

Ecological Intelligence: Summary

We are advocating a return to Ecological Intelligence (EI) to ensure that Artificial Intelligence (AI) stays under the control of humanity.

EI is the way that all biological organisms in Nature make the decisions that control their behavior. EI is not computational. It does not use real number mathematics and probabilities. Instead it functions by connecting instinct, emotion, and intuition with the personal experiences of an organism to generate an understanding of what to do.

EI evolved as an integral component of life itself. It is the way that early humans and indigenous peoples lived. It is still the way that most of us routinely function in our daily lives. However, the rise of civilizations and urban environments has provided opportunities for the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few. These practices increasingly deviate from how EI has functioned for millions of years.

With the development of computers and AI this deviation has now become extreme. Computation increasingly controls our economies, governments, businesses, technologies, and environment. There is diminishing empathy, compassion, and ethics, but increasing opportunity for large scale abuse.

To resolve this let's return to, and implement, how Nature functions with EI.

First, there is no waste in Nature. Everything is recycled.

Second, Nature is essentially democratic. Organisms make their own decisions.

Third, there is no extreme wealth inequality in Nature.

Fourth, all biological organisms use a carbon energy currency; $C + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$

By consciously thinking about EI when we make decisions beyond our personal daily activities, we can resolve some of our most pressing current problems.

Working with ecological systems and ecotechnology will provide guidance and understanding of how Nature has been so successful for a billion years.