



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 that are of potential interest. It is published 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.

Frontiers 2 in Tenerife is forging ahead - now's the time to book!

The preparations for the second Frontiers conference in Tenerife, Frontiers 2, are well advanced and an exceptionally interesting scientific programme is taking shape. Full details of the proposed sessions can be found on the back pages of this issue. Details of registration and travel are also now fully available on the conference website. In fact, prospective participants can even view a beautiful satellite image of the venue along with the travel details! For more information see:

http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers/Participation/part_frame.html

A General Meeting of the ESEE will be held at the conference on the afternoon of Friday, 14th February, and this will be a good opportunity for those considering standing for election to the Board to clarify the position of the current committees and their work. We hope for another excellent turn-out and valuable dis-

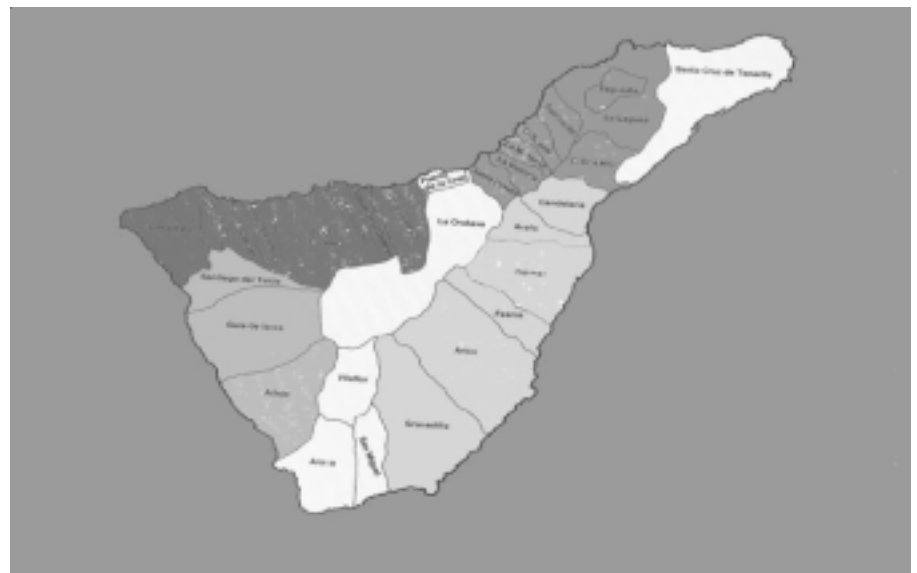
cussion of future developments of the Society, as at TunISEE. Administrative Board elections will be held in May 2003, and full details will be posted in the next issue of the Newsletter. If you thinking of standing, details of the constitution can be found on the Society website.

New Treasurer picks up the accounts

Welcome to Karen Refsgaard who has agreed to take over from Helge Hagerup as the ESEE's Treasurer. And many thanks to Helge for all his work over the past two years in managing the financial affairs of the Society.

Karen is Researcher at the Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute (NILF), and will ensure a smooth change-over. Welcome to the team!

The beautiful island of Tenerife; a 'black diamond in an azure sea'. And venue for Frontiers 2!



COMMITTEES

*ESEE Administration
and reports from
Committee members'
activities*

ESEE Administrative Board Members 2002

President: Clive Spash
(c.spash@macaulay.ac.uk)

Vice-President: Arild Vatn
(arild.vatn@ios.nlh.no)

Secretary: Claudia Carter
(secretary@euroecoloecon.org)

Treasurer: Karen Refsgaard
(karen.refsgaard@nilf.no)

Newsletter Editor: Ben Davies
(b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk)

Standing Committee Chairs

Research
Fritz Hinterberger (Fritz@seri.at)

Education:
Paul Safonov (PSafonov@ulb.ac.be)

Conferences and Meetings:
Sigrid Stagl (sts@env.leeds.ac.uk)

Fundraising:
Irmi Seidl (iseidl@uwinst.unizh.ch)

Publications and Publicity:
Ben Davies (bbd20@cam.ac.uk)

Membership and External Affairs:
Felix Rauschmayer
(rauschma@alok.ufz.de)

Website
Jorg Kohn (j-koeHN@t-online.de)

Student Representative and Web Master
Jesus Ramos-Martin
(jesusramosmartin@yahoo.es)

Ordinary Members

Mario Giampietro
(giampietro@inn.ingrm.it)

Caroline Sullivan (csu@wpo.nerc.ac.uk)

Report on the Fourth UFZ Leipzig Summer Symposium

New Strategies for Solving Environmental Conflicts: Potentials for Combining Participation and MultiCriteria Analysis

Organised by Felix Rauschmayer, Heidi Wittmer, Bernd Klauer, and Frank Messner

In this workshop, we concentrated on aspects of both societal and ecological complexity, and we examined strengths and weaknesses of different participatory and multi-criteria approaches. Both participation and multi-criteria decision aid play a prominent role in the resolution of environmental conflicts, but there have been few attempts to find a common methodological framework. This workshop was a first step in this sense.

The workshop was structured into 4 parts: (1) Definition of conflict, resolution, and the problem of selecting appropriate instruments.

Here, we were inspired by two presentations: 'What is meant by a 'good decision'?', by A. Holland, and 'How to select instruments for the resolution of environmental conflicts', by B. Klauer and H. Wittmer.

It is not clear, what should count as a good decision. Decisions should not be thought of as events nor as the conclusions of a process of reasoning. They are essentially contextual, and essentially a function of shared interpretation and public recognition. We considered whether environmental conflicts can or should be thought of as 'soluble', and whether it is necessarily a good thing that they be solved. We considered how far the integrity of decision-making can survive the processes of analysis and aggregation that are involved, and whether criteria relate to decisions in the way that this approach implies. Participation brings with it responsibility, but also complicity. We also asked what provision can or should be made for stakeholders who are unable to participate, namely non-humans and future humans.

(2) Participatory approaches as strategies for resolving environmental conflicts.

In this part, four different participatory approaches were presented using case studies: cooperative discourse (O. Renn), the consensus conference (L. Zurita), mediation (M. Striegnitz), and the group modelling approach (P. Antunes), which enables stakeholders to model ecological and social processes and thereby synthesise individual information to a

common understanding. The cooperative discourse model already includes elements of multi-criteria analysis, while mediated group modelling holds potential for their integration. (3) Case studies combining Multi-criteria decision aid and participatory elements as a strategy for solving environmental conflicts.

The case studies covered a range of environmental conflicts on different spatial levels, and applied multi-criteria methods in combination with participative instruments. F. Messner considered the effects of global change, especially of climate change, for the design of water management for the German River Elbe. C. Spash presented a case study concerning the implementation of the EU-water framework directive on the regional level. The participatory use of ELECTRE III with the help of communication specialists in a waste-treatment-siting problem for an Italian district was presented by M.F. Norese. J. Clark focussed on the decision-making process rather than on the mathematical models and methods in her case study on environmental budget allocation with stakeholder involvement. G. Munda reviewed various case studies and philosophical reflections and argued for more attention to the social embedding of participatory multi-criteria decision aiding.

(4) Conclusions and outlook.

A. Stirling analysed the workshop and identified many open questions around the main topics: nature of decisions, balancing structure and integrity and the role of decision aid in decision making: how to balance the different potential participants in the process? How to design empowering vs. constraining structures? In this light, he identified three main emerging themes: participation and analysis, constructing approaches and the relationship with power.

His analysis induced a lively debate about topics for future collaboration, as all participants agreed that the link between multi-criteria analysis and participatory methods constitutes a promising field for research, as well as for the resolution of societal conflicts.

News from the Community Research and Development Service

COMMISSION NEWS

Link indicated between climate change and cholera epidemics

A team of Spanish, US and Bangladeshi researchers have shown that the relationship between climatic variation and cholera epidemics has become stronger over the past few years.

The same scientists had already provided evidence to show that a relationship between climatic variation associated with the El Niño-Southern oscillation (ENSO) and the outbreak of cholera epidemics exists. The new research indicates that the relationship has become stronger as levels of ENSO have intensified on account of climate change. Dr. Xavier Rodo, co-ordinator of the research group believes that this study is 'one of the first demonstrations of the possible effects of climate change on the incidence of infectious diseases'.

The new statistical tools developed in the study indicate that the link between cholera and climate may be three times stronger than previously thought.

Further details from: Rosina Malagrida I Escalas, Parc Científic de Barcelona +34-93-403-45-53.

Pan-European social science research website launched

A new website managed by the University of Birmingham, UK, in partnership with the European Research Institute and in collaboration with the social science information gateway (SOSIG), went live in September.

Among the materials listed on the 'Eurostudies on the Internet' website are official documents from numerous parliaments, information on political science, international law, minorities, and defence and national security.

The countries covered range from Scandinavia to Cyprus and the UK to the Ukraine. The details are also presented in a variety of languages. The site will also offer peer reviewed learning, teaching resources and information focusing on new developments in European studies.

<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/eurostudies>

Railway incompatibility a problem for EU transport

European country railway networks 'do not speak the same language', according to the Danish Minister for Transport, Flemming Hansen,

leading to delays and incompatibility problems in freight transport across the continent. 'Today, the average speed for freight trains travelling through Europe is 18 km an hour', Mr Hansen said, due to technical, personnel and safety system variations. The Danish Presidency is committed to improving transport during its term. For further details see: <http://www.eu2002.dk>

Renewable energy consumption up to 6 per cent of EU total

The latest figures for EU energy consumption show that some six per cent of its total is made of renewable energy sources. This average figure masks a wide variance in the level of renewable energy use by individual Member States.

The three highest users of renewable energy by far are Sweden (just over 30 per cent), Finland (just under 24 per cent) and Austria (just over 23 per cent). These stand well ahead of the next two countries Portugal (13 per cent) and Denmark (just over 10 per cent). The remaining countries all showed less than 10 per cent, ranging from Italy (7 per cent) to the lowest, the UK on just over one per cent.

Sweden also managed its top place while reducing overall energy consumption between 1991 and 2000. It was joined in this by Germany, Denmark and Luxembourg. Germany, which has the highest level of gross inland energy consumption, had just under three per cent of this total made up by renewable sources.

In terms of totals, Italy has one of the best showings, as it has the fourth largest gross energy consumption, but has the best figures for renewable use of the top four countries, with seven per cent.

The figures are for consumption in 2000. Renewables are hydroelectricity, biomass, wind, solar, tidal and geothermal energy.

European Parliament adopts biofuels report

The European Parliament has approved a proposal which aims to promote the use of biofuels through setting targets for their use in Member States.

Following a vote by MEPs, biofuels should now account for 2 per cent of fuels sold in Member States by December 2005 and 5.75 per cent by 2010. No targets will be set for

blended fuels at this point.

The legislation must be put in force in Member States by the end of December 2004, with the Commission to report back on progress by the end of December 2006.

MEPs clarified that 'green' processes must be used in the production of these fuels.

Further details:

<http://www3.europarl.eu.int/>

Report warns of IPR damage to developing countries

The commission on intellectual property rights has published a report stating that poverty reduction in developing countries will be hindered if intellectual property rights (IPRs) are expanded without taking into account the individual circumstances of poor nations.

'Developed countries often proceed on the assumption that what is good for them is likely to be good for developing countries', said John Barton of Stanford University and commission chair. 'But in the case of developing countries, more and stronger protection is not necessarily better'. The report argues that rather than adopt standard regulations, poor countries need to draw up plans that promote more general development.

Spain hosts biggest Internet user event in the world

The sixth 'Campus Party' event, held in Valencia, Spain, in August, brought together the largest number of Internet users in the world, drawn largely from Europe and Latin America.

The aim of the event was to allow users to share their experiences and concerns about the Internet, as well as encouraging them to take part in Internet-related activities.

For further details see:

<http://www.mcyt.es>

Innovative environmental projects selected for EU funding

The EU has selected 109 new environmental demonstration projects for co-funding under the LIFE-Environment programme. Total investment runs to 213 million euros, with sustainable water use one of the dominant themes. For further details see: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/life/index.htm>

PROFILE

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

Jan van der Straaten was born in De Werken en Sleeuwijk, a small village in the south of the Netherlands, near the banks of a tributary of the river Rhine, and grew up in Gorinchem, an old provincial town at the other side of the river. Over a long career he was a Director of an import company, before moving on to become at various times Deputy Head of Environmental Statistics at the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics, Deputy Head of the Economic Research Bureau of the city of Rotterdam, an assistant professor at Tilburg University, and senior researcher at the European Centre for Nature Conservation. He now splits his time between Tilburg, The Netherlands and Gresse-en-Vercors in France. He is currently partly retired but also Chairman of the Saxifraga Foundation (see www.saxifraga.nl).

What was your impression of your local environment when you were a child?

We lived at the fringe of the town. So we could walk or bike into the countryside, just starting from our house. Agriculture was in that period of time, even in the Netherlands, extensive. So, we could find orchids, flowering in the meadows; lapwings, blacktailed godwits and redshanks bred in the wet meadows, while bitterns were heard in the marshes. My father gave me some binoculars on my birthday and we tried to visit as many nature areas as possible. We started a group of schoolboys and girls aiming to study nature. During summer holidays we organised camps in all parts of the country, where we studied birds, plants and butterflies every day. Nature protection was in its childhood. We wrote articles and reports aiming to protect nature. When I was 16, I joined my father and mother on their holiday to Switzerland. I saw mountains with snow and ice for the first time in my life in the Berner Oberland. I was impressed as never before. I saw there my first golden eagle. Mountains became from that moment on a central part in my life

Can you identify a point when you realised you wanted to work on environmental problems?

The only study I wanted to do was biology. However, in that period of time, biologists became in nearly all cases, teachers at a secondary school. I became convinced that this was not an option for me.

Furthermore, economy was more in line with the merchant tradition of my family. Additionally, I was convinced that a good knowledge of economics was needed to protect nature. There is no clear point in my life when I realised that I wanted to work on environmental problems. The need of nature protection was and is always a central point in my life.

Who were the most influential writers for you when you were a student?

In the first place there are Roefie Hueting and Hans Opschoor. I learned from both authors that economic reasoning could be used successfully for the protection of nature and the environment. I have had the opportunity to join the team which started the publication of environmental statistics in the Netherlands under the leadership of Roefie Hueting in the beginning of the Seventies.

From the authors abroad, I need to mention Allen Kneese with his 'material balance approach'; Barry Commoner with his Closing Circle; Mishan with 'The Costs of Economic Growth'; Rachel Carson with Silent Spring; and Boulding with the Spaceship Earth; Meadows with The Limits to Growth. They taught me how new paradigms could be found as an answer to traditional short-sighted economics.

Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?

The first would be global climate change and the use of fossil energy. Then there is the ongoing destruction of nature in Europe by agriculture (see my recent book with Floor Brouwer, *Nature and Agriculture in the European Union*). There is also the ignorance by many politicians and citizens of the limited possibilities of the ecosystem earth. In this respect, the difference between the North and the South is very marked.

Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Has your view changed over time?

I am convinced that people, including myself are to a certain extent a product from situations and circumstances. On the other hand, it is also true for me that people can change the situation in which they are living (see Giddens). In this context it does not make sense to have an optimistic or pessimistic view.

The only important part for me is the possibility to take the opportunities, to change the situations, to publish articles and books, to give lectures, to study and enjoy nature and the environment. In the first place, I like to do these things; they give me a real satisfaction. And I know that these activities make sense from a macro point of view. My main satisfaction is to do the things that need to be done in cooperation with others. That is for me the meaning of life. You find these ideas, for example, in a marvellous recent Czech movie: 'Divided We Fall' and in 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being' by Milan Kundera.

What sort of local environmental problems are you faced with where you live now?

Increase of traffic by motor cars. Also dominance of cars in the mind of politicians and citizens. And in addition, dominance of intensive agriculture with manure surpluses in pig farming for many decades. My thesis at the end of my studies in the early Seventies was about manure surpluses; my PhD in 1990 was about acid rain, and now in 2002 these problems are in the Netherlands worse than ever before. This is caused by blackmailing the politicians with pseudo-economic arguments by agricultural vested interests. Right-wing politicians have a strong tendency to fulfil the desires of intensive agriculture.

What places (cities, regions, companies) have impressed you with their quality of their environmental management, and why?

The city of Groningen which stopped the dominance of car traffic in the city. Also the Slovenian authorities who started activities to launch national and regional parks in the country, aiming to combine nature protection and rural development. And perhaps surprisingly, Shell. Shell was, from the environmental point of view, for a long period

RESEARCH NOTES

New Report

Environmental Signals 2002 - The State of Europe's Environment

Efforts to lessen pressures on Europe's environment are making uneven progress while pressure is continuing to grow on some natural resources, especially fish stocks and land, the European Environment Agency's latest annual assessment shows.

Environmental Signals 2002 points to positive overall trends across the European Union in emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases and generation of waste, as well as to confirmed reductions in water and air pollution.

Greenhouse gas emissions are 3.5 per cent lower than in 1990, even if they showed a slight rise in the year 2000; emissions of several air pollutants have been substantially reduced; the total amount of waste, though still increasing, appears to be growing more slowly than the economy; and the introduction of many new sewage treatment plants is cutting polluting discharges to rivers and other water bodies.

However, these overall reductions are in many cases due to large cuts in only a few countries or economic sectors, the report cautions. Many countries and some sectors have not contributed to the positive trends, making

progress patchy. And time-lags before these falls translate into improvements in the quality of the environment, combined with high background concentrations of pollutants from past emissions and other sources, mean that the impact of these pressures remains a concern.

Consequently, large areas of natural habitats and agricultural land are still exposed to acidification. There is little sign that eutrophication is becoming less of a problem in coastal waters. And a substantial proportion of Europe's urban population remains exposed to high concentrations of harmful ground-level ozone and fine particles.

Pressure on some natural resources is continuing to increase. This is particularly the case for fisheries. Despite an overall decline in fleet capacity, continued over-fishing is putting many of the commercially important European fish stocks at high risk of collapse.

