Resource Management.