



# 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.

## Russian Society forges ahead at Moscow meeting

The Fifth Biennial International Conference of the Russian Society for Ecological Economics (RSEE, formerly the ISEE Russian Chapter) was held at the Institute of Control Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Moscow, from September 26-29, 2001. The program included over 50 contributions from Belarus, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, and the USA, and more than 15 different regions all around Russia.

Although the conference had focused on *Ecological Economic Management and Planning in Regional and Urban Systems*, it was an ecological economics meeting at large that brought up a wide range of fundamental and applied issues. An invited introduction lecture by *Jeroen van den Bergh* (Netherlands) gave events a good start, bringing to a Russian speaking audience a long awaited discussion on themes and approaches in ecological economics and its differences with environmental economics. *Anthony Friend* (Canada), as discussant, and many other participants' questions and comments proved that the debate on the definition and the scope of ecological economics remains very topical.

The Opening Plenary started with a paper by *John Proops* (UK) on attitudes towards the environment and reforming environmental policy. John spoke on Q methodology, a technique combining discourse analysis and the statistics of factor analysis, to identify the nature and structure of the various attitudes held by a group of people. Next, the modern environmental problems and the pitfalls of the recent environmental policy in Russia were featured in a presentation by *Kirill Yankov*, Vice-Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. *Sergey Pegov* (Institute of Systems Analysis, RAS, Moscow) spoke on global aspects of

sustainability and gave his critical view on the recent administrative restructuring of the regional environmental agencies and monitoring services in Russia. Economic, environmental, informational and social factors of sustainability were then addressed in the talk by RSEE Vice-President *Pavel Kasyanov*, focusing on linkages between human consciousness and needs, informational and educational policy, on the one hand, and world outlook, environmental and non-material needs, and social demand structure, on the other.

The next plenary panel was devoted to valuation, and comprised analysis of the evolution of concepts for environmental damage economic evaluation, by *Andrey Gusev* (Market Economy Institute, RAS, Moscow), and a study by *Arild Vatn* (Norway), that looked at what valuation studies may contribute to improving choice theory, focusing on the information problem and the characteristics of preference formation.

*continued on back page*

## ESEE Board elections and constitution

Voting is now underway for four new representatives to the ESEE Administrative Board, and for support of the revised Constitution. If you have not already received your voting papers, with details of the four candidates standing (three Ordinary and one Student) and the new Constitution, please get in touch with the Secretariat immediately. Note that the deadline for receipt of both ballots is 30 November 2001 (postmarked 29 November 2001). It is important to get a quorum for the Board elections, so please return your voting cards as soon as possible.

# COMMITTEES

## *Developments in ESEE Administration and Committee Work*

### **ESEE 2001 Administrative Board Members**

**President:** Clive Spash  
(cspash@macaulay.ac.uk)

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

**Secretary:** Claudia Carter  
(secretary@euroecoloecon.org)

**Treasurer:** Helge Hagerup  
(helge.hagerup@ios.nlh.no)

**Newsletter Editor:** Ben Davies  
(bbd20@cam.ac.uk)

**Complaints:** Sandrine Simon  
(s.m.simon@open.ac.uk)

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

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

**Conferences and Meetings:**  
Claudia Carter  
(cec29@cam.ac.uk)

**Fundraising and Membership:**  
Jorg Kohn  
(03829570410-0001@t-online.de)

**Publications and Publicity:**  
Caroline Sullivan  
(csu@wpo.nerc.ac.uk)

### **Ordinary Members**

Mario Giampietro  
(giampietro@inn.ingrm.it)

Fritz Hinteberger (Fritz@seri.at)

Irmi Seidl (iseidl@uwinst.unizh.ch)

*Committee members are always keen to hear from ESEE members interested in developing ideas or contacts within their area of responsibility.*

### **Temporary Secretariat arrangements and items to note**

Please note that ESEE Secretary Claudia Carter is now away on maternity leave. The Secretariat is moving to the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI) in Aberdeen, where ESEE President Professor Clive Spash is moving to become Head of the Socio-Economic Research Programme (SERP). During the transitional phase Charlene Nash at Macaulay will be temporarily covering the Secretary's duties, so please address any correspondence for the Secretariat c/o Charlene Nash, at the new address on the back page.

#### **There are three main items of news to note this issue:**

1. The Elections to the ESEE Administrative Board. You should have already received your ballot card and accompanying information on the candidates by post. Please complete and return this as soon as possible, **and before November 20.**

2. Endorsement of the new ESEE Constitution. Changes are to enable the move of the Secretariat to different countries, to harmonise with the ISEE, and to reflect new membership categories. Again, please return your ballot card, **before November 20.**

3. Planning for the TunISEE 2002 conference. There is still time for open paper submissions and themed sessions. See the further details on page 5.

## **Comment: Whither Ecological Economics?**

Arild Vatn (ESEE Vice-President)

In the previous issue of ESEE News I formulated a challenge to ESEE members to focus more on theory development – on developing structures to support systematic accumulation of knowledge. I will continue by picking up the theme myself.

I believe all of us support pluralism. We understand the great limits of axiomatic theory. We want instead to be problem oriented in our research. We work in fields dominated by uncertainty – and distance ourselves from theory and methods that depend on determinism or probability theory – i.e. axiomatic theory. Instead of developing ecological economics towards a deductive science, we may rather want to practice abduction. That is, we believe real life choices are context dependent and that rationality shifts from one situation to another. The best we can do is to diagnose – to explain under certain or given conditions – like the doctor does when she examines the patient.

So then, there should be no hope for those of us that want to support theory building: every case is unique. But this is also wrong. While the signs of a disease may vary, the doctor is normally able to classify it given the necessary skill. A new type of disease may appear. It is studied and classified. The insights from the studies done are generalized to help others when diagnosing.

Thus there is not only the danger of moving

towards a generalized and highly abstract theory that is closed in its axioms. We do also face the pitfalls of becoming just 'story tellers' – i.e. we need to find ways to accumulate knowledge. My plea here is to work with so-called 'middle range' theories. This implies a search for regularities in events – i.e. to search for the underlying mechanisms. It does not intend to build a closed theory – let's say of choice. Instead it focuses on understanding different types of choices, different motives, drives etc.

On the basis of the different (case) studies we all do, I believe we should be able both to construct a language for different types of motives and their logic, and how they may appear differently under different contexts. To do this, we must however orient some of our research into engaging in the common process of middle range theory building.

It would certainly help society if we were able to give society at large a better understanding of which mechanisms and motives are involved in choice contexts. There are too many 'category mistakes' that inevitably flow from using a model only accepting one type of choice motive (CBA, for example). So, by just bringing forward broader classes of motivation and context specification, much is gained. The next step will be to organize these specifications into a more unified or systematic structure. Some ideas concerning a possible starting structure

*News from the  
Community Research and  
Development  
Service*

# COMMISSION NEWS

## **Research Commissioner calls for pluralist debate on biotechnology**

The EU Research Commissioner Phillipe Busquin called for a 'pluralist debate' on biotechnology speaking at a roundtable discussion in July between the European Parliament's temporary committee on human genetics and representatives of civil society. He emphasised that the introduction of any new technology requires public acceptance and added that by the end of the year the Commission will set out a strategic vision for life sciences up to the year 2010.

But no agreement could be reached at the meeting between religious organisations and patients' associations on bioethical issues. While patients' groups called for a 'secular approach' to research that looked at patient benefits, Gioia Scappucci from the EU bishop's conference (COMECE) called for research to go hand in hand with an appropriate reflection on the concept of human dignity, maintaining that embryo research and pre-implantation diagnosis should be banned.

## **Calls for more publicly-funded GM research**

Speakers at the OECD Bangkok conference on the topic 'New biotechnology food and crops: science, safety and society' have criticised the decrease in publicly-funded research. In the chairman's conclusions, Lord Selbourne suggested that 'publicly-funded research provides greater confidence and might be easier to channel into regions for which no financial return on the research investment can be expected. National governments are invited to ensure that there is an acceptable balance between public and private funding for biosafety applications'. For further details see: <http://www.oecd.org/bangkok>

## **Turning sustainability into a European trademark**

Sustainability should be a trademark of the European Research Area (ERA), concluded the Chairman's report on the 'Bridging the Gap - Sustainability Research and Sectoral Integration' conference, organised in Stockholm by the Swedish presidency.

In particular, the conference recommended that researchers should contribute to

sustainable development by focusing their research efforts on six unsustainable trends: combatting climate change caused by greenhouse gases; developing efficient natural resource management, including the decoupling of economic growth from resource use; protecting public health including the effect of chemicals; developing land use and transport that allow for sustainable mobility; combatting social exclusion and poverty; and understanding the implications of an ageing society.

For further details see: <http://www.bridging.environ.se>

## **Solar energy production making progress in Europe**

Figures released recently by EurObserv'er, a consortium of European renewable energy organisations, show that solar energy use in Europe is growing.

In 2000, over 1 million square meters of solar surface area were installed, a one third increase on the previous year. Over 13,000 people are now employed in the European solar industry, which is currently worth 800 million Euro a year.

The trends suggest that, at current rates, Europe will have 80 million square meters of installed solar captors by 2010, slightly beneath the target set for the European Union as a whole of 100 million.

For more details see: <http://www.observe-er.org>

## **EU project reveals true price of producing electricity**

The cost of producing electricity from coal or oil would double, and the cost of producing electricity from gas would increase by 30 per cent if external costs such as damage to the environment and to health were taken into account, according to a new EU-funded study. The study is the first to put financial figures against damage resulting from different forms of energy production for the entire EU.

The ten-year project, EXTERNE, sees the result of 20 separate projects funded by the Fourth Framework Programme's Joule programme. The study estimates that external costs amount to between 1 and 2 per cent of the EU's GDP, without including the cost of global warming.

The methodology used in the study is 'impact pathway methodology', which

measures emissions, the dispersion of pollutants in the environment and the subsequent increases in ambient concentrations. The impact on issues such as crop yield or health is then evaluated. The study suggests two ways of minimising these costs: taxing damaging technologies, and subsidising cleaner ones.

The Commission has recently launched the NEWEXT programme (new elements for the assessment of external costs from energy technologies), which aims to build on the EXTERNE programme.

For more details see: <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd>

## **EU universities could cut energy usage by nearly half**

A Copernicus-funded study has concluded that EU universities could cut their energy usage by 40 per cent if they carried out energy saving measures. Total cost savings could amount to around 100 million euros, with more than 40 case studies showing that annual savings could be up to 1.4 million euros per institution.

The study also noted that universities, with around 17 million students in Europe, must be perceived as excellent social multipliers in efforts to promote sustainable energy use. This would apply in two fields in particular: the promotion of energy efficiency and environmentally friendly electric and electronic equipment, as well as utilisation of renewable energies.

For further details see: [http://www.cre-copernicus.de/seiten/good\\_practice.html](http://www.cre-copernicus.de/seiten/good_practice.html)

## **Fourteen cities chosen for grants to improve urban transport**

The European Commission has revealed which 14 cities will benefit from 50 million euros for transport projects under the Fifth Framework's 'Civitas' initiative. The aim is to promote the development of attractive alternatives to the use of private cars. Measures to be introduced include new information and management systems; the introduction of 'clean' vehicle fleets; promotional campaigns; road charging systems; and creation of special areas for clean vehicles in city centres.

The chosen cities, which will receive 35 per cent of the funding required for proposed

# PROFILE

**Peter Söderbaum** was born in the North of Sweden and now lives in Uppsala, from where he commutes the 80km to Västerås by bus or train most days. He took his first degree in economics, business management, statistics and political science at Uppsala University and later worked at the Departments of Economics and Business Studies there. In 1974 he moved to SLU, the Swedish agricultural university, as a lecturer in natural resource economics. Since 1995 he has been at Mälardalen University engaged in its Ecological Economics programmes.

*What was your impression of your local environment when you were growing up?*

I was probably fascinated and happy with the local environment. As I understand it now there were reindeer and Laplanders close to the place where I lived my first years.

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

I think I can. It was in the beginning of the 1970s, perhaps 1971, when I listened to a talk by one of the leading environmentalists in Sweden, Björn Gillberg. I suggested that we should start an environmental group in Uppsala and so we did. In 1972 at the time of the UN conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm I organized a small seminar at the department of Business Studies where not only Gillberg but also Herman Daly and Dean Abrahamson, a specialist in nuclear physics, were among the speakers.

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

While studying business management, Herbert Simon and his book *Administrative Behaviour* was important for me in getting out of the narrow cage of neoclassical economics. Edith Penrose's writings on 'the theory of the growth of the firm' played a similar role of adding to the simplistic idea of profit maximization. In economics, Kenneth Boulding was an early important acquaintance. Later Gunnar Myrdal and K. William Kapp became important to me with their interdisciplinary philosophy and interest in environment and development.

*Have your research interests changed since you started working on environmental issues?*

My PhD on Positional Analysis was about decision making and impact assessment, and although this is still one of my interests I am now focusing more on individuals as actors, their roles, relationships and ideological orientation as well as institutional change

processes. Markets, democracy and globalization are also parts of this new agenda.

*Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?*

There are a number of environmental problems – in a traditional sense – where things are still getting worse. In some other sense there are 'environmental problems' at the level of ideologies and paradigms. The dominance of Neo-liberalism and neoclassical economics is a bit of a problem to use an understatement. A strengthened role for Green ideologies and for pluralism with respect to paradigms in economics would be significant steps forward.

*If you had a year off to do whatever you wanted, what would you spend it doing?*

I would probably learn languages, for instance improve my abilities in German and French. As an example, I would like to be able to read *Le Monde Diplomatique* without difficulty rather than a Swedish translation! Three months learning Russian and Spanish would increase my enjoyment when visiting countries where those are spoken.

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

A new motorway is being planned from Uppsala 50 km to the north. Although this may be needed for safety reasons etc., we continue to build for the automobile rather than reduce automobile dependence. Similarly, the airport between Stockholm and Uppsala, Arlanda, is planning for further expansion. The issue of climate change is discussed in a more serious way these days but too little is happening in terms of reconsidering our ways of living.

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

I am happy to see that some companies (and even my university) are certified according to ISO 14 001 but I see this only as a beginning. The City of Västerås is not so bad either and

something similar can be said about our main 'local' company, ABB. Perhaps farmers working with 'ecological agriculture' within the scope of the KRAV label in Sweden are closest to my ideals.

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

I had some difficulty here, so I made a careful objective study of the books on my bedside table. According to this evidence I am looking in the direction of the east towards followers of Gandhi. I found one of the Dalai Lama's recent books 'Ethics for a New Millennium' and another new book by Sulak Sivaraksa 'Loyalty Demands Dissent' which is the autobiography of an engaged Buddhist. Since I have followed the debate about large dams a bit, also a book by Arundhati Roy on the Narmada River in India and her ideas about the lack of wisdom among elitist actors is successfully competing for my attention before going to sleep.

*Do religious beliefs influence your life and work?*

My life and work is based on beliefs and I try to respect the beliefs of others whether they are religious or of other kinds – as long as they do not contradict normal ideas about democracy. The Church of Sweden is among important actors in public debate about environment and development.

*How do you relax at the weekend?*

I am probably walking with my wife and perhaps doing some cross-country running. I recently participated in the 60+ category of the Lidingö race in the Stockholm area. I know that at my age you should take it easy, but don't worry! (I was running in a T-shirt informing about Ecological Economics conferences so this was a multi-purpose activity!) Seeing the family, friends and reading are other parts of my weekends.

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

When visiting students at the Technical University of Lund and their environmental group some five years ago they offered me a T-shirt with the following motto on the back: Do Worry – be Happy! This could well be my motto. After all, working with environmental issues is not so bad!

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

I have difficulties in choosing between two related pieces of advice from the same person, Gunnar Myrdal. He argued that "Values are always with us" in what we do and do not do as scholars; and also that "there are no economic, sociological or psychological problems, but just problems, and they are all mixed and composite". In this way he encouraged students "to transgress the inherited boundaries between disciplines,



# TunISEE 2002

*Details of submissions, administration and sessions for the International Society Conference, 2002.*

## ISEE TUNISIA 2002 PROPOSALS: FINAL CALL

A good response rate for paper/poster proposals has meant that, in mid-October, after a first round of evaluations, more than 75 proposals for papers have so far been accepted. The **final closing date** for ESEE thematic sessions and for individual paper/poster proposals from ESEE members has been set at **20 November 2001**. We plan to give feedback to authors, of official confirmation of acceptance or rejection, by the end of November.

In December 2001, we will establish the detailed conference programme on the basis of proposals received and accepted. The programme details including outlines of all thematic sessions and invited talks, will be on the Conference website:

<http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html>

Please note that, for conference programme planning and presentation, we require (along with other information such as authors, title, address) an electronic Abstract for each programmed contributor. This can be anything between 50 and 200 words in length.

As regards full papers/presentations, our policy is to make available an electronic document, or to provide appropriate website location information, to any author and session organiser who requests this. (For Thematic Sessions, we prefer to include either ALL or NONE of the contributions: it is the responsibility of the session organiser to ensure that all contributors provide their electronic document or website details). The deadline for documents and links to be included on the website is 31 December 2001 (after that, inclusion or not is at the organisers' discretion).

**For all queries or information requests concerning proposal status, please contact Martin O'Connor or Isabelle Pistone at the Conference Secretariat (email: ISEE.Tunisia2002@c3ed.uvsq.fr).**

### COMING TO TUNISIA

Current geopolitical events, including tensions about economic globalisation and hegemony, international security and terrorism, and global environmental issues (Rio +10 in South Africa later in 2002) highlight the challenges of seeking out forms of peaceful coexistence on our small planet. It is appropriate that these challenges should be strongly in our minds as we prepare to meet in Sousse. The university and the Ministries of Tunisia that are supporting the conference, extend a warm welcome to all those intending to participate, and hope to offer the chance to all participants to appreciate not only the environmental challenges but also the complex cultural, political and religious history of the country, of this part of the Arab world, and the Mediterranean region.

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION

The Conference Registration form, which covers both the Sousse hotel accommodation and the registration fee, is available on the ISEE Tunisia 2002 website: <http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html>. Note that a **reduced fee** applies until 20 December 2001. An electronic payment facility (using VISA or Mastercard) is also available on the website. Alternatively, send by fax (+33 1 39 25 53 00) or ordinary mail the completed registration form.

NOTE: We also encourage you to book your travel early, as it is often possible to have low cost flights from major European cities to Tunis and Monastir (which are major tourist destinations) - but advance bookings are

### ESEE Contributions and Sessions

Planning is moving forward on several ESEE-organised sessions for TunISEE 2002. Members are urged to contact the organisers of these sessions as soon as possible to discuss any contributions. Examples of the sessions include:

*Session: **Technology and Development.***

*Format: Parallel Session*

*Organiser: Professor Miguel Sanchez-Padron, Catedratico de Economica Aplicada, Departamento de Economica Aplicada, Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain.*

Papers are sought which address technology and development issues with a special emphasis on biotechnology, and if possible establishing links with Rio+ 10.

Anyone interested in making a contribution please contact Miguel Sanchez-Padron, email: [msanchez@ull.es](mailto:msanchez@ull.es)

*Proposed Session: **Does Ecological Economics constitute a special perspective?***

*Format: Parallel Session*

*Organiser: Dr Inge Røpke, Department of Technology and Social Sciences, Technical University of Denmark*

The intention of the session is to discuss whether ecological economics can be said to constitute a special perspective. Some questions that might be addressed include: How can a transdisciplinary field acquire a coherence necessary to talk of a perspective? How does ecological economics compare with other transdisciplinary fields defined by a topic: e.g. feminist economics?

A further set of questions can be obtained by emailing the session organiser, Inge Røpke, on [ir@ITS.dtu.dk](mailto:ir@ITS.dtu.dk)

**Further details of these and other proposed sessions can be found on the ESEE website at:**

### CONFERENCE WEBSITE

<http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html>

## In Brief

### ISEE moves ahead with website

The ISEE's web-site has undergone a make-over. The site contains much of the old content, but has been restructured in order to allow the expansion of existing sections and to provide additional member services. For those of you who have not yet visited the site, ISEE can be found at [www.ecoeco.org](http://www.ecoeco.org). The site is being developed and managed by Steve Morris, a PhD student working with John Proops at Keele University. Steve is particularly interested in suggestions on site development, which can be made through the site 'Suggestions' facility.

### SERI study on European policy integration on-line

A new study by SERI on integration of environmental policy across the continent, titled 'From Helsinki to Gothenburg', is now available on the web. Conducted by Fritz Hintenberger among others, it has attracting keen interest from European policy makers. The report can be seen at: <http://www.seri.at/europe/completed/environmentalintegration.htm>

### New information portal on Clean Development Mechanism

CDM-Connect is a targeted on-line community for people working in the environment sector and in particular those that have an interest in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). CDM-Connect is endeavouring to deliver a cleaner global environment through the ability to contact the right person with the right skills across the globe on-line. CDM-Connect was created to allow this transfer of knowledge and for individuals to promote themselves, their skills and to create and join groups of common interest. Further details can be found at: <http://www.cdm-connect.org>

### The Product-Life Institute, Geneva

The Product-Life Institute in Geneva is a not-for-profit independent organisation founded in 1982, which focuses on developing innovative strategies and policies fostering the move towards sustainable development, for both industries and government. It aims to open new frontiers of economic development based on the critical analysis and the optimisation of the product-life of good and services. Further details can be seen at

# LOOK ROUND

Each issue we pick up national news from around Europe from ESEE members. This

## Portugal

Nuno Videira, Lecturer at the University of Algarve and Research Associate of the Portuguese Ecological Economics and Management Centre (ECOMAN-FCT/UNL), reports on events in Portugal.

Environmental news has been increasingly pushed into the spotlight in Portugal over the last decade. This is one of the conclusions from a recent project on the role of the media in the shaping of public opinion, conducted by the research programme OBSERVA. As the public's awareness grows, environmental issues have earned a fixed spot in both the daily and weekly newspapers and television headlines. Not only is the quantity of news greater, but also the diversity of environmental subjects covered has been boosted, as illustrated by the following examples.

In April, the Minister of Environment, José Sócrates, decided to put an end to the process of public discussion of the co-incineration of hazardous wastes in the cement factories of Outão and Souselas. This has clearly been one of the most controversial issues to dominate the environmental headlines in the last couple of years. Sócrates' decision was based on the reports from the Independent Scientific Commission and the Medical Working Group, which concluded that co-incineration will not contribute to increased exposures to substances hazardous to the public health, neither through atmospheric emissions nor through the cement produced. Several NGO's and renowned politicians were among the opponents of co-incineration throughout the whole process, advertising the perils for surrounding populations and calling for preliminary epidemiological research. The NGO's have taken legal steps next to the European Commission, and saw their claims rejected last July.

In the beginning of August, the National Water Plan (NWP) was presented to the National Water Council, and is now being subjected to public discussion, after 7 years have passed since the publication of the

decree which called for its elaboration. In the last couple of months, the news stories have reported concerns regarding the pricing of water, the inter-basin transfer of water, and the compatibility of the NWP with the new European Water Framework Directive. Still on the water issues, the Alqueva project, under construction on the Guadiana River, has not ceased to fuel debate since the government decided to resume the project in 1993, after it had been stalled since the mid Seventies. The project includes the construction of several dams, the biggest of them with a maximum level of 152 meters, providing water for 110 000 hectares of intensive irrigation in a semi-arid region. The Alqueva Dam will also be used for urban water supply and electricity production. Opponents claim that the soils are not suited for intensive agriculture and argue for the operation of the dam at a level of 139 meters. They believe that this measure may still prevent the massive logging of 1 million old growth oak trees and prevent the destruction of areas inhabited by the highly endangered Iberian Lynx. As if this wasn't controversial enough, a recent battle has broken out following the discovery of prehistoric engravings in areas due to be inundated.

Another issue to which the news services have devoted considerable space over the last year, concerns the implementation of the POLIS Programme, a governmental measure aimed at the urban restoration and environmental enhancement of several Portuguese cities. In fact, the presentation of new governmental action and legislation often stirs up public debate, such as that observed after the publication of the new noise regulation, especially due to the stringent noise limits which were defined for residential areas. Every now and then the headlines have also focused on the progress made in the climate change policy and the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

It is also interesting to observe that some environmental issues have hit the news on a seasonal basis, such as the hazardous effects of a severe winter, the "plague" of forest fires in the summer, and the degradation of the coastal water quality in the bathing season.

Finally, a last note on the International Car Free Day Campaign, celebrated on September

# ND EUROPE

10 week Portugal and Austria go under the spotlight.

## Austria

Ines Omann, Research Fellow at the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) in Vienna and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Graz looks back at some controversial events making waves in Austria.

In general, Austria's environmental situation can be regarded as amongst the best in Europe, with environmental awareness and activities increasing throughout the Nineties. Nevertheless we are faced with some major problems, such as the nuclear plant at Temelin and transit traffic.

Environmental news has been dominated by the most serious diplomatic controversy between fiercely anti-nuclear Austria and the Czech Republic since the end of communism – the continued operation by the Czechs of the Soviet-built Temelin nuclear plant, which lies just 60 km from the Austrian border. Built at a cost of \$2.6 billion, the plant has a US-built safety system, but it has been dogged with minor operating faults and operations have been suspended several times for safety checks. Last October Temelin protestors blocked the Czech embassy in Vienna, and a month later larger numbers blockaded all 15 border crossings between the two countries. Demonstrations in the regions close to the border went on for weeks. In February Greenpeace activists occupied the Austrian offices of German power giant E.ON Energie, claiming that the company was allowing nuclear imports through the back door. Despite a comprehensive report on the plant's safety this summer, which suggested there was no cause for alarm, the diplomatic row continues, with Austrian politicians threatening to veto the Czech's application for accession to the EU unless the issue is resolved. Meanwhile Temelin operator CEZ stepped up power production from the main reactor to seventy five per cent for the first time this month, angering Austrian officials further.

Still on the topic of energy, a new regulation announced in June will require importers of

energy to detail how much comes from 'clean' and how much from 'dirty' sources. Austria has strong unrestricted trading links to Germany, Switzerland and France, making it an important centre for energy trading, and it moved to a fully deregulated energy market just this month. The Green party has however criticized deregulation as promoting imports of nuclear power from Eastern Europe and undermining promotion of domestic renewable energy sources. Austria already produces 70 per cent of its energy from renewables – almost entirely hydroelectric power, with wind, biomass and solar at around 1 per cent – but nuclear imports account for nearly 9 per cent. A research poll by ISMA found that over 80 per cent of Austrians did not want to buy nuclear-derived power even if it was cheaper, and over 90 per cent favoured labeling of power sources. Austria is also a strong supporter of a green energy certificate trading system, under which clean producers are issued with certificates which they can sell on to conventional producers

On the issue of transport, Austria has been clashing with the EU over problems with heavy lorry transit traffic, particularly through the Brenner Pass which has seen traffic flows increase by 50 per cent since the mid-Nineties. Protestors staged a two day blockade of the route last June. The number of vehicles is supposed to be limited under an eco-points system linked to environmental impacts, but Austria claims the quota was exceeded and has been pushing for greater restrictions. The government has also been defying the EU over the level of alpine road tolls. The EU criticized the levels as being far above those needed to recover road development costs, and claimed they discriminated against foreign hauliers who have to travel the full length of the Brenner motorway. Austria, like Switzerland, is a key transit link across Europe and issues of freight transport look likely to remain high on the agenda.

On a greener note, last year brought the encouraging news that the country now has record numbers of organic farmers, more than 20,000 registered at the start of the year. Austria also continues to be one of Europe's strongest opponents to genetically modified crops, and seems likely to continue national

## *In Brief*

### **Business and Biodiversity Initiative launched at IUCN**

IUCN-The World Conservation Union has launched a new initiative on business and biodiversity, aiming to make 'capitalism work for conservation'. The initiative focuses on integrating business and conservation across five key areas: investment in conservation initiatives, guidance on corporate environmental strategy, information provision, services, and management. For more information, please visit the website at: <http://iucn.org/business>.

### **Mälardalen MA Course Plans**

There are advanced plans on starting an International Bachelors Program at Mälardalen University ('International' referring to the students). It will accept 40-60 students a year from all around the world. The first year, students study the Swedish language. In years two to four (with possibilities to take a Masters during year five), students choose from five existing programs, among them Ecological Economics.

This means that undergraduate studies in Ecological Economics at Mälardalen university will be available to students from outside Sweden (complementing the existing 10 week course in Ecol Econ, which is taught in English). The education will be free of charge (as is the standard in Sweden). However, foreign students are not allowed Swedish student grants, which means they

***Would you would like to write a short report covering environmental news for your country? Volunteers are always welcome - please contact the Editor, Ben***

bans on GMO planting alongside France, Denmark, Italy and Greece. Last year the country banned the import of Aventis' gene-modified maize claiming there were no long-term studies available for its safety.

Finally, a high cultural note. Austrian performance artist Wolfgang Flatz got into trouble with animal rights activists for his latest work, which involved dropping a dead cow stuffed with fireworks from a helicopter in Berlin. Protestors made a legal challenge to stop the performance, but the courts ruled that the dead cow's legal standing was that of 'food' and throwing it could not therefore be illegal. Flatz looks unlikely to change as a



# BOOKS

*Tropospheric Ozone Abatement :  
Developing Efficient Strategies for the  
Reduction of Ozone Precursor  
Emissions in Europe.*

**Rainer Friedrich and Stefan Reis (eds)**  
2000.

Hardback: 99 USD (ISBN 3540666141)  
Springer Verlag, Heidelberg.

This book offers information and aids in decision-making for those concerned with air pollution in Europe, especially tropospheric ozone. It covers the analysis of ozone precursor emissions and the transport and chemical transformation of precursor substances in Europe and gives insight into the integrated assessment of air pollution control strategies. The analysis covers atmospheric dispersion modeling as well as

cost optimization and the modeling of macroeconomic impacts of air pollution control. Thus, it addresses practitioners dealing with the implementation of environmental policy and regulations as well as scientists and researchers interested in the methodology and integrated approach.

#### Table of Contents:

Introduction  
Tropospheric Ozone  
Emissions of Ozone Precursors  
Emission Abatement Measures  
Scenarios of Future Development  
Regional Modeling of Tropospheric Ozone  
Optimising Regional Ozone Abatement Strategies  
Tropospheric Ozone and Urban Air Quality  
Efficiency, Equity and Burden Sharing  
Macroeconomic Impacts of Abatement

Environmental Impact of the Offshore  
Oil and Gas Industry

**Stanislav Patin**

December 1999

Hardcover: 199 USD

EcoMonitor Publishing, East Northpoint,  
US

This book summarizes the world-wide knowledge on all aspects of the problem. It provides over 700 references, 69 tables and 87 illustrations; essentially, it provides a one-volume library on the subject. The author is Head Scientist at the Russian Federal Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Chairman of the Aquatic Toxicology Committee under the Russian Academy of Sciences and Representative of Russia in the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

More reviews as well as book description, synopsis, contents, index, and info about the author can be found at the publisher's website: <http://www.offshore-environment.com/synopsis.html>

The book can also be ordered at over 50% off list price (for \$97.00 plus \$4.00 p&p) through the publisher's website:

# JOBS

## PhD Studentship at University of Bern, Switzerland

The National Centre of Competence in Research on climate variability, predictability, and climate risks (NCCR Climate) at the University of Bern offers 50% assistance on a 3 year PhD Project in Historical Climate Impact Research: *Impacts, Perception or Management of Past Climatic Variations in Europe.*

We are looking for an (economic) historian (preferably with some knowledge in quantitative methods), a sociologist, a geographer or an economist. The focus of the work could be regional or European. Monthly reconstructions of air pressure, temperature and rainfall in Europe (6000 gridpoints) from 1500 to the present are available as a basis. The analysis may include grain price series and/or demographic series.