Land resources also remain subject to significant pressures, such as urban sprawl and the expansion of transport infrastructure. Over the last 20 years the built-up area in major western and eastern European countries has increased by some 20 per cent, much faster than EU population growth (6 per cent). This has caused loss or disturbance of natural areas and significant fragmentation of animal and plant habitats in most of Europe.

Domingo Jiménez-Beltrán, EEA Executive Director, drew four main conclusions from *Environmental Signals 2002*:

* The process of "dematerialisation" – improving quality of life while reducing consumption of energy and materials – which was anticipated with the transition to a more service-oriented economy has not yet been fully exploited.

* Some environmental pressures continue to be closely tied to economic development. Examples are greenhouse gas emissions from transport and tourism; land and soil degradation; energy and resource consumption by households; and reduction of stocks by fishing. Other pressures, such as mining and industrial waste, are growing more slowly than the economy but still increasing in absolute terms.

* On average the EU is using energy more efficiently, but it is still not reducing energy consumption in absolute terms. Also, while some countries have shown that targets, such as increasing the share of renewable energy in their energy mix, can be met, others have seen their energy efficiency deteriorate. The successful expansion of renewable energy is being undermined by an overall increase in the consumption of energy, especially electricity.

* Households' contribution to environmental pressures is often overlooked. As consumption levels continue to rise in parallel with disposable income, the need to help consumers make informed choices is becoming increasingly important. Eco-labelling and information dissemination, such as campaigns to encourage energy savings, are growing but their use remains marginal.

The full text of *Environmental Signals 2002*, as well as a summary, are available for download at:

[http://reports.eea.eu.int/
environmental_assessment_report_2002_9/](http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_assessment_report_2002_9/).

continued from page 4

of time a 'bad' company. However, after the Brent Spar, I am impressed by their will to change their attitude in this respect.

Which figures from the past do you most admire (not just in the environmental field), and why?

Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist, who was the first one giving scientific names to plants and animals. Also Gaston Rebuffat, the French alpine guide and mountain climber, who brought completely new ideas about the elegance of climbing into the alpine tradition. He combined nature with mountaineering. And Charlie Chaplin, who made his movie 'The Great Dictator' many years before the beginning of the Second World War. This movie is the strongest expression of the belief

in the possibility of humans to change the world by 'normal' behaviour.

What advice would you give young researchers just starting out in ecological economics?

Study nature as much as possible. Otherwise, you will not receive the right influences in your work. Science starts with emotion and political ideas find their origins in human morality. Without that science does not have any sense in a human world. Furthermore, believe strongly in your own possibilities and skills and try to learn from others.

Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?

That depends on what religious beliefs are. I

am far away from churches and in particular from those where priests and clergymen in distinguished vestments can be met. However, I am convinced that life, and nature, are stronger and more important than I am as a person.

Do you have a favourite motto or saying about the environment?

It is from a Dutch poet: Alles van Waarde is Weerloos (Everything of value is defenceless), which of course implies that people have to defend it.

What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

You will regret more the things you don't do, than the things you do. This is a piece of advice from my partner.

In Brief

Environment Poll

From the website of the European Parliament's Environment Committee you can take part in an on-line poll on global environment issues. Organised in conjunction with the UN World Summit on sustainable development, this is the first ever on-line global poll on this issue. The intention of the poll is to canvas opinion of as many people as possible. The questionnaire should only take five to seven minutes to complete. It is possible to register to receive a summary of the survey results by email.

The poll can be accessed from:

http://www.europarl.eu.int./comparl/envi/default_en.htm

Canada to create 10 giant national parks

Canada has said it plans to create 10 huge new national parks and five marine conservation areas over the next five years to protect unique landscapes and animals. The total area covered by the 10 new parks will be around 100,000 square km, almost doubling the area occupied by the existing 39 national parks.

'Canada is blessed with exceptional natural treasures. We owe it to Canadians and to the world to be wise stewards of these lands and waters,' Prime Minister Jean Chretien said in a speech to mark the announcement. Heritage Minister Sheila Copps said it was the most ambitious plan to expand the national parks system since the first park was established at Banff in 1885. The price tag will be revealed in the next federal budget in February 2003.

Sulphur in petrol to be banned

European Union environment ministers have agreed to ban sulphur in petrol from January 1, 2009, a move the oil industry says will cost billions of euros.

The ban requires all member states to introduce sulphur-free petrol and diesel from January 1, 2005. Four years afterwards, use of sulphur-free petrol will be mandatory.

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we take a stroll round the continent to catch up on the latest environmental news.

Belgium

Christophe van Leuwen digests some of the items making the Belgian news.

Breaking news in Belgium just last week was the U.S. request to recycle weapons-grade plutonium, which split the country's coalition government. The Americans asked Belgium to recycle 80 kg of the material, as part of the deal with Russia to reduce warheads on each side from 6000 to 2000. Belgium and France have the technology to convert weapons-grade material into commercially useable MOX fuel, but the US does not. A US spokesman said they planned to licence the technology to build two similar plants in the United States, but it first it wanted to simulate the procedure. It would take the United States several years to build its own MOX plant and Belgian assistance could speed up the destruction process by four years. But the Greens advocated storing the plutonium underground in the United States.

Moving to more edible matters, and in July the country enjoyed another in a seemingly endless supply of food scares. This time the banned hormone MPA was found in a batch of 4,000 pigs imported from the Netherlands. The MPA scare has been rumbling for months, with experts determining that it had found its way via pig feed into thousands of farms, mainly in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The source of MPA contamination has been traced to waste water from an Irish pharmaceutical factory sent to a now-bankrupt Belgian reprocessing plant. Earlier in the year the authorities said they had found allergy-causing antibiotics in animal feed, the third food scare in as many months. Prior to that traces of sulphonimide were found in chicken feed originating from a firm at Ooigem, in western Belgium; and a month before that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were discovered in pig and chicken feed, causing the

seizure of thousands of pork and chicken pieces. In almost the same week, a further scare erupted when shards of glass were found in a bottle of baby food, forcing manufacturer Olvarit-Nutricia to recall more than 100,000 bottles.

Moving back up the food chain, and GMOs have been getting a mixed reception. In the summer Aventis was forced to destroy genetically-modified rapeseed because of a risk of contamination. Under current rules, trial rapeseed has to be planted 1000m away from regular rapeseed fields, but this particular field fell a little short, being just under 900m away. Earlier in April, environmental activists destroyed an experimental field containing Aventis rapeseed near the town of Lede, northern Belgium. Aventis was also refused consent to conduct experimental field tests with another modified strain. Health Minister Magda Aelvoet told a news conference that there was too large a risk of the genetically modified crops spreading into the environment. The company did however obtain a license to experiment with insect-resistant maize in a greenhouse.

In March, the cabinet put forward a controversial bill to shut down the nation's nuclear reactors by 2025, emulating similar moves by Sweden and Germany. If put into law, the bill would shut down the nation's seven plants and prohibit the construction of new ones. The bill is the result of a pledge made by Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt when he took office three years ago. Belgium gets nearly 60 percent of its electricity from nuclear reactors, making it the country most dependent on nuclear power after France. It uses natural gas and coal to meet the rest of its needs. The bill would phase out the reactors after 40 years of use. The bill had raised concerns that energy prices would rise if nuclear power was phased out.

Finally, in the European Environment Agency's report 'Environmental Signals 2002', Belgium was the only EU state guilty of increasing "energy intensity", a ratio measuring the amount of power used in production. Still some way to go to sustainability!

ND EUROPE

el news. This issue we spans the breadth of mainland Europe.

Bulgaria

Oleg Penkovski finds reports a busy year on the edge of the Black Sea.

Exploding FROGS have been making the headlines recently in Bulgaria. But these are no ordinary frogs. Along with the SS-23 and the SCUD, they formed part of Bulgaria's cold war nuclear missile arsenal - which is now in the process of being voluntarily destroyed. The destruction of the SS-20 warheads was completed last month, and the destruction of the rocket engines is now due to commence. The work has been accompanied by environmental controversies however, with the government refusing to order a full environmental impact assessment on the disposal methods back in the summer. Recently demonstrations have been seen around at least two of the disposal sites, with local villagers at Belyakovets and Veliko Turnovo blocking the main road and refusing to allow access. Environmental monitoring of the work so far indicates no problems but there has been a re-think on the original disposal methods, which involved burning engine parts.

In July, Parliament ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which for Bulgaria means a commitment to an 8 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 1988 levels. The country is well placed in greenhouse gas terms with well preserved forests and good woodland potential, which should provide the opportunity for emissions trading. However, power generation is itself a hot topic in the country. The EU insists that two reactors at the Kozloduy nuclear power plant, one of the country's water-cooled reactor plants which is more than 20 years old, be closed down by 2006, despite modernization work which the government claims has increased its safety. The plant generates 40 per cent of the country's electricity. Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburggotski seems determined to confront the EU over the closure issue, claiming that he

will not sign the chapter on energy in the accession negotiations with the EU unless a team is sent to inspect the plant. Polls indicate that he has wide public support for his stance, even if it threatens a delay to joining the EU.

Whilst one nuclear plant is threatened with closure, however, there is fresh interest in the country's second plant, at Belene, 250 km north of Sofia. The Soviet-designed 1000 MW complex was started in the 1980s before lack of funds and environmental protests halted construction; but recently the Russians have expressed interest in completing the work. Bulgaria is the leading power exporter in the Balkans and aims to retain its advantage.

Moving on to food, and grain producers in Silistra district staged road block protests in the harvest season to protest against the low price being offered for wheat and barley. Farmers were insisting on state protection of agrarian produce. Of the EU accession countries, Bulgaria ranks second only behind Romania for the numbers employed in the agricultural sector, and the impact of accession on agriculture is the centre of much debate.

On conservation issues, the Environmental Protection Service announced in July that the Natura 2000 network will be developed to cover between 10 and 13 per cent of the country. Earlier in June a 7.5 million dollar grant from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) was agreed for restoring critical priority wetlands in the Danube Basin. It forms the first wetlands restoration project under the Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Production in the Black Sea and Danube Basin. Three Ministries also recently signed a joint protocol on ecotourism aimed at developing a national strategy for development. However the green light was given in April for the construction of 'Danube Bridge 2' following a positive environmental impact assessment; potential partners will now be sought through tender. Finally, save the last dance for the bears. Dancing bears, once a common sight accompanied by gypsies in rural towns and villages, will soon be history. Following two years of monitoring, a new law will now prohibit hunting, trade and performance with the animals.

In Brief

OtaEco'02 Economy, Ecology & Business Congress

Arranged for the third time, OtaEco - congress is the largest event in Finland concentrating on environmental and social responsibility questions. The main theme of OtaEco'02 - Economy, Ecology & Business - is ethical management, investment and finance. The program and further details about the congress are available on the OtaEco website at: <http://www.dipoli.hut.fi/otaeco>.

EU set to fail on Kyoto targets

The EU will be unable to reach its Kyoto targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions even if it launches new policies on boosting cleaner energy, the International Energy Agency's chief economist said. According to IEA forecasts, the European Union could boost the share of renewable power like wind and solar in its electricity generation to 30 per cent by 2030, but even that would not cut enough emissions to meet climate change targets.

'Fossil fuels will still dominate,' IEA Chief Economist Fatih Birol told a news conference. 'Even with these alternative policies (on renewables) we don't reach the Kyoto targets.'

Under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the EU has to reduce its emissions of the greenhouse gases blamed for causing global warming by eight percent of 1990 levels by 2012. According to the IEA, the EU emitted around 3080 million tonnes of CO₂ in 1990. This would rise to 3146 million tonnes in 2010 and to 3829 by 2030 without any new 'green' policies.

With new policies on renewable energy, emissions would be 4.9 per cent less than that 'business as usual' case by 2010, but would still be up from the 1990 level, according to the IEA. Emissions would be 19 per cent less than the 2030 business as usual prediction, still a rise over all.

Fatih said the reason was a large rise in demand for transport, which mostly runs on oil products, and the fact traditional electricity plants had a long life span and would not be replaced overnight.

BOOKS

Valuing Cultural Heritage: Applying Environmental Valuation Techniques to Historic Buildings, Monuments and Artefacts

Stale Navrud and Richard C Ready

Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.

