



ESEE NEWS

Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

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ESEE News is published by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Its purpose is to inform ESEE members of developments both within the Society and in other areas of potential interest. It is published up to four times a year and is sent free to ESEE members. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

The European Society for Ecological Economics is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to the development of theory and practice in ecological economics in Europe. Membership is open to all interested individuals working in Europe or in other areas on request. For membership details please contact the Secretariat.

Lisbon ready to welcome ESEE 2005 conference

Around 250 researchers from around the world are expected in Lisbon this month to take part in the ESEE's Sixth Biennial Conference. The conference is being hosted by the Ecological Economics and Environmental Management Centre (ECOMAN) in the Faculty of Sciences and Technology in the New University of Lisbon. The local organising committee, chaired by ECOMAN's Professor Paula Antunes will welcome a truly international crowd.

Over the course of 3 days the conference will see close to 140 parallel papers presented, with a further 40 posters, and 13 special sessions featuring an additional 60 presentations complementing the topics of the main sessions.

Gulbenkian Foundation Art Gallery complex



Professor Mick Common, of the University of Strathclyde, will launch the conference with a plenary address at the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday 14th June, at 5pm. Further plenary speakers include David Gee of the European Environment Agency and Phil Ineson from the Stockholm Environment Institute speaking on policy issues; John Dryzek of the Australian National University and Luisa Schmidt from the University of Lisbon addressing governance and communication; and Andy Ford, Washington State University, and Tim Allen, University of Wisconsin, speaking on modelling and complexity.

Parallel paper sessions will address topics including Participation and Governance, Environmental Policy Instruments, Evaluation Methods and Processes, Modelling and Complexity, and Environmental Values and Ethics

Special sessions will cover another wide range including Transition Management, Science and Epistemology, Innovation and Policy, Scenarios for Sustainable Futures, Corporate Responsibility, and Integrated Assessment.

European Environment Agency chief warns of 'climate change refugees'

Global warming could turn inhabitants of Europe's northern and southern fringes into "climate change refugees", forced to move towards the centre of the continent, European Environment Agency chief Jacqueline McGlade claimed in a speech reported by Reuters. Ms McGlade was supporting representatives of Arctic peoples currently touring Europe to highlight risks of climate change to their region.

COMMITTEES

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and Society
Development and
Planning Matters*

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**** ESEE Business Meeting ****

Wednesday 16th June 2005
New University of Lisbon

Summer School

Procedures and Toolkits for
Integrated and Participatory
Analyses of Sustainability

July 17 – 23, 2005

<http://www.liphe4.org/>
info@liphe4.org

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Scope of the summer school

The purpose of the summer school is to provide a reference point on the state of the art in the field of sustainable development studies to young researchers and students. In particular, the school will present a complete overview, both theoretical and applied, of recent analytical and participatory approaches for promoting sustainable development. Resources draw from the fields of Integrated Assessment, Social Multicriteria Evaluation, Participatory Approaches, as well as Spatial and Biophysical Analysis. Students will

experience an intense level of interaction with peers and senior researchers during a 5-day residential course.

School Themes

- (i) Integrated Assessment for sustainability epistemological and conceptual issues
- (ii) Social metabolism on multiple scales
- (iii) Tool and methods for organizing scientific information for decision making
- (iv) Resources, time, and land – operationalizing biophysical constraints
- (v) Geographical Information Systems to Integrated Analysis of Sustainability
- (vi) Participatory approaches and Multicriteria Evaluation Methods

Please download the detailed schedule of the Liphe4 – CEMACAM Summer School here

<http://www.liphe4.org/programme.doc>

Case studies and Institutional links

The School has agreed with the UN sponsored Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Initiative to incorporate case studies developed under the sub-Global working group. The list of case studies is available at:

<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/subglobal.overview.aspx?>

Three candidates elected to the ESEE Administrative Board

All three of the candidates standing for the ESEE Administrative Board were elected by postal ballot of the membership in March:

Felix Rauschmayer (UFZ - Center for Environmental Research, Germany)
Jouni Paavola (University of East Anglia, UK)
Christian Rammel (University of Vienna, Austria)

We look forward to their contributions to the society over their coming 3-year terms.

News from the Community Research and Development Service

COMMISSION NEWS

EU invests 8 million euro in research into land degradation and desertification

The European Union is investing 8 million euro in a new Integrated Project focused on land degradation and desertification in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, representing one of the largest commitments ever made to a single research project on the issue.

Despite the fact that desertification and land destruction are seen as global threats, there are still no widely accepted diagnostic methods for use in planning and combating them. The DeSurvey Integrated Project aims to address this by developing and testing a new system for monitoring and modelling desertification and land destruction in the context of climate change, the relationship between man and the environment, and the vulnerability of particular landscapes to degradation.

Within the EU, the region where the issue of desertification is most pressing is in the Mediterranean. 'Especially Spain, Portugal, Greece, and to some extent Italy are experiencing severe problems of land destruction,' according to project member Professor Helldén. 'There is a shortage of water, and the question is how to use it most economically. The EU also needs a better foundation for determining its agricultural subsidies for these areas.'

Outside Europe, the DeSurvey project will also include work in China, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal and Chile, thanks to the participation of research organisations in each of these countries alongside ten EU partners. The project is funded under the 'Global Change and Ecosystems' priority of the Sixth Framework Programme.

For further information on global change and ecosystems see:

<http://www.cordis.lu/sustdev/environment/>

Fins publish multilingual environmental dictionary

Finland's environment ministry and Environment Institute have launched a new multi-lingual environmental dictionary presenting over 6,000 terms in nine languages (English, French, German, Swedish, Finnish, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Russian). Endic2004 expands on a first edition published four years ago, which presented 4,500 terms in six languages. Many of the new terms relate

to EU legislation or international conventions, according to the Finnish Environment Institute.

The Endic2004 dictionary can be ordered from the Finnish Environment Institute for the price of 60 euro. Orders should be sent to Tuula Liljander, tuula.sliljander@ymparisto.fi, phone (09) 4030 0700.

Project aiming to help coastal communities to cope with El Niño

The EU is funding a four year project aimed at integrating the available knowledge on the effects of El Niño and La Niña on coastal marine environments and resources. The CENSOR project (Climate variability and El Niño Southern Oscillation: Implications for Natural Coastal Resources and Management) is funded under the international cooperation priority of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). It brings together 13 institutes from six countries - Chile, Peru, Argentina, Spain, France and Germany.

A large number of studies have already been carried out to try to identify the effects of El Niño on in-shore ecology. However, much of this data can only be found scattered among the 'grey literature', and analysis of the mechanisms that cause the studied effects is also lacking. The CENSOR project represents a new approach to understanding the impacts of climate changes such as El Niño: rather than using oceanographic indicators to make their predictions, the team will use biological indicators such as the presence of invasive warm water species, the death of local indigenous marine species, and reproductive changes.

As well as filling such knowledge gaps and making their findings available to the general public, the team is also working with national policy makers and local fisheries associations to provide practical advice on specific issues, and to suggest mitigation strategies to offset the effects of El Niño/La Niña. For further information, see the following web address:

<http://www.censor.name/>

European scientists peer into the abyss

A new 15 million euro EU research project is aiming to provide critical knowledge on the ocean margin ecosystem, where the European continental shelf plunges from a depth of 200 metres to the abyssal plain some 4,000 metres below. The majority of this frontier lies within

Europe's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and its biological, energy and mineral resources are therefore of great strategic interest. The HERMES project (Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas) will be the first major attempt to understand Europe's deep-ocean ecosystems in an integrated way.

Funded under the global change and ecosystems priority of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), the project comprises a consortium made up of 36 research institutes and 9 small companies from 15 countries, and will be one of the largest projects of its kind in the world.

For further information, see the following web addresses:

<http://www.eu-hermes.net/>

<http://www.cordis.lu/sustdev/environment/>

The future hydrogen economy

Scenarios for future development of the hydrogen economy were presented by private sector stakeholders at the annual general assembly of the European hydrogen and fuel cell technology platform in Brussels in March. Aldo Belloni, CEO of Linde Gas and Engineering presented the results of an analysis which shows that in a high uptake scenario, as many as 6.1 million hydrogen powered cars could be on Europe's roads by 2020, being served by 2,800 filling stations, with total infrastructure costs of around 3.5 billion euro.

According to the same high uptake scenario, by 2030 there could be around 40 million hydrogen cars in Europe. 'With advances in [satellite navigation] technology, we would need a smaller network of hydrogen filling stations to service these vehicles - around 18,000 in total,' said Mr Belloni 'A city the size of Brussels, for example, could be serviced by around 50 filling stations.'

Mr Belloni said that the main focus in terms of infrastructure planning is currently on the filling stations. Linde's research suggests that the most economical filling station infrastructure would involve the centralised production of hydrogen, using road tankers to supply the stations. Linde is already planning to create the 'German hydrogen ring road' - a network of 40 public filling stations on motorways that encompass the sites of all the main car manufacturers in Germany - allowing the practical testing of new hydrogen technologies. See <http://www.hfpeurope.org>

INTERVIEW

A fire-side chat to a leading figure in Ecological Economics about life, the universe and everything

Can the next year really make a difference for Africa, and are the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) still within reach of the international community? If anyone has a handle on this, it is the acclaimed economist, academic and anti-poverty campaigner Jeffrey Sachs, now Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Sachs, well known for advising governments in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia and Africa on economic reforms and for working with international agencies to promote poverty reduction, disease control, and debt reduction of poor countries, was recently named among the 100 most influential leaders in the world by Time Magazine. The UN Millennium Project, a recommended plan of implementation that will allow all developing countries to meet the MDGs by 2015, was launched in the Phillipines on 16th February this year. Given the political will and a serious hike in investment, Africa could see a breakthrough, argues Sachs. Interview by Martin Wroe from Developments: The International Development Magazine. For the extended discussion see <http://millenniumgoals.org.uk>.

Are the Millennium Development Goals achievable by 2015?

Many countries are achieving many or most of the MDGs, and large parts of the world are achieving significant progress in reducing poverty. China and India – by themselves 38 per cent of the World's population – are both seeing decline by hundreds of millions the number of people living in extreme poverty. Life expectancy is rising widely, hunger has fallen sharply in a lot of places, there is actually a lot of progress. But there are large parts of the world for which that is not at all true, the very poorest part.

Our argument is that these goals are actually achievable everywhere and we have to change the trajectory of those parts of the world where the trajectory has been dismal. Very briefly our analysis comes down to a straightforward assessment, which is that in most of the places where the goals are not being met the main reason is a massive deficiency of investments in the areas needed to improve health, education, business and environment.

What is the priority for investment in Africa?

The priority is rural sector investments where we think the greatest growth can occur in the shortest period of time – and where the greatest needs are. So, to give a couple of examples, African food yields are the lowest in the world because the inputs to agriculture are the lowest in the world as well. There is no irrigation to speak of, 96 per cent of African food crops are grown in grain-fed conditions, and increasingly drought prone conditions. There is no fertiliser to speak of on food crops. The land is degraded because basic land management practices are not in place – terracing, water catchments, break dams.

The result is a dismal level of impoverishment – miserable yields, chronic hunger, non-monetised rural economies and a lack of even basic infrastructure, like roads and certainly motorised transport. Villages are basically connected to their local markets by women

carrying stuff to and from the market.

So our argument is that this most extreme poverty is absolutely solvable because when you look at the pieces you see what is wrong. And the kinds of investments that we can make on a small scale could be made on a large scale to address these problems systematically.

We are calling for significant scaling up of those kind of investments, and arguing that one can actually make plans for success. And that identified trajectories actually get the job done so that people have an economy that begins to function and grow under its own impetus – because there is enough income to save something and to start a process of self-generating economic growth.

This sounds like the kind of investment the rich world has not yet made?

There is one fundamental catch in all of this, and that is that to actually make those investments requires more resources than can be mustered domestically in the poorest countries. And that is where the development assistance ought to play its most fundamental role.

Waiting for the private sector to make these investments is to wait forever. There is no chance in the world that, for the poorest people, the market – the great US myths – is going to save them. Because well functioning markets are designed to bypass such people. Because they have nothing to demand, they have no income to demand, no surplus above subsistence. So they need help to get up to the level of which they can achieve development, so we are trying to show that practical investments backed by practical commitments of funding, supported by sensible strategies of governance and scaling up can make the breakthrough through to success.

You say that the MDGs are a cost-effective investment strategy for donor countries – how do we prove that?

Right now the rich countries are handling emergencies in Africa every year – but we are

not solving the problem. In fact, the objective evidence is that African living standards have declined on average in the last 20 years. So giving food aid or giving emergency medical relief is very expensive without solving the underlying problems. On the other hand if we helped Africa to invest strongly in improving agricultural activity, in public health institutions for prevention and treatment of disease, for environmental management – then these emergencies would be abated.

Not only that but Africa would start to attract private sector investment and would, over time, be able to end its dependency on foreign help.

So your response to people who say, "Look we have given aid for too long and it has made no difference," is that we haven't given aid in the right order at all?

If you have a block of blazing buildings on fire and you send one fireman and he sprays the hose and the fire continues, you shouldn't make the conclusion, "We did the best we could, (we have) no more use for firemen, they are not effective". Maybe we should conclude that we should have made more of an effort to stop this fire from spreading.

We have sent dribs and drabs of help over the years. Even when it is not been dribs and drabs – for example when [the UK] has made significant investments – those investments have not been joined by adequate investments by the US, Germany, Japan or other large donors to make the scale reach the need. We haven't made the effort commensurate with the task yet.

We have found that only about 40 per cent of official development assistance to Africa has actually been the kind of budget support that could enable African societies to increase their investments in critical areas. The rest has been technical assistance or forgiving debt that wasn't being paid anyway or donors' administrative costs, or emergency food aid. And that other 60 per cent – while it may be justified by the emergency – has not been invested in the future.

RESEARCH NOTES

European Commission approves proposal on the 7th Framework Programme

On 6 April 2005, the European Commission issued its proposal for the 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013). The link to the DG Research website is http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm, where you can consult the relevant documents (For collaborative research in Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities, see Annex I, theme 8, page 31).

The Commission's proposal accords an important role to and opportunities for the social sciences and humanities (SSH). This is evident both in terms of budget as well as of the range of actions and types of instruments. The proposed budget of 797 million Euros for collaborative research in SSH represents a doubling of the Priority 7 budget per year as well as an extension of its duration from 4 to 7 years. This will be the most significant collaborative SSH research effort ever undertaken at the EU or at the international level. At the same time, the social sciences and humanities can and should participate actively in other parts of FP7, for example in the European Research Council, in research infrastructures and in the enhanced opportunities for international S&T cooperation.

The Commission's proposal for FP7 will now be subject to extensive discussions including the

various groups and committees of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. At the same time, the Commission Services are elaborating the proposals for the Specific Programmes of FP7 and, eventually, the Research Agendas/Work Programmes.

Food Climate Research Network launches website

Please take a look at the recent additions to the redesigned FCRN website at www.fcrn.org.uk. The website has a new Resources section, where you will find details of a huge range of studies of relevance to the food-climate theme.

The section contains details of recent research, together with brief summaries where possible, on issues ranging from the impact of climate change on agriculture, to life cycle analyses of specific food products, to transport technology, to studies focusing on consumer behaviour and sustainable consumption. This section is a work in progress, intended to give an indication of the wealth of research and argument with a bearing on food chain ghg emissions, and to stimulate interest in specific research areas and encourage people to think about getting together to work on specific joint research projects.

If you have produced, or know of useful studies, reports and information that you think should go on these pages, please do get in touch with the FCRN, via Tara Garnett at taragarnett@blueyonder.co.uk.

Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship 5th July - 7th July 2005 Mansfield College, Oxford

This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference aims to explore the role of ecology and environmental ideas in the context of contemporary society and international politics, and assess the implications for our understandings of fairness, justice and global citizenship. In particular, the 4th Global Conference on Ecological Justice and Global Citizenship will explicitly explore the relationships between environments, sustainability and technology, the role of technology in creating possibilities for sustainable resources for the future, and the inherent problems and dangers which accompany that role.

Papers, presentations, reports and workshops are invited on any of the following indicative themes: GM; Cooperative and Sustainable Development; Environmental Education and Intellectual Health; Citizenship, Technological Innovation & Sustainability. For further details about the conference please visit the following web address:

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/ejgc/ejgc4/cfp.htm>

In Brief

Environment "as important as economy" - EU poll

Almost nine in ten EU citizens say environmental policy is "just as important as economic policies," according to a new opinion poll of attitudes to green issues. Environment commissioner Stavros Dimas has hailed the findings as giving the EU a "clear mandate to continue working to deliver a high level of environmental protection".

The Eurobarometer survey updates a poll on attitudes to the environment carried out in 2002 and incorporates for the first time views in the ten new member states. It finds that 85 per cent of respondents want policy makers to consider environment policies as equal in importance to economic and social policies.

For full report, please refer to: http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Spain moves smartly on green liability rules

Spain has taken a European lead by announcing proposals to implement the EU's 2004 environmental liability directive, two years before the legal deadline.

Also envisaged is the creation of a state fund to provide compensation for damage to publicly-owned land, or damage caused by pollution within permitted limits or despite the use of best practice by operators.

The draft law will impose liability for damage to "wild species and ecosystems", whereas the EU directive contains a narrower definition of biodiversity to be covered by the rules, essentially EU-protected habitats and species. <http://www.mma.es/>

NEW JOURNAL Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy

Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy is a new peer-reviewed, open access journal that provides a platform for the dissemination of new practices and for dialogue emerging out of the field of sustainability. The e-Journal fills a gap in the literature by establishing a forum for cross-disciplinary discussion of empirical and social sciences, practices, and policies related to sustainability. For more details, please visit:

<http://ejournal.nbii.org/index.html>

In Brief

EU environmental liability directive discussed

The prospect of businesses having to insure themselves against environmental damage remains a controversial aspect of the EU's environmental liability directive a year after it entered force, a European Law conference in Brussels was told in May.

Controversy over whether or not to include compulsory liability insurance for operators dogged the development of the directive, which EU states must transpose by 30 April 2007. In the end a conciliation deal agreed that such "financial security" would remain optional, pending a European Commission review in 2010.

Further details: <http://www.era.int/web/en/html/index.htm> and <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/liability/>

France surveys environmental spending

French public and private spending on environmental protection continues to rise steadily, according to the country's latest environmental accounts, covering 2003. The rise in environmental expenditure has now outstripped GDP growth in France every year since 1990, the environment ministry claims.

Green expenditure totalled €32bn in 2003, or 2 per cent of GDP. Over two thirds of this went on managing waste and treating waste water. Environmental protection measures created ten thousand jobs during the year, with 1.6 per cent of French workers now employed in the sector.

For details see <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sommaire.php3>

Marine protection 'cheaper than subsidies'

Establishing a global network of marine protected areas covering nearly one-third of oceans would cost less than is currently being spent on subsidising fisheries, environmental groups WWF and RSPB have claimed. By safeguarding species, a protection network would eventually increase fish stocks and allow profitable catches, a new study argues. Only 0.5 per cent of the world's sea area is currently protected, against 12 per cent of land area. For full report: http://www.panda.org/news_facts/publications/index.cfm

LOOK ROUND

This issue we take a look round Europe to catch up on new developments relating to

Millennium Assessment sounds global ecosystem alert

The United Nations Millennium Assessment, commissioned in 2000 and involving over 1,000 scientists from 95 countries, was finally released in March. The report concludes that "radical" policy changes are needed to tackle current trends in ecosystem degradation, but these "are not currently under way".

Out of 24 ecosystem services surveyed, 15 are being degraded or used unsustainably. They include "provisioning" services like biodiversity and freshwater resources, "regulating" services like natural hazard regulation and water purification, and cultural services like aesthetic values.

Key pressures on world ecosystems are also expected to grow substantially - for example demand for food crops is projected to rise by 70-85 per cent and demand for water by 30-85 per cent by 2050. These pressures could lead to a further worsening of ecosystem degradation, including an increased likelihood of non-linear and abrupt changes, the assessment warns.

For further information, see: <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>

UK environment ministry assesses economic benefits of forests

Natural forests can yield up to 30 per cent more economic benefits to society than if the land is converted to agriculture, according to a review of ecosystem services by the UK environment ministry, DEFRA.

The report summarises research quantifying the economic services provided by wetlands, forests and "agro-ecosystems" through functions such as water purification, flood management and carbon dioxide retention. The findings contribute to a better understanding of the value of ecosystem services to society.

For details see <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/ecosystem/default.asp>

BIODIVERSITY

Norway set to revamp biodiversity laws

An official Norwegian working group has produced a groundbreaking series of legislative proposals based on the premise that all wild fauna and flora, plus native breeds of domesticated animals, are in principle to be considered protected species. The assumption of protection would extend offshore to the limits of Norway's economic zone.

Exceptions to the principle - which would also apply to habitats and landscapes - would be made for sustainable exploitation where appropriate, and for particular activities such as agriculture, pest control and transport. The 839-page document also aims "to fix in law" the principles of precaution and polluter pays as well as the concepts of critical pollution loads, cumulative impacts and environmentally sound technologies and working methods.

New regulations are also proposed covering the introduction of exotic species, access to genetic material, conservation subsidies, and sanctions/compensation for environmental damage. The government has already set a target date of 2010 for halting the loss of biodiversity. For more details see: <http://odin.dep.no/md/>

2005 European fishing limits agreed

EU fisheries ministers have now agreed total allowable catches (TACs) and national quotas for 2005. TACs were set on average 15 per cent lower than in 2004, though this was higher than proposed by the European Commission. The Commission's call for a ban on cod fishing in parts of the North Sea was rejected, though a partial summer ban in the Baltic was passed. In several areas boats will be allowed to fish for severely depleted stocks for fewer days.

ND EUROPE

g to the conservation of biodiversity, both at home and abroad.

ERSITY

France pushes forward on “green wood” plan

The French government has circulated guidance requiring all local, regional and national public authorities to ensure that all timber or wood products they purchase come from sustainably managed forests. Authorities will be expected to demand proof of good practice, for example via forest certification labels such as FSC or PEFC. The policy implements a national commitment last spring to ensure that all tropical timber purchased by public authorities comes from sustainable sources by 2010. For details see http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=3922

Lack of ecosystem monitoring is hampering biodiversity protection

The EU’s goal of halting biodiversity decline by 2010 is being jeopardised by the absence of a monitoring system, according to a report commissioned by the European Parliament’s environment committee. The report from the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) says monitoring is being slowed by lack of clarity, lack of knowledge, and lack of political commitment.

The report suggests using existing indicators such as the wild birds index to measure biodiversity loss in the short term, followed by the “rapid” introduction of a new EU-wide measuring system. Separately, research published recently in scientific magazine *Nature* proposes a biodiversity intactness index (BII), which it says could provide a way to assess progress on biodiversity protection targets like the EU’s.

For further information: <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>

EU approves list of more Natura protected sites

The EU has consolidated its Natura 2000 network by approving a draft inventory of protected nature sites in the Continental and Atlantic biogeographical zones. The 7000 sites, mainly in the EU’s western member states, join a smaller number already approved for the Macaronesian and Alpine biogeographical zones. Lists for three other zones - the Boreal, the Mediterranean and the Pannonian - have still to follow. See <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm> for further details.

EU report suggests freer global trade “will hurt the environment”

Global climate and biodiversity will suffer unless the financial gains expected from current world trade liberalisation talks are used to tackle environmental impacts, according to a sustainability impact assessment of elements of the World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) Doha negotiating round.

Prompted by freer trade, more international transport and shifts in agriculture will lead to “overall adverse” environmental effects, says the study, done by the UK’s University of Manchester and published this week by the European Commission. The assessment looked at proposals to liberalise trade in agricultural and forestry products and distribution services.

These negative impacts “can in principle be countered by technology or regulatory effects,” the assessment continues. But currently the most likely outcomes of the talks “do not include measures that will strengthen these positive effects sufficiently”.

Negative environmental impacts would be mainly felt in developing countries, according to the study. It recommends strengthening EU development assistance in areas such as forestry.

For further information consult the following websire: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/>

Scientists appeal for biodiversity protection

Hundreds of scientists have called for greater efforts world-wide to understand and safeguard global biodiversity at a major conference in Paris in January. The “Paris declaration” on biodiversity urges establishment of a new “international mechanism” to improve knowledge, identify political priorities and inform parties to the UN biodiversity convention.

The meeting was organised by the UN and follows a global commitment at the Johannesburg sustainability summit in 2002 to reduce biodiversity loss significantly by 2010. Biodiversity conservation needs to become an integral part of economic development, the declaration says. This will require new social, economic, institutional and legal frameworks, it continues, for example to take into account the multiple values of biodiversity. Governments have known this for over a decade, yet “threats to biodiversity have clearly increased without a significant and effective response”, it warns.

For more details see:

<http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/biodiv2005paris/en/index.htm>

European sustainable forests plan promised

The European Commission is to table an EU action plan for sustainable forest management next year, it revealed in March. The announcement comes on the back of a review of an EU forestry strategy passed in 1998.

Because the EU’s member states have exclusive legal competence over forestry issues, there is little concrete the Commission can propose in the way of EU measures. The promised action plan will therefore not do much more than offer enhanced intra-EU policy coordination.

The Commission identifies several political priorities for the action plan, including further mapping, study and monitoring of forest biodiversity, and greater use of wood as an energy source.

For further information see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

European news coverage is collected from the Environment News Daily Service (ENDS). Further details can be found at <http://ends.co.uk>.

Email news to Ben Davies, b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk

BOOKS

Economics of Industrial Ecology: Materials, Structural Change and Spatial Scales

J.C.J.M. van den Bergh and M.A. Janssen (eds)

The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, USA. January 2005

ISBN 0-262-22071-7 (Cloth) \$50.00/£32.95
448 pages

The use of economic modelling techniques in industrial ecology research provides distinct advantages over the customary approach, which focuses on the physical description of material flows. The 13 chapters integrate the natural science and technological dimensions of industrial ecology with a rigorous economic approach. Using a variety of modeling techniques and applying them to a wide range of materials, economic sectors, & countries, these studies analyze the driving forces behind material flows and structural changes in order to offer guidance for economically & socially feasible policy solutions. After a survey of concepts and relevant research, the book presents historical analyses of structural change from statistical & decomposition approaches; a range of models that predict structural change on the national & regional scale under different policy scenarios; two models that can be used to analyze waste management & recycling operations; and, adopting the perspective of local scale, an analysis of the dynamics of eco-industrial parks in Denmark and the Netherlands, concluding with a discussion of policy implications.

1. Background 2. Historical Analysis of Structural Change 3. Projective Analysis of Structural Change 4. Waste Management and Recycling 5. Dynamics of Eco-Industrial Parks 6. Conclusions

Valuation and Conservation of Biodiversity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Convention on Biological Diversity

Markussen, M.; Buse, R.; Garrelts, H.; Manez Costa, M.A.; Menzel, S.; Marggraf, R. (Editors)

2005. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag.

ISBN: 3-540-24022-5 (HB). 100 UKP
430 pages

The goal of this transdisciplinary book is to identify the problems and challenges facing implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – from the global, regional and local points of view. The valuation and conservation of biodiversity constitute critical first steps necessary for the adequate protection of the environment. The authors give insights into the current trends in this field and on the influences the CBD exerts.

Please note that the details of the books listed here are provided by the publisher.

The Ecological Economics of Consumption

Lucia A. Reisch and Inge Røpke (Editors)

Current Issues in Ecological Economics series. Edward Elgar. 2004.