**Duration: April 1 2002 to March 31 2005.** Contact: Prof. C. Pfister, Institute of History, University of Bern, Unitobler, CH 3000 Bern, Switzerland. [pfister@hist.unibe.ch](mailto:pfister@hist.unibe.ch)

## Conference Feedback: Frontiers 1, Cambridge

Sigrid Stagl

During the Frontiers conference in Cambridge earlier this year the organisers asked participants about their opinions, and we now have some results. Please note, however, that the sample size of 35 covers only about 40% of all conference participants; and that due to the special focus of Frontiers on young researchers, findings will not be representative for the whole ESEE membership.

When asked how 'research active' participants considered themselves, on average they positioned themselves in the upper third of the scale. These values showed a very high correlation with the answers about research activities in the field of Ecological Economics, meaning that most participants consider themselves as highly research active and most of their research fits under the heading of Ecological Economics. Not surprisingly the variation was larger for teaching activities, and respondents were on average less active in general teaching (mean scored 4 out of 10) and in the field of Ecological Economics in particular.

The question of the most important research areas for the Ecological Economics community in the near future showed a concentration around the following four research areas: environment and development; institutional analysis and institutional change; understanding and explaining behaviour; and dynamic/co-evolutionary/system-theoretic modelling.

Asked for the essential components of an ecological economics degree programme, besides fundamentals of ecological economics, the following eight were ranked on top: environmental ethics; environmental economics; environmental policy; methods (quant. and qual. equally); ecological-economic modelling; evolutionary theory/economics; systems theory; and environmental science. Several participants, however, also pointed in their comments to the virtues of diversity, i.e. the advantages of having different programmes with different profiles.

In case the choice of the means of transport for work can be seen as an indicator for lifestyles, participants of the Frontiers conference practice what they argue for academically. A total of 92 per cent use the more sustainable options of transport (57 per cent bicycle, 30 per cent public transport, 5 per cent walking). However two thirds use airplanes for the majority of their trips to conferences. Many thanks to all participants who completed the



**CALL FOR INTEREST**

Natural Disasters - Causes, Impacts, Management, Perceptions, Relief

Proposal for a 'Particular topic' for the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences in Sydney 2005, to be submitted to the International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH).

Natural disasters offer a broad spectrum of different research perspectives. Climate and seismic history are dealing with reconstructions of the physical processes leading to the disaster. Cultural historians explore the meanings contemporaries gave to the catastrophe. Human beings feel needs to make sense of the extraordinary events they witness, but their interpretations have evolved over the centuries. In recent centuries the mobilizing effect of disasters was often utilized to reinforce feelings of national identity. Moreover it should not be overlooked that natural disasters often create(d) windows of opportunity to introduce new legislation and to press for the modernization of infrastructure (e.g. improved dams) or changes in the environmental settings (e.g. reforestation). Finally, there is the issue of memory. Memories of catastrophes are complex; and the process seems to differ greatly between events.

To sum up: the suggested topic involves a broad array of approaches commonly used in historical research. It calls for comparative studies both cross cultural and over the entire period of written history. It also tends to bring historians closer to scholars from other disciplines. A session on natural disasters held at the Sydney Conference might well initiate a comparative historical disaster research area.

# RESEARCH NOTES

**CALL FOR INTEREST**

Research Proposal on the Self-Concept and Ecological Economics

At the present time in most schools of economics including neo-classical economics, the minimum unit of decision making is assumed to be the individual. But this idea is quite modern and seems to represent only a part of human thinking on the self.

The purpose of this research is to first explore different ideas of the self, not only in ecological economics, but also in related disciplines, e.g. philosophy, psychology, and cultural anthropology.

The second purpose is to discuss the possible perspectives of the future of the environment when we expand our common self-concept to a more extended concept. The third is to identify concrete methods by which we can minimize conflicts related to environmental issues by using different ideas of the self conception.

We hope to strengthen the discussions related to the extended self concept that appeared in the Frontiers 1 Conference on fundamental issues in ecological economics in Cambridge last July. Those interested in this topic, please e-mail me at [hidano@wb3.so-net.ne.jp](mailto:hidano@wb3.so-net.ne.jp)  
Professor Noboru Hidano,  
Department of Social Engineering,  
Tokyo Institute of Technology

**New Emailing List in Multi-criteria and Participatory Evaluations**

Wendy Proctor ([wendy.proctor@csiro.au](mailto:wendy.proctor@csiro.au))

At the Frontiers 1 ESEE conference a number of people expressed an interest in setting up an email list on multi-criteria and participatory type evaluations related to ecological economics (eg. Multi-criteria Decision Analysis, Citizen's Juries and other social processes of environmental valuation).

I have now set up such a mailing list through CSIRO, and I invite all of you to subscribe. The list can be used for many purposes such as advertising forthcoming conferences, providing information on current studies, highlighting relevant web sites or just asking questions and providing answers.

To subscribe to the list 'participatory\_mce', you need to address your message to <[majordomo@cse.csiro.au](mailto:majordomo@cse.csiro.au)>, leave the subject box blank, and type the following line in the body of the message: <subscribe participatory\_mce > (not including '<' brackets!). To unsubscribe repeat the process but type <unsubscribe participatory\_mce > instead.

I look forward to seeing you all on the list!

**Climate Conference papers available on the Web**

Axel Michaelowa ([a-michaelowa@hwwa.de](mailto:a-michaelowa@hwwa.de))

Papers presented at the September 24-26, 2001, conference titled 'International Climate Policy after COP 6' held at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics are now available on the web at:

[http://www.hwwa.de/Projects/Res\\_Programmes/RP/Klimapolitik/Workshop%20papers.htm](http://www.hwwa.de/Projects/Res_Programmes/RP/Klimapolitik/Workshop%20papers.htm)

Papers include a number of well-known individual authors and a section on company action featuring presentations from BP, HEW and Natsource.

Further details from Axel Michaelowa, Head of Research Programme 'International Climate Policy', Hamburg Institute of International Economics, Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, 20347 Hamburg, Germany.

**New Ecological Economics Master's Programme**

The School of the Environment at the University of Leeds has around 35 research and teaching staff, with research interests covering the fields of ecological economics, environment and development; environment and business; and environmental science.

A new Master's programme is now running with core modules covering principles of ecological economics; tools and applications of ecological economics; research methodology and a seminar in ecological economics with invited speakers. Further, students can choose from the following optional courses: governance, uncertainty and risk; evolutionary economics; environmental ethics; international relations and the environment; European environmental law, and from the following areas of specialisation: sustainable consumption; climate change; biodiversity conservation; sustainable water management; or sustainable regional development.

The programme is starting for the first time in October 2002 and consists of 9 months of courses plus 3 months working on a thesis.

For further information please contact Dr. Sigrid Stagl ([sts@env.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sts@env.leeds.ac.uk), Tel: +44 113 233 6787) and/or consult the programme's website:

<http://www.env.leeds.ac.uk/teaching/postgraduate.html>.

# CALENDAR EVENTS

## November

### November 2-8, 2001

Seventh World Wilderness Conference.  
Wilderness and Human Communities: The Spirit of the 21st Century.  
*Port Elizabeth, South Africa.*  
Contact: Conference Secretariat, Wilderness Foundation, SA. Tel: 011 2731 462 2808; Fax: 011 2731 462 4656.  
Email: [info@worldwilderness.org](mailto:info@worldwilderness.org)  
<http://www.worldwilderness.org/index2.htm>

### November 5-7, 2001 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

The Third International Conference on Geospatial Information in Agriculture and Forestry.  
*Denver, Colorado.*  
<http://www.erim-int.com/CONF/ag.html>

### November 5-8, 2001 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

OCEANS 2001 MTS/IEEE  
*Honolulu, Hawaii.*  
Sponsored by the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society and the Marine Technology Society.  
<http://www.oceans2001.com/>

### November 7-9, 2001

18th Conference on Passive and Low Energy Architecture (PLEA).  
*Florianopolis, Brazil.*  
Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Development of Built Environment.  
<http://150.162.53.25/plea2001/index.html>

### November 12-14, 2001

The Science and Culture of Industrial Ecology. International Society for Industrial Ecology 2001 Meeting.  
*Leiden, The Netherlands.*  
For details see: <http://www.yale.edu/is4ie/Conferences.htm>

### November 16-18, 2001

Thirteenth International Karl Polanyi Conference. *Economy and Democracy.*  
*Mexico City, Mexico.*  
Organised by the International Karl Polanyi Institute.  
For details contact Ana Gomez;  
Email: [polanyi@vax2.concordia.ca](mailto:polanyi@vax2.concordia.ca)

### November 25-29, 2001

International Conference on Ecological Engineering. Ecological Engineering for

Landscape Products and Services.  
*Christchurch, New Zealand.*  
Organised by the International Ecological Engineering Society (IEES) and Engineers for Social Responsibility (ESR).  
<http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/iees/>

## December

### December 3-5, 2001

ECO 2001. Strategies for Sustainable Development.  
*Paris, France.*  
Organised by ACE, Paris.  
<http://www.eco2001.org/common/information.html>

### December 3-7, 2001

International Conference of Fresh Water.  
*Bonn, Germany.*  
Hosted by Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.  
<http://www.water-2001.de/>

### December 7-8, 2001

2001 Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change.  
*Berlin, Germany.*  
Organised by the Environmental Policy and Global Change Working Group of the German Association for Political Science (DVPW).  
<http://www.environmental-policy.de>

2002 2002 2002 2002 2002 2002

## January

### January 13, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Special Conference on African Climate and Environment.  
*Orlando, Florida.*  
Sponsored by the American Meteorological Society.  
<http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS/meet/82annual/#scace>

## February

### February 11-15, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

2002 Ocean Science Meeting.  
Honolulu, Hawaii.  
Organised by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO).

## March

### March 3-8, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Environmental Flows for River Systems.  
*Cape Town, South Africa.*  
An international conference on assessment and implementation.  
<http://www.southernwaters.co.za>

### March 6-9, 2002

TunISEE 2002. The Seventh Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics. Environment and Development.  
*Sousse, Tunisia.*  
<http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html>

### March 13-15, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Urban Transport and the Environment 2002. Eighth International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment.  
*Seville, Spain.*  
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/ut02/>

### March 14-16, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

'Nature In and Nature Of Multi Criteria Decision Aid'. 55th Workshop of the European Working Group 'Multicriteria Aid for Decisions'.  
*Leipzig, Germany.*  
Bilingual Workshop (English-French) organised by Martin Drechsler ([martind@pinus.oesa.ufz.de](mailto:martind@pinus.oesa.ufz.de)) and Felix Rauschmayer ([rauschma@alok.ufz.de](mailto:rauschma@alok.ufz.de)).  
<http://www.inescc.pt/~ewgmcda/>

# CALENDAR EVENTS

## March 25-29, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

The Seventh International Coastal Symposium.

*Templepatrick, Northern Ireland.*

Hosted by the Coastal Research Group of the School of Environmental Studies, University of Ulster.

## April

## May

## May 21-25, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

The International Children's Conference on the Environment.

*Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.*

In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme.

## June

## June 2-7, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environmental Systems.

*Dubrovnik, Croatia.*

<http://powerlab.fsb.hr/Dubrivnik2002>

## June 6-11, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People.

Linkages Between Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Human Health.

*Washington, DC.*

Organised by the International Society for Ecosystem Health.

[www.ecosystemhealth.com/hehp](http://www.ecosystemhealth.com/hehp)

## June 12-15, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Protecting Nature on Private Lands - From Conflicts to Agreements.

*Lahti, Finland.*

International Workshop organised by the University of Helsinki and European Forest Institute.

email: [paivi.tikka@helsinki.fi](mailto:paivi.tikka@helsinki.fi)

<http://www.efi.fi/events/2002/>

Protecting\_Nature

## June 17-21, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

12th European Conference and Technology Exhibition on Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection.

*Amsterdam, The Netherlands.*

Organised by ETA Florence and WIP-Munich.

[http://www.wip-munich.de/conferences/biomass/amsterdam\\_2002/amsterdam.html](http://www.wip-munich.de/conferences/biomass/amsterdam_2002/amsterdam.html)

## June 25-30, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Third International Conference of Critical Geography.

*Bekescsaba, Hungary.*

Programme details from Conference

Secretary: [3rd.iccg@durham.ac.uk](mailto:3rd.iccg@durham.ac.uk).

## July

## July 1-3, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Tenth International Conference on Modelling and Management of Air Pollution. *Segovia, Spain.*

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/air02/>

## July 1-3, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Renewable Energy Expo 2002.

*Cologne, Germany.*

In association with the World Renewable Energy Congress.

<http://www.renewenergy.com/page.cfm>

## July 3-5, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

The Sustainable City 2002.

Second International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability.

*Segovia, Spain.*

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/urs02/>

## July 4-8, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

1st World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition.

*Berlin, Germany.*

Organised by the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA).

<http://www.world-wind-conference.org/>

## July 8-10, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Celtic Water in a European Framework:

Pointing the Way to Quality.

Venue: tbc.

Information from Professor Con Connane,

email: [conleth.cunnane@nuigalway.ie](mailto:conleth.cunnane@nuigalway.ie)

## July 9-12, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

The Institute of Australian Geographers Conference 2002.

*Canberra, Australia.*

Preliminary details from Dr Richard Baker:

[Richard.Baker@anu.edu.au](mailto:Richard.Baker@anu.edu.au)

## August

## September

## September 2-4, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Brownfields 2002.

International Conference on Prevention, Assessment, Rehabilitation and Development of Brownfield Sites.

*Cadiz, Spain.*

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/brownfields02/>

## September 4-6, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

Waste Management 2002.

International Conference on Waste Management and the Environment.

*Cadiz, Spain.*

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2002/brownfields02/>

## September 19-23, 2002 (\*\*NEW\*\*)

International Year of Mountains 2002

Conference on GIS and RS in Mountain Environment Research.

*Krakow, Poland.*

Email: [confe2002@environmount.uj.edu.pl](mailto:confe2002@environmount.uj.edu.pl)

<http://www.enviromount.uj.edu.pl>

Do you know of any events or conferences that should be listed here? If so, please contact the Editor, Ben Davies, on

# Take Note

## IUCN publishes 'Wellbeing of Nations' Report

The IUCN- The World Conservation Union has just published an extensive report assessing the 'wellbeing' of 180 nations, ranking them according to a complex set of indicators measuring human development and environmental conservation. Sweden ranked top of the list, with other Scandinavian countries in the top five and the USA 27th. Six developing countries also made it into the top twenty of the list.

The IUCN site also contains detailed papers on the assessment methodology. For a Press Release with further links to the report see:

### NEW SECRETARIAT ADDRESS:

**ESEE Secretariat  
c/o Charlene Nash,  
Socio-Economic Research  
Programme,  
Macaulay Land Use  
Research Centre,  
Cragiebuckler,  
Aberdeen, AB15 8QH**

**Tel: +44 1224 498200 ex. 2335**

**Fax: +44 1224 311556**

**Email: [cnash@macaulay.ac.uk](mailto:cnash@macaulay.ac.uk)**

### *Russian Society meeting continued from front page*

Building up sustainability policies in Russia was discussed at another plenary session. *Alexey Reteyum* (Moscow State University), who talked about the polarization of development in the country during the last decade, and the reforms that are necessary in Russia at the governmental level. *Bernardo Aguilar* (Costa Rica/USA) also gave also a few reflections on the Russian experience, speaking on complexity and the political ecology of economies in transition.

Parallel sessions ran in both Russian and English, and included (chairpersons in brackets): Natural Capital Conservation, Biodiversity and Watersheds (*Irina Glazyrina*, Chita), Regional and Urban Sustainability (*Vladimir Volkov*, Korolev), Environmental Quality of Urban Life: Air-Pollution (*Tiziano Tirabassi*, Italy), Valuation and Ecological Prices (*Andrey Gusev*, Moscow), Environmental management and auditing (*Anatoly Popov*, Saratov), Environmental Risks (*Ivan Potravnyi*, Moscow), Indicators and Policies of Sustainable Development (*Dietrich Brune*, Germany), Environmental Management Systems and Planning (*Pavel Mounine*, Zelenograd, and *Stanislav Shmelev*, St. Petersburg) and Environmental Education (*Paul Safonov*, Moscow).

More details about the program, abstracts and full papers from the Conference can be found on the web site, from where you can also order the CR ROM Proceedings:

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/ceese/STAFF/safonov/>

ISEERC2001.htm.

The General Meeting of the RSEE (ISEE/RC) also took place during the conference. The ISEE/RC Administration reported on the Society's development to date, and was pleased to announce the membership has grown to well over 100 this summer, and continues to expand. The Russian Chapter, which took a decision this spring to move on as the RSEE, is now finalizing its new Constitution and By-laws, and will hold elections of the new Board to start operating in 2002. *John Proops*, as the next ISEE President, welcomed the RSEE's development and talked about the recent agenda of ISEE and his vision of how ISEE and RSEE could work together in the future. *Arild Vatn*, ESEE Vice President, proposed that RSEE and ESEE could think of holding joint conferences, as well as summer schools for graduate students, for which funding possibilities need to be explored.

RSEE is thankful for the hospitality of the Institute of Control Sciences, Moscow, as well as for sponsorship and support of the ISEE, ESEE, CESE-ULB (Brussels), Prescott College (AZ, USA), Edward Elgar and Elsevier Science Publishers.

Plans for the next **RSEE 2003 Meeting** were preliminary made to take place at Lake Baikal. This and other news can be followed on the RSEE website:

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/ceese/ISEERC> or

<http://RSEE.narod.ru>

## Past Greats: Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

'True philosophy must start from the most immediate and comprehensive fact of consciousness, which says: 'I am life which wills to live, in the midst of life which wills to live'. This is not an ingenious dogmatic formula. Day by day, hour by hour, I live and move in it. ...

As in my own will-to-live there is longing for wider life and for the mysterious exaltation of the will-to-live which we call pleasure, with dread of annihilation and of the mysterious depreciation of the will-to-live which we call pain; so it is also in the will-to-live all around me, whether it can express itself before me, or remains dumb.

Ethics consist, therefore, in my experiencing the compulsion to show all will-to-live the same reverence as I do to my own. There we have us that basic principle of the moral which is a necessity of thought. It is good to maintain and to encourage life; it is bad to destroy life or obstruct it.

A man is truly ethical only when he obeys the compulsion to help all life which he is able to assist, and shrinks from injuring anything that lives. He does not ask how far this or that life deserves one's sympathy as being valuable, nor, beyond that, whether and to what degree it is capable of feeling. Life as such is sacred to him. He tears no leaf from a tree, plucks no flower, and takes care to crush no insect. If in summer he is working by lamplight, he prefers to keep the window shut and breathe in a stuffy atmosphere rather than see one insect after another falled with singed wings upon his table.

Ethics are responsibility without limit towards all that lives.

*from 'The ethics of reverence for life', in  
The Philosophy of Civilisation,*

ESEE Secretariat  
c/o Charlene Nash,  
Socio-Economic Research Programme,  
Macaulay Land Use Research Centre,  
Cragiebuckler,  
Aberdeen, AB15 8QH

Tel: +44 1224 498200 ex. 2335

Fax: +44 1224 311556

Email: [cnash@macaulay.ac.uk](mailto:cnash@macaulay.ac.uk)  
or [secretary@euroecolecon.org](mailto:secretary@euroecolecon.org)  
<http://www.euroecolecon.org/>