May 2002

ISBN: 1840640790 (HB) 59.95 UKP

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

Making Waves: Integrating Coastal Conservation and Development

Katrina Brown, Emma

L. Tompkins and W. Neil Adger

Earthscan Publications, London

September 2002

ISBN 195383 912 4 (PB) 17.95 UKP/

185383 915 9 (HB) 45.00 UKP

Coasts are dynamic and restless entities, and define the edge of human habitation. If we desire to conserve the nature of coasts, we must conserve their dynamism - but this is not always easy.

Coastal zones are critical multi-use resources, under pressure from constant demands from different sources - conservation, economic growth and social welfare. *Making Waves* identifies the dilemmas of managing conservation and development in coastal areas. It is packed with important information and tools for the management, conservation and assessment of

social implications of coastal resource use.

The authors present a variety of methods and techniques that can be used to highlight the trade-offs and promote sustainable decisions among diverse users. Their interdisciplinary analysis draws upon the latest scientific knowledge as well as social science insights on property rights and governance, with cases from the developed and developing world.

The book is important reading for researchers and students in geography, development studies and environmental planning and also for practitioners in natural resource management and coastal zone management.

Katrina Brown is Reader in the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich. Emma Tompkins is Research Fellow in the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. Neil Adger is Reader in the School of Environmental Sciences and Research Fellow in the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment, University of East Anglia, Norwich.

An excellent introduction to an important, and often neglected, topic, *Valuing Cultural Heritage* combines a useful primer on the theory of economic valuation followed by a dozen interesting case studies from eight different countries. The cultural resources studied include traditional cultural monuments and assets such as castles and cathedrals in Norway and the UK, a royal theatre in Denmark, monasteries in Bulgaria, and marble monuments in Washington D.C. However, the volume also includes studies on less commonly considered assets such as the value of an entire historic quarter in Fez, Morocco, cultural services of Italian museums, or rock paintings in the Canadian woods, and, in a very interesting application of the approach, the benefits from reducing visual and noise pollution near Stonehenge by burying a nearby highway.

Although contingent valuation techniques (CVM) predominate, other approaches are also illustrated. The volume is enhanced by an extensive summary chapter that provides clear guidance on lessons learned and best practice to guide future work.

Three parts. Fifteen chapters. 296 pages.

JOBS

Applications are invited for the following posts within the Socio Economic Research Programme (SERP) at The Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, headed by Professor Clive L. Spash, to whom informal enquiries can be made at c.spash@macaulay.ac.uk.

Senior Researcher – MA14/02

Specialising in Ecological or Environmental Economics

Senior Researcher – MA28/02

Specialising in Rural Economics

Researcher – MA31/02

Specialising in Rural Economics

Researcher – MA32/02

Specialising in Ecological or Environmental Economics

Researcher – MA33/02

Specialising in Participatory Approaches

Further particulars and application forms can be obtained from Personnel, The Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH Tel: 44 1224-498200. E-mail Personnel@macaulay.ac.uk. Web Site <http://www.macaulay.ac.uk>

For further details below contact Professor Gareth Edwards Jones, School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences, The University of Wales, Bangor, BANGOR, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW. Email: g.ejones@bangor.ac.uk

Research Officer- Ecological economics of invasive plants

Research Officer to investigate the ecological economics of invasive plant species on Mediterranean islands. This is as part of an EU funded project - EPIDEMIE.

PhD preferred. The post will involve extensive field work on a range of Mediterranean islands and the ability to speak at least one Mediterranean language (Spanish, Italian,

French, Greek) would be a great advantage. The post is for 18 months. The salary is on the RA1A scale (minimum £17,626).

Research Officer- Risk assessment of shrublands under climate change

Research Officer to undertake a Risk assessment of shrublands under climate change. This is as part of an EU funded project - VULCAN.

PhD preferred. The post will involve field work in the UK, Spain and Hungary and the ability to speak Spanish or Hungarian would be an advantage, but is not essential. The post is for 24 months. The salary is on the RA1A scale (minimum £17,626).

**ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS**

Second Biennial Conference
of the
United States Society for Ecological
Economics (USSEE)

May 22 - 24, 2003

*Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
Saratoga Springs, New York, USA*

Mark down the dates, start thinking about paper topics, or even plan a holiday around the history and beauty of Saratoga Springs. Located just north of the Albany capital region, Saratoga is world-renowned for its natural springs, cultural amenities, historical landscape, and recreational opportunities.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Juliet Schor, best-selling author of *The Overworked American*, and James Howard Kunstler, regular contributor to the *New York Times Magazine* and author of *The Geography of Nowhere*, *Home from Nowhere*, and *The City in Mind*. Plenary sessions taking shape include Bob Costanza and Stephen Schneider.

Inquiries or abstracts for presentations should be directed by e-mail to Jon Erickson of the University of Vermont at jdericks@zoo.uvm.edu. Abstracts are due by December 15, 2002, and will be selected for conference presentation based on originality and relevance to Ecological Economics. Please limit the text to 300 words along with the following ordered information within the body of an e-mail: 1. Title 2. Author(s) 3. Affiliation(s) 4. Abstract 5. Four key words 6. Paper or poster session 7. Audio-visual requirements 8. Contact information.

If e-mail is not available, please direct abstracts by fax to 802-656-8683, or post to Jon Erickson, School of Natural Resources, 344 Aiken Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, 05405, USA.

CONFERENCES

6th Nordic Conference on
Environmental Social Sciences (NESS)

**SCALES, LIMITS AND BORDERS:
PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL ECOLOGY**

June 12-14, 2003

Turku / Åbo, Finland

<http://www.abo.fi/6thNESS>.

We want to organise a number of working sessions that use and critically elaborate the concepts of scale, limits and borders. These themes are developed within the framework of 'political ecology', combining ecology and political economy to represent an ever-changing dynamic tension between ecological and human change.

WORKING SESSIONS:

1. Global ecological justice
2. Limits to growth today
3. Multilevel environmental governance
4. Global environmentalism, national policies
5. Political ecology in history
6. Johannesburg: a first anniversary

REGISTRATION & DEADLINES:

Deadline for abstracts: January 31, 2003

Notification of accepted papers: March 2003

Final registration: April 31 2003

Symposium fee will be about 250 Å (including lunches, coffee, receptions & symposium dinner)

Contact person: Ea Maria Blomqvist, Åbo Akademi University, FC, Biskopsgatan 10 A, FIN-20500 Åbo, Finland, or email to ea.blomqvist@abo.fi

UK Rural Geography Research Group Postgraduate Conference

VITAL RURALITIES

Centre for Rural Economy, Newcastle University, UK
November 20-21, 2002

Postgraduate students with a research focus, theoretical or methodological concerns relating to Rural Geography are invited to participate in this two-day conference. The aim of the event is to provide a forum for discussion, skills sharing, and raise the level of communication between postgraduates researching rural issues. The cost of the conference is £15, which includes lunch on the 20th, refreshments and a book of abstracts. Further details and application forms are available from the organisers:

Mark Riley (riley@geography.nottingham.ac.uk)

Miriam Renner (M.E.Renner@ncl.ac.uk)

SEE THE PREVIEW OF
FRONTIERS 2 THEMES
ON THE BACK PAGE.
FULL REGISTRATION
DETAILS NOW

AVAILABLE AT:

<http://>

[www.euroecolecon.org/
frontiers/Participation/
part_frame.html](http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers/Participation/part_frame.html)

CALENDAR EVENTS

October

October 16-19, 2002

Aquaculture Europe 2002. Seafarming Today and Tomorrow.

Trieste, Italy.

Organised by European Aquaculture Society.
<http://www.easonline.org/agenda/en/aquaeuro2002/default.asp>

October 26-28, 2002

Third International Symposium 'Agroenviron-2002'.

Cairo, Egypt

Organised by the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences, Cairo. For info email: sirahaman@intouch.com

October 31-November 2, 2002

Ireland's Transition to Renewable Energy. *Tipperary, Ireland.*

Organised by FEASTA, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, and the Tipperary Institute.
<http://www.feasta.org>

November

November 6-8, 2002 (**NEW**)

OtaEco 02: Economy, Ecology and Business. *Otaniemi, Finland.*
<http://www.dipoli.hut.fi/otaeco>

November 8-9, 2002 (**NEW**)

Local Challenges in the Face of Globalisation. *Quito, Ecuador.*
Part of First Iberoamerican Congress on Development and Environment.
<http://www.cidma2002.org>

November 11-13, 2002

The European Research Area and the Framework Programme. *Brussels, Belgium*

European Commission conference presenting objectives and priorities of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html

November 13-15, 2002

Third International Sustainable Forest Management Network Conference. 'Advances in Forest Management: From Knowledge to Practice'.

Edmonton, Canada.

Organised by the Sustainable Forest Management Network.
<http://sfm-1.biology.ualberta.ca/english/events/enetconferences.htm>

November 13-17, 2002 (**NEW**)

The Water Framework Directive: Realities and Futures. *Seville, Spain.*
3rd Iberian Congress on Water Management and Planning.
<http://www.us.es/ciberico/2circularenl.html>

14 November, 2002 (**NEW**)

Aiming for Eco-Efficiency in Resource Use. *Brussels, Belgium.*
Organised by ASSURE.
<http://www.assure.org>

December

December 5-6, 2002 (**NEW**)

HEAVEN for Sustainable Mobility. *Prague, Czech Republic.*
The Healthier Environment through Abatement of Vehicle Emissions and Noise (HEAVEN) Project.
<http://heaven.rec.org/conference-prague.html>

December 6-7, 2002 (**NEW**)

Knowledge for the Sustainability Transition: The Challenge for Social Science. *Berlin, Germany.*
2nd International Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change.
<http://www.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2002/index.htm>

December 18-20, 2002 (**NEW**)

2nd International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture, Water Resources Development and Earth Care Policy.

New Dehli, India.

Foundation for Earth Sciences Development.
<http://www.bhoovikas.nic.in/>

January

January 13-15, 2003 (**NEW**)

History and Forest Biodiversity. Challenges for Conservation. *Leuven, Belgium.*
IUFRO-Symposium.
<http://www.agr.kuleuven.ac.be/lbh/lbnl/forestbiodiv/>

February

February 12-15, 2003

FRONTIERS 2. European Applications in Ecological Economics.

Tenerife, Spain

Organised by ESEE with University de la Laguna, Tenerife.
<http://www.euroecolecon.org>

March

March 14-15, 2003 (**NEW**)

Citizen's Parliament on Sustainable Consumption. *Brussels, Belgium.*
Organised by IBGE-BIM, the CRIOC and ACRR; EC funded.
<http://www.igbebim.be>

CALENDAR EVENTS

March 23-27, 2003 (NEW**)**

Environmental Future of Aquatic Ecosystems.

Zurich, Switzerland.

5th International Conference on Environmental Future (5th ICEF).

<http://www.icef.eawag.ch/>

April

April 11-14, 2003 (NEW**)**

UK Agricultural Economics Society Annual Conference

Seale Hayne, Devon, UK.

<http://www.aes.ac.uk>

April 16-18, 2003 (NEW**)**

Framing Land Use Dynamics. Integrating knowledge on environmental and socio-economic systems.

Utrecht University, Netherlands.

<http://networks.geog.uu.nl/conference>

May

May 22-24, 2003 (NEW**)**

Second Biennial Conference of USEEE.

Saratoga Springs, NY, USA.

<http://www.useee.org>

June

June 12-14, 2003 (NEW**)**

Scales, Limits and Borders. Problems in Political Ecology

Turku/Abo, Finland.

6th Nordic Conference on Environmental Social Sciences (NESS).

<http://www.abo.fi/6thNESS>

continued from back page

address how this and other approaches provide practical examples of the application of strong sustainability and the role of institutions in this area.

Theme 3: Innovative Forms of Education and Cooperation

3A: Higher and Community Education

This session seeks to evaluate the spread and content of ecological economics in education. What barriers are colleagues facing in trying to establish this interdisciplinary field? How can those in education make sure they learn from and make links with those who practise the principles of ecological economics without ever having heard of the concept (e.g. agriculturalists using local knowledge and traditional skills)? Are new forms of education arising? Is the role of the University in the community changing? Does ecological economics need to change the current form of education in order to succeed? Case studies and experience should be used to show how these issues affect ecological economics.

3B: Business and Industry

How does industry try to address community and public concerns over environmental impacts and sustainability? What makes businesses sustainable and can they convey this to their consumers? Potential topics are fair trade, community enterprises & communes, regional production & local markets, ethical consumerism, and ethical banking.

Theme 4: Developing and Testing Tools

4A: The Role and Use of Modelling

Contributions would explore developments in ecological economic modelling to address issues such as complexity and multi-dimensionality, ignorance and uncertainty. Papers should critically review applications in environmental decision processes. Coverage of the following subjects is particularly welcome: wildlife management, biodiversity, sustainable agricultural systems, water resource management and climate change.

4B: Processes of Valuation

Transferability of values has become more

common place and has been promoted as showing the value of environmental assets. However, the context of values is lost and the meaning and content becomes questionable. Different languages of valuation are used by different interest groups. Questions arise how these values can be included in the process of valuation. For example, there has been debate over the use of deliberation in the context of monetary valuation. Contributions should address alternatives for expressing environmental values in policy process using examples and experience.

4C: Multiple Criteria and Composite Approaches

How do tools being developed and applied address the concerns raised over the use of more traditional economic and legislative approaches to project and policy appraisal? The merge between multiple criteria approaches and participation was raised at FRONTIERS 1 as a developing area. Forms of portraying multiple perspectives are required while being aware of how they will enter into policy processes. Contributions should critically appraise practical experience using case studies.

SCHEDULE

20 October 2002: Final date for submissions of contributions (abstract and synopsis)

15 November 2002: Notification of acceptance/rejections of contributions

16 December 2002: Registration deadline (after this date a higher rate applies)

20 December 2002: Deadline for submissions of final/revised papers (only applies to focused groups discussions)

12-15 February 2003 Conference, Tenerife, Canary Islands

IF YOU HAVE MISSED THE FRONTIERS 2 SUBMISSION DEADLINE, PLEASE MAKE AN EMAIL ENQUIRY TO THE SECRETARIAT ON:

frontier@ull.es

Take Note

MEMBERSHIP - HAVE YOU RENEWED YOURS?
Please fill in and return your membership for 2003 at:
<http://www.euroecolecon.org/joining.htm>

FRONTIERS 2: Full Session Descriptions

FRONTIERS 2 is the second high-level scientific conference on ecological economics supported by the European Commission. FRONTIERS 1 addressed fundamental issues concerning ecological economics from a theoretical perspective. FRONTIERS 2 will focus on state-of-the-art applications of ecological economics as used for environmental planning and management, in education and for testing the robustness of research tools. Four subject themes and associated subject areas have been selected.

Theme 1: Environmental Planning: Scientific-Political Decision Processes

1A: Participatory Decision Processes

Critical appraisal of successes and failures in the application of participatory approaches such as citizens' juries, consensus conferences, rapid rural appraisal and planning for real on environmental topics such as water resources management, GMOs, nuclear power, waste management. What is, or should be, the role of institutions in these processes?

1B: Socio-Economic and Ecological Dimension of Sustainability

Quantitative and qualitative analysis of changing patterns of production and consumption to help approach sustainability goals and/or show what is unsustainable. The influence and/or potential role of institutions in such processes are of particular interest. One potential area is to look at de-materialisation and the effectiveness of technological change in advancing sustainability. Applications include areas such as use of water, mobility patterns and behaviour, concerns with de-materialisation, and land use.

1C: Community Development

Contributions are sought which take non-economic approaches to community development (e.g. using rural sociology and environmental & social psychology) to show how economic perspectives can be enriched. Papers should explore issues such as social capital, community values, the importance of

sense of place, and community development through social learning.

1D: Accounting for Environmental Change

Interdisciplinary approaches give different perspectives on how to account for environmental change. This session aims to explore what has been learned through the application of sustainability indicators, since their rise over the last decade, and assess their validity. Contributions should also address the future of such approaches.

Theme 2: Environmental Management: Applying Strong Sustainability

2A: Putting Strong Sustainability into Practice

Theoretical work has raised concerns over concepts such as lexicographic preferences and incommensurable values but how these relate to environmental policy remains unclear. Can such concepts be made part of an environmental agency's practical tool kit? What rethinking is required? Can institutional analysis help? What values motivate support for strong sustainability? What changes are required if human behaviour is found to diverge from deeply held values? Contributions are sought which address such questions using practical experience, case studies and/or empirical analysis.

2B: Legislative and Regulatory Experience

The precautionary principle provides one example of how strong sustainability concerns have been expressed. Contributions should

Food for Thought: Jean Jaques Rousseau (1712-1778)

The first person who, having fenced off a plot of ground, took it into his head to say this is mine and found people simple enough to believe him, was the true founder of civil society. What crimes, wars, murders, what miseries and what horrors would the human race have been spared by someone who, uprooting the stakes or filling in the ditch, had shouted to his fellow-men: Beware of listening to this impostor; you are lost if you forget that the fruits belong to all and the earth to no one! But it is very likely that by then things had already come to the point where they could no longer remain as they were. For this idea of property, depending on many prior ideas which could only have arisen successively, was not conceived all at once in the human mind. It was necessary to make much progress, to acquire much industry and enlightenment, and to transmit and augment them from age to age, before arriving at this last stage of nature...

[F]rom the moment one man needed the help of another, as soon as they observed that it was useful for a single person to have provisions for two, equality disappeared, property was introduced, labour became necessary; and vast forests were changed into smiling fields which had to be watered with the sweat of men, and in which slavery and misery were soon seen to germinate and grow with the crops.

from the Second part of the Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality, published in 1753.

ESEE Secretariat,
c/o Charlene Nash,
Socio-Economic Research Programme,
The Macaulay Institute,
Craigiebuckler,
Aberdeen, AB15 8QH

Tel: +44 1224 498200 ex. 2335

Fax: +44 1224 311556

Email: c.nash@macaulay.ac.uk or

secretary@euroecolecon.org

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