ISBN:1 84376 512 8 (HB). 65.00 UKP. 272 pages

Research on consumption from an environmental perspective has exploded since the late 1990s. This important new volume cuts across disciplines to present the latest research in the field.

Contents: 1. The Place of Consumption in Ecological Economics Part I: Problematizing Consumption 2. Questionable Assumptions about Sustainable Consumption 3. The Society, its Products and the Environmental Role of Consumption 4. Work-related Consumption Drivers and Consumption at Work Part II: Explaining Consumption 5. Beyond Insatiability – Needs Theory, Consumption and Sustainability 6. Changing Human Behaviour and Lifestyle: A Challenge for Sustainable Consumption? 7. Domestic Electricity Consumption – Consumers and Appliances 8. Sustainability in Everyday Life – A Matter of Time? Part III: Changing Consumption 9. Sustainable Consumption as a Consumer Policy Issue 10. Lifestyle Approaches as a Sustainable Consumption Policy – A German Example 11. Community, Reflexivity and Sustainable Consumption 12. Macroeconomic Stability: Sustainable Development and Full Employment Index

Contributors: C. Empacher, K. Götz, K. Gram-Hanssen, T. Jackson, W. Jäger, M. Jallas, J. Jespersen, L. Michaelis, L.A. Reisch, I. Røpke, E. Shove, J.H. Spangenberg, S. Stagl, R. Wilk.

Spatial Ecological-Economic Analysis for Wetland Management: Modelling and Scenario Evaluation of Land-Use.

J.C.J.M. van den Bergh, A. Barendregt and A. Gilbert (Editors)

Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. June 2004.

ISBN-10: 0521822300 | ISBN-13: 9780521822305 (HB) 70 UKP
254 pages.

This book presents a triple layer framework for analysis of wetland management. This approach provides support for spatial matching between physical planning, hydrological and ecological processes, and economic activities. The authors describe how integrated modelling at the regional scale can be achieved in practice. Following an introduction to wetlands, theoretical aspects of the contributing disciplines are discussed, as well as various aspects of integrated and spatial modelling. An applied integrated assessment of spatial wetland management for the Vecht area between Amsterdam and Utrecht is then presented. This assessment has resulted in a set of linked hydrological, ecological and economic models, formulated at the level of grids and polders, and various types of evaluations and rankings of scenarios. The results indicate the value of maintaining spatial detail for as long as possible.

Contents: Preface; 1. Introduction; 2. Wetlands and science; 3. Integrated modelling and assessment; 4. Theoretical framework and method of integrated study; 5. The Vecht area: history, problems and policy; 6. Development scenarios for the Vecht area; 7. The spatial-ecological model: hydrology and ecology; 8. The spatial-economic model: agriculture, nature conservation and outdoor recreation; 9. Performance indicators for the evaluation; 10. Evaluation of the scenarios; 11. Conclusions: policy and research implications; References; Index.

Also recent from Edward Elgar

Sustainable Development Indicators in Ecological Economics; *Lawn, P.* (Jan 2006)
Modelling in Ecological Economics; *Proops, J., Safonov, P.* (2004)
Economic Growth, Material Flows and the Environment; *Hoekstra, R.* (July 2005)

America's Changing Coasts; *Whitelaw, D.M. Visgilio, G.R.* (May 2005)
The Economics of Technology Diffusion and Energy Efficiency; *Mulder, P.* (2005)
Time Strategies, Innovation and Environmental Policy; *Sartorius, C., Zundel, S.* (2005)

books continued

Development of the Czech Society in the European Union

Volume V

Lectures in Non-market Valuation Methods in the Environmental Area

Milan Ščasný and Jan Melichar (Editors)

Charles University in Prague

Charles University Environment Center

A new edited volume covering both theory and applications of non-market valuation in the context of the Czech Republic.

Six Parts (17 Chapters)

1. Introduction: Why to value the environment?
2. Non-market valuation overview: Theoretical principles, methods and the Czech applications
3. What are life and silence worth?
4. Waste management, air and water quality improvement
5. Valuation of biodiversity, landscape and forest amenities
6. Expert and other assessment methods

JOBS

IHDP Executive Director

The International Council for Science (ICSU) &

The International Social Science Council (ISSC)

The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) invite applications for the position of Executive Director of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP). The IHDP is an international, interdisciplinary and non-governmental science organisation, focussing on social and human dimensions of environmental change. For detailed information on the programme please visit the webpage <http://www.ihdp.org>.

Letters of application with a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees should be received no later than 15 June 2005 by the IHDP Secretariat, Walter-Flex-Str. 3, 53113 Bonn, Fax +49 228 73 9054, e-mail: middel.ihdp@uni-bonn.de.

Interviews for the post will be scheduled in July 2005.

Further information on the IHDP and its Secretariat Dr. Barbara Goebel: Tel: +49-228-73-9051, Fax: +49-228-73-9054; e-mail: goebel.ihdp@uni-bonn.de; <http://www.ihdp.org>

CONFERENCES

Environmental Accounting and Related Sustainable Development Indicators
Path Towards Sustainable Development

26th - 27th September 2005

Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

The organization committee encourages academics, statisticians, scientists, managers as well as decision makers from various disciplines to attend the EA-SDI Conference and present the outcomes of their research and/or case studies in line with the workgroup themes. Special attention will be paid to the national implementation of SEEA-2003.

Organized by: Jan Evangelista Purkyně University, Usti nad Labem and Charles University Environment Center, Prague.

Website: <http://www.ea-sdi.ujep.cz>

Fees: There is no registration fee for early registration up to June 30th 2005. Registration fee for participants after June 30th is 100 euro.

Participatory Approaches in Science & Technology (PATH) CONFERENCE

4th-7th June 2006, Edinburgh, Scotland.

The aim of the PATH conference is to bring together interested parties concerned with the involvement of society in the formulation of science-based policy issues. Participants will exchange knowledge and explore future directions for public participation in science and technology issues.

Conference Themes

- * Scaling up participatory processes related to science and technology
- * Improving representation of participatory approaches
- * Gender aspects of participation in science and technology policy development
- * Case studies illustrating innovative approaches to involving the public in science and technology, especially (but not exclusively) in the areas of:
 - genetically modified crops in agriculture
 - biodiversity conservation
 - nanotechnology

Submission of extended abstracts and proposals for sessions: 13th January 2006

To register for the conference, to submit a proposal for a paper, poster or session, or to get further information, please see the conference website:

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/serp/research/path/index.html> or contact Wendy Kenyon: w.kenyon@macaulay.ac.uk

Organised by: The Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, as part of the PATH project. EC FPVI Science and Society SAS6-CT-2004-510636

CALENDAR EVENTS

June

June 3-4, 2005

Fourth Biennial Conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE): Ecology and Well Being.

Mumbai, India.

<http://www.ecoinsee.org/>

June 7-8, 2005

Eleventh Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference.

Helsinki, Finland.

With special streams on Industrial Ecology and European Environmental Policy.

<http://erpenvironment.org/>

June 11-12, 2005

Nature in the Kingdom of Ends.

Selfoss, Iceland.

<http://www.midja.is/fraedslunet/>

June 12-17, 2005

Acid Rain 2005.

Prague, Czech Republic.

Seventh International Conference on Acid Deposition.

<http://www.acidrain2005.cz/>

June 15-17, 2005

Seventh Nordic Environmental Social Science Research Conference.

Goteborg University, Sweden.

<http://www.7thness.org.gu.se/>

June 14-17, 2005

6th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics: ESEE 2005.

Lisbon, Portugal.

Conference theme: Science and Governance - The Ecological Economics Perspective.

Organised by Ecological Economics and Environmental Management Centre (ECOMAN), New University of Lisbon.

<http://www.esee2005.org>

June 18-22, 2005

Conference on Effects of Afforestation on Ecosystems, Landscape and Rural Development.

Reykolt, Iceland

Organised by AFFORNORD.

<http://www.skogur.is/page/affornord>

June 23-25, 2005

Seventh International Conference of the Russian Society for Ecological Economics. Globalisation, New Economy and the Environment.

Saint Petersburg, Russia.

<http://www.rsee.org/>

June 26-July 1, 2005

XX International Grassland Congress: Grasslands - A Global Resource.

Dublin, Ireland.

<http://www.igc2005.com/>

July

July 5-7, 2005 (**NEW**)

4th Global Conference - Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship: Environments, Sustainability and Technologies

Oxford, United Kingdom

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/ejgc/ejgc4/cfp.htm>

July 6-9, 2005

Technatures III: Environments, Technologies, Spaces and Places in the Twenty First Century.

Stockholm, Sweden.

Part of the 37th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology.

http://www.scass.uu.se/IIS2005/total_webb/frame.html

July 12-14, 2005 (**NEW**)

2005 IASME / WSEAS International Conference on Energy, Environment, Ecosystems and Sustainable Development

Athens, Greece

Organized by: IASME and WSEAS

<http://www.worldses.org/conferences/2005/greece/energy/index.html>

July 17-23, 2005 (**NEW**)

Summer School

Procedures & Toolkits for Integrated & Participatory Analyses of Sustainability

Sangonera la Verde, Murcia, Spain

Organised by: Liphe4 Summer School

<http://www.liphe4.org/school.html>

July 20-23, 2005

Third Biennial Conference of US Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE). Forging Solutions.

Tacoma, Washington, USA..

<http://www.ussee.org/conference/>

August

August 23-25, 2005

Cohab 2005. First International Conference on the Importance of Biodiversity to Human Health.

Galway, Ireland.

<http://www.cohab2005.com/>

September

September 11-14, 2005

Complexity, Science and Society: Complexity and Ecological Economics

Liverpool, UK

Organised by Centre for Complexity Research, University of Liverpool, UK.

http://www.liv.ac.uk/ccr/205_conf/

September 12-14, 2005 (**NEW**)

Sustainable Planning 2005

Second International Conference on Sustainable Planning & Development

Bologna, Italy

Organized by Wessex Institute of Technology, UK

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/spd05/index.html>

CALENDAR EVENTS

2006 2006 2006 2006

January

February

February 2-3, 2006 (NEW**)**

GREEN POWER-5

NEW DELHI, India

Organized by Indian Council of Power Utilities
<http://www.indiapower.org>

February 26- 2 March, 2006 (NEW**)**

Sharing the Fish - Allocation Issues in Fisheries Management

Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia

Organized by Conference Secretariat
EventEdge International Management Group

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 15
November 2005

<http://www.fishallocation.com>

June

June 4th-7th, 2006 (NEW**)**

Participatory Approaches in Science & Technology

PATH CONFERENCE

Edinburgh, Scotland.

Organised by: The Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, as part of the PATH project. EC FPVI Science and Society SAS6-CT-2004-510636

<http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/serp/research/path/index.html>

September 20-21, 2005 (NEW**)**

7th International BIOECON Conference on "Economics and the Analysis of Ecology and Biodiversity"

Cambridge, UK

<http://www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk/>

September 20-24, 2005 (NEW**)**

Biodiversity Conservation and SD in Mountain Areas of Europe

Ioannina, Greece

<http://www.bioscene.co.uk/conf2005/Index.htm>

September 26-27, 2005 (NEW**)**

Environmental Accounting and Related Sustainable Development Indicators (EA-SD) "Path Towards Sustainable Development"

Prague, Czech Republic

Organized by Jan Evangelista Purkyně University, Usti nad Labem and Charles University Environment Center, Prague

http://www.ea-sdi.ujep.cz/e_konference.htm

October

October 1-5, 2005

Open Science Conference: Global Change in Mountain Regions

Perth, Scotland, UK.

<http://www.mountain.conf.uhi.ac.uk>

October 13-14, 2005

International Sustainability Conference : Strategies for a Sustainable Society.

Basel, Switzerland.

Organised by University of Applied Sciences Aargau, Institute of Sustainable Management in association with University of Basel.

<http://www.isc2005.ch/>

October 17-18, 2005 (NEW**)**

The Future of Nuclear Energy in Europe
Brussels, Belgium

Organized by: EU Conferences

<http://www.euconferences.com>

October 27-20, 2005

Fifth Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE).

'Windows of Opportunities: How Ecological Economics is Contributing to Building a Sustainable World'.

Toronto, Canada.

<http://www.cansee.org/>

November

November 3-6, 2005 (NEW**)**

Democracy and Economy, PEKEA Fourth International Conference

Rennes, France

Organised by: PEKEA (Political and Ethical Knowledge on Economic Activities)

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 30 June 2005
<http://www.pekea.org>

November 15, 2005 (NEW**)**

International Congress On Coastal & Marine Tourism

Izmir, Turkey

Organized by: Dokuz Eylul University

http://www.deu.edu.tr/DEUWeb/Etkinlik/Etkinlik.php?etkinlik_no=707&title=guncel#

December

December 17-18, 2005 (NEW**)**

COE/JEPA Joint International Conference

Towards a New Economic Paradigm:

Declining Population Growth, Labor Market Transition and Economic Development under Globalization

Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Organized by: 21st Century COE Programme of Kobe University and Japan Economic Policy Association

http://www.econ.kobe-u.ac.jp/new_paradigm/

Take Note

New Research Programme: Creating Sustainable Growth in Europe

The Anglo-German Foundation has launched a major new research initiative. Under the title 'Creating Sustainable Growth in Europe', this initiative will address three linked themes of: Innovation, Productivity and Growth; Environment and Resources; and Welfare, Employment and Social Justice. It will have a budget of £3 million and will run until the end of 2009. Individual programmes of research activity within the initiative will be eligible for funding of up to £1 million each. For more details, see: <http://www.agf.org.uk/CreatingSustainableGrowthInEurope.shtml>.

Identifying Products with the Greatest Potential for Environmental Improvement

The IPP webpage "Identifying products with the greatest potential for environmental improvement" has been updated with a study carried out with the purpose to identify products with the greatest environmental impact from a life cycle perspective. The Commission would welcome comments from stakeholders on the draft report by 19 June 2005. The Commission is also inviting stakeholders to express their interest to participate in an expert stakeholder meeting on 13 of July in Brussels. Interest should be sent by e-mail to matej.mateja@cec.eu.int at DG Environment by 6 June 2005. Information can be found at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ipp/identifying.htm>.

SDRN Briefing on Sustainable Consumption

The first SDRN (Sustainable Development Research Network) Briefing has now been published. This briefing summarises the key messages from Professor Tim Jackson's Motivating Sustainable Consumption report. The briefing is available to download from the SDRN website: <http://www.sd-research.org.uk>

EU issues carbon trading report questionnaire

The European Commission has published the questionnaire it will use to monitor national implementation of the EU's climate gas trading scheme, as set up under a 2003 directive. Authorities will have to make annual reports, the first by 30 June. The questionnaire requires descriptions of arrangements for issuing permits and verifying participating firms' emission levels. It also asks whether authorities have experienced "particular implementation concerns" when putting the scheme into practice. Details at <http://europa.eu.int/>

Greenhouse Gas Emission Trends and Projections in Europe 2004

Projections show that the pre-2004 EU Member States (EU-15) could cut their total emissions to 7.7 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010 with existing and currently planned domestic policies and measures. Plans by six EU-15 Member States to use credits from emissions-saving projects in third countries through the Kyoto Protocol's "flexible mechanisms" would contribute a small further reduction, taking the total to 8.8 per cent, sufficient to achieve the EU-15 target. Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2004 projections in Europe 2004 (EEA Report No 5), is published at http://reports.eea.eu.int/eea_report_2004_5.

New Journal: Evidence & Policy

The Policy Press, in association with the ESRC UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice at Queen Mary, University of London, has launched Evidence & Policy, the first journal dedicated to analysis of the relationship between research evidence and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners. International and interdisciplinary, it addresses a wide range of social and public policy issues. To view a sample issue online visit <http://www.policypress.org.uk/evidenceandpolicy.htm>.

For submissions, contact Ken Young (k.g.young@qmul.ac.uk) or Annette Boaz (a.l.boaz@qmul.ac.uk).

Food for Thought

An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made in a very narrow field.

Niels Bohr

Few people at the beginning of the nineteenth century needed an adman to tell them what they wanted.

John Kenneth Galbraith

Today the world changes so quickly that in growing up we take leave not just of youth but of the world we were young in.

Peter Medawar

Familiar things happen, and mankind does not bother about them. It requires a very unusual mind to undertake the analysis of the obvious.

Not ignorance, but ignorance of ignorance, is the death of knowledge.

Alfred North Whitehead

Society has always seemed to demand a little more from human beings than it will get in practice.

George Orwell

He is richest who is content with the least, for content is the wealth of nature.

Socrates

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

Rabindranath Tagore

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