



# International Society for Ecological Economics

## June 2003 Newsletter

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### President's Report

My duties as President over the past six months have been both pleasant and frustrating – but not simultaneously! First, the pleasant things.

One of the joys of this post is going to the regional society conferences and meeting ISEE members across the world. In an earlier report I noted that ecological economics has distinctive 'flavours' in the different regions, and last December I encountered the Australian and New Zealand approach, when I attended the ANZSEE conference in Sydney. (There is a fuller report on this conference below in the Newsletter.) The conference took place during a period of very dry weather with bush fires raging not far from the city limits, so I was not very surprised when I found that, in this driest of all continents, ecological economics in Australia deals extensively with water. Interestingly, many of the New Zealand presentations also stressed the role of water, but in that damp and temperate country the issue is not the scarcity of water, but rather the need to protect its quality.

February took me from cold and dark England to warm and sunny Tenerife (and very welcome it was), for the European SEE meeting. This was mainly directed at young researchers, and as is distinctive for ESEE, there was a strong theoretical content, especially regarding multi-criteria methods, industrial metabolism, and discourse analysis. (See below for a fuller report of this meeting.)

Finally, in May I attended the USSEE meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York. There we held an ISEE Board meeting, including discussions with Cutler Cleveland, the editor of our journal *Ecological Economics*. Overall, apart from one issue, discussed below, the society seems in good shape. Away from these business meetings I also managed to attend several sessions of presentations, and I continue to be impressed with the US society's focus on many of the practical policy issues in ecological economics, such as forestry and wilderness preservation. (A report on this conference will be in the next Newsletter.)



Now to the frustrations. Those ISEE members who subscribe to our journal have probably been experiencing severe problems with delivery. The journal's publisher, Elsevier, accepts full responsibility for these problems, and the managing editor from Elsevier has written a letter of apology to ISEE subscribers, published below. Sadly, this delivery problem has been going on for over a year, despite repeated messages to Elsevier from myself and from our Secretariat. We have asked all ISEE journal subscribers to let our Secretariat know details of missing issues of the journal, and these details have been passed on to Elsevier, for them to remedy. There has been some progress, but problems still remain. What makes the frustration even worse is that this is not the first time Elsevier has had delivery problems; indeed they seem to recur about every four years.

At our Board meeting, with journal editor Cutler Cleveland, we agreed that Elsevier's performance has been so poor that we shall make it clear to them that the delivery problem is completely unacceptable. If Elsevier cannot solve the problem, and prevent its recurrence, we shall seriously consider moving the journal to another publisher. It is fortuitous that the contract between ISEE and Elsevier is coming up for renegotiation, and I shall take that opportunity to put as much pressure as I can on Elsevier to improve delivery to acceptable levels (i.e., the journal arrives ever month to all subscribing members).

You should shortly be receiving another e-mail, requesting you tell our Secretariat about any missing journal issues and continuing delivery problems. Please respond fully, so we can work to ensure Elsevier honour their commitments and ISEE members receive acceptable service.

Finally, the procedure is underway for nominating people to stand for election as President-Elect and Board members. Earlier this year a message was sent out detailing how to make your input to the process, so I won't repeat it here. (For details see the ISEE Constitution on our website – [ecological-economics.org](http://ecological-economics.org).) It's not too late to put forward names, including your own, and the first point of contact for your suggestions is your regional society President; for those without regional societies, please contact me directly

Overall, ecological economics continues to flourish globally, and during the rest of my term as President (which finishes at the end of December this year), I shall endeavour to fix the things that are clearly not functioning regarding journal delivery. I aim to pass on to the care of my successor, Charles Perrings, a society which is continuing to grow in both membership and policy influence.

*John Proops*

*ISEE President (eva10@keele.ac.uk).*

## **Ecological Economics Delivery – A Message from Elsevier**

*To all ISEE-subscribers to Ecological Economics*

Dear Subscriber,

Reliability and Customer Satisfaction have always been the main focus of Elsevier. Unfortunately, delivery of Ecological Economics to ISEE members has not at all been satisfactory over the last year.



Delivery of the journal to subscribers has experienced a lot of problems over the last year. Without going into too much detail, the reason for these delivery failures lies in not entering the entire subscribers database into our delivery system. At the same time our fulfilment department was migrating from New York to Orlando. It is this combination of facts that has led to failure in delivery of "Ecological Economics" to many ISEE members.

Elsevier deeply regrets this and wants to make a formal apology for any inconvenience this has caused you. At the same time we are doing the utmost to prevent this from happening again. The electronic version of the journal is available to all ISEE members through the journal's website, which means that you will at least be able to access all articles published in 2002 and 2003. Furthermore, we are in the process of redesigning the fulfilment procedures regarding Ecological Economics to prevent this from happening again. Our fulfilment department is currently working very hard to ship all back issues to the entitled subscribers. ISEE, and particularly its administrator Heide Rohland, is extremely helpful in achieving this. If you still have any complaints about fulfilment, please let Mrs. Rohland know. She is in close contact with the Elsevier fulfilment department and forwards any complaints to Elsevier.

I personally would also like to apologize for any inconvenience you have experienced. At the same time I am confident that problems like this will not occur again in the future and that Elsevier will be able to live up to the standard you rightfully expect.

Yours truly,

*Casper van Dijk (Publishing Editor, Elsevier)*

## **ISEE Web-Site Development**

Firstly, a word of thanks should go out to Eric Neumayer who has kindly taken responsibility for co-ordinating the new Online Encyclopaedia of Ecological Economics. This was finally launched in February 2003 and contains a growing body of high quality contributions. For those of you who are yet to visit this area of the site I would urge you to do so. If you feel that you would like to add to the library, Eric can be contacted directly via the web-site and will be able to advise on what areas we would still like to address.

For those who do not visit the site regularly, it may also be worth pointing out that the society recently came to an arrangement with Edward Elgar publishers allowing our members up to 50% off the recommended price of certain texts. A full list of titles can be found on the site.

The last newsletter saw a request for further information about member projects, the aim being to make other members aware of what work is being done within the community and also to signal where funding may be available from. Unfortunately responses have been slow to arrive so I would again urge you to take this opportunity to make others aware of what your current areas of interest are. I would also like to remind members that there is a Working Papers section of the site which can be used to invite comment on current research. Although there was a very good initial



response to this facility, the submissions have slowed recently. Perhaps this will serve as a reminder to people of its existence.

As always, if you have any suggestions regarding any aspect of the site, please let me know through the contact pages on the site. The site is there to serve the ISEE membership so if there is something you would like to see we will always be grateful to hear from you.

*Steve Morris (ISEE Webmaster evd15@keele.ac.uk)*

## **Report from May ISEE Board Meeting**

The International Society for Ecological Economics Board met at Saratoga Springs in late May 2003. The items discussed are set out below. Full minutes and committee reports will be posted on the web site shortly.

Present: Paula Antunes, Kate Brown, Jonathan Harris, John Proops (Chair), with Frank Muller and Cutler Cleveland for items 3, 10

The Board Meeting was based on papers previously circulated to all Board members

1. Apologies were received from: Kanchan Chopra, Dick Norgaard, Charles Perrings.

2. President's Report

a. Journal distribution

The report was received, and the potentially very damaging effects of this continuing problem were noted. (There was further discussion on related matters under items 2b and 10, below.)

b. Contract with Elsevier

c. Election of President and Board

d. Chair of Nominating Committee

e. Electronic Ballot

It was agreed that the ballot this year should be electronic as far as possible, to encourage greater participation. There will be reminder e-mails sent, plus checks will be made on any 'bounces' of reminder messages, to ensure all ISEE members are appropriately alerted on this procedure.

3. Conference Committee Report

In the absence of Charles Perrings, this report was given by Frank Müller.

4. Professional Links Committee Report

5. Research Committee Report

6. Education Committee Report

7. Communications Committee Report

8. Membership Report

9. Finance Report

10. Progress of the Journal

11. Any Other Business



## Reports from Ecological Economics Meetings

### European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference

#### FRONTIERS 2: European Applications in Ecological Economics

The second of two ESEE FRONTIERS 'mini-conferences' took place in Tenerife, Spain, 12 to 15 February 2003. As FRONTIERS 1 (Cambridge, UK, July 2001), the meeting was designed to create an interactive forum of young and established researchers with plenty of time to discuss current and recent work. The 120 delegates attending spanned 24 different nationalities and the networking extended well beyond citizens/residents of the European Union and Associated States, including researchers from India, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Brazil and Venezuela.

The scientific programme started with a pre-conference guest lecture by Andrew Stirling on 'Complexity, Precaution and Diversity: Opportunities for Policy Engagement' which set the scene for the conference extremely well. The four main themes of the conference were: (i) Environmental Planning: Scientific-Political Decision Processes; (ii) Environmental Management. Applying the Strong Sustainability Concept; (iii) Innovative Forms of Education and Cooperation; and (iv) Developing and Testing Tools. Each day started with a *plenary keynote speech* by a well-established researcher in the field (on the first day two) on one of the themes. *Parallel sessions* (2-3 20min presentations plus 30-45min discussion) focused on sub-themes of the four main themes: Participatory Decision Processes; Multicriteria Analysis, Stakeholders and Participation; Business and Sustainability; Material Flow Analysis and Consumption; Sustainability Indicators; Ecologic and Economic Models; Processes of Valuation; Climate Change; Environmental Kuznets Curves; Tourism and Consumption; and Agri-environment Schemes.

A third format used was *focused group discussions* where papers were circulated in advance and contributors presented a brief summary of their main arguments, so that more time was available for in-depth discussion. The topics addressed were: Strong Sustainability; Education; Food Miles; Sustainable Science; Climate Change; and Multi-Criteria Mapping. Research posters were displayed throughout the four days and a special *poster session* enabled authors to formally summarise their contribution to delegates. A *roundtable* about 'Developing a Practical Ecological Economics' formed the closing plenary. The discussion was opened to the floor and many participants voiced their ideas and impressions of conference contributions as well as put forward their vision of how research should proceed in the future.

Issues of theoretic foundations, scientific method and appropriate areas of research which were raised at FRONTIERS 1 were addressed and developed in the work presented at FRONTIERS 2. The focus on public/stakeholder participation methodologies and practice was considered by many participants as extremely timely and important - and a good link between theoretical science and application. As in FRONTIERS 1 the format of the conference received very positive feedback, succeeding in stimulating interaction between and amongst young and established researchers and fostering a sense of community among ecological economics researchers.



Abstracts and papers of contributions can be found on the FRONTIERS website <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers>

Juan Sanchez-Garcia and Claudia Carter

## **ANZSEE Update**

ANZSEE is back in business. On 2-4 December 2002, Sydney hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> ANZSEE conference. With 110 attendees, 16 plenary speakers, 56 paper presentations in parallel sessions and 10 poster presentations, the conference was unanimously called a success. Sessions were devoted to:

- Global and national futures;
- Present achievements and future scenarios for local economies;
- Business & industry sector strategies;
- Sustainable energy;
- Sustainable development of poor countries; and
- Ecological economics issues and methods.

The range of sessions and quality of discussions demonstrated both the diversity and quality of antipodean research.

Following the success of the December conference, participants decided to organise a follow up conference in New Zealand this year. The 2003 ANZSEE conference will be held in Auckland from 18-20 November. The conference is being held in conjunction with the Sustainable Business Network and The Natural Step. The conference is titled 'The sustainable business conference: information, knowledge wisdom'. A call for abstracts was issued in early May. More information is available from [www.sustainable.org.nz/conference2003](http://www.sustainable.org.nz/conference2003). We would warmly welcome any of our \*international colleagues.

Other news: Several ANZSEE members from New Zealand and Australia attended the inaugural Economics and the Environment Network meeting at the Australian National University in Canberra. The Network offers a forum for all economists dealing with environmental sustainability issues to present and debate cutting edge research. Presentations covered issues from auction systems for encouraging biodiversity to dealing with natural capital in environmental accounting. New developments in ecological economics in New Zealand include the establishment of an ecological economics team at AgResearch Ltd – a government research institute. The team of 3 is focusing on research into resource efficiency, policy development and evaluation in New Zealand's primary production sectors.

In Australia, CSIRO is just about to release its final report on 'The Nature and Value of Ecosystem Services' where the results of an in depth analysis on an agricultural catchment of south eastern Australia by economists, ecologists and other researchers are provided . More details of the report will be available shortly at <http://www.ecosystemsproject.org/>

For more information contact Wendy Proctor (in Australia on [Wendy.Proctor@csiro.au](mailto:Wendy.Proctor@csiro.au)) or Nigel Jollands ([nigel.jollands@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:nigel.jollands@agresearch.co.nz))



## **Report on the Iberoamerican Course and Conference on Development and Environment (9th-12th April 2003), Quito, Ecuador.**

The Iberoamerican Week on Development and Environment was originally due to be held last November. However, due to the eruption of El Reventador volcano (a hundred miles away from Quito), and the subsequent ashes that fell down to the city of Quito (the government reported 2 Million tonnes), on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> the state of emergency was decreed in the Ecuadorian capital, so we decided to postpone both the course and the congress until April 2003.

The event was organised by FLACSO Ecuador (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences) which is a pan American university with sites in many countries of the region, and which is running successfully a Master course in Ecological Economics in Quito, and has already launched a PhD Programme on Development Economics with an especialisation on Ecological Economics, led by Dr. Fander Falconí.

The event was supported by many institutions, such as ISEE itself, the Environment Ministry of Ecuador, the Science and Technology Ministry of Spain, GTZ, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Petroecuador, ECORAE, and other institutions like ENT Environment and Management, Estraconsult, Fundación Natura, IUCN, Ecociencia, Spectrum, and Autonomous University of Barcelona.

### ***Advanced course on development and environment in Iberoamerica***

On 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> of April an advanced course was held with the participation of 101 people from the region, including people Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Perú, Uruguay, Venezuela. Among the lecturers we had Dr. Fander Falconí (from FLACSO Ecuador), Dr. Rafael Burbano (Polytechnic Institute Quito), Jesús Ramos (Autonomous University Barcelona), Miguel Andrade (FAO), Dr. Joan Martínez-Alier (Autonomous University Barcelona), Dr. Roldan Muradian (Development Studies Institute, Tilburg University), Dr. Carlos Larrea (Ecociencia), Dr. Enrique Leff (UNEP), Dr. Joseph Vogel (FLACSO), Dr. Olman Segura (Institute of International Economics, Costa Rica), Dr. Clovis Cavalcanti (Fundação Joaquim Nabuco, Brasil). The topics covered included Multi-Criteria Analysis, to economic integration in Latin America, liberalisation of trade, environmental services payment schemes, and so on.

### ***Iberoamerican conference on development and the environment***

The conference was opened by the Environment Minister of Ecuador, Mr. Edgar Isch, expressing the interest of the country on the issue of sustainability and their acknowledgement for bringing together scientists and lay public to discuss relevant matters of the region. There were 131 participants from different countries of the region such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Perú, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The event was organised in Plenary speeches and parallel sessions for the presentations, apart of one round table, a book presentation, and a discussion forum. With more detail, the six plenary sessions were:

1. Ecological Movements in Latin America, Dr. Joan Martínez Alier
2. Globalisation and environment in Latin America, by Dr. Enrique Leff



3. Agrarian production and food insecurity, by Walter Pengue
4. Coordination of public policies for sustainable development, by Dr. Jean Acquatella (from ECLAC)
5. Environmental services payment schemes for forestry ecosystems, by Dr. Olman Segura, and
6. Biodiversity, property rights, and biofraud, by Dr. Joseph Vogel

There were 5 parallel sessions, each of one consisting of 3 or 4 sessions. In every session 4 papers were presented and 30 minutes discussion followed. The topics covered ranged from “local management and participation, protected areas, urban ecology, production and environment, energy issues, environmental valuation, institutional aspects, development thought, ... A total number of 69 presentations were given, plus 9 posters, which were discussed in due time.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April we had a Round Table to discuss on the “role of civil society in development”, and later that day we had the presentation of the book “Economía y desarrollo sostenible: Matrimonio feliz o divorcio anunciado”, by Dr. Fander Falconí. The event ended with a Discussion Forum on ‘Perspectives of constitution of an Iberoamerican Network on Ecological Economics’.

All the paper presentations, as well as the material for the advanced course are located in the permanent website of the conference, <http://www.cidma2002.org> being therefore a major source of information in both Portuguese and Spanish.

It was decided to launch **The Iberoamerican Network for Ecological Economics** (Red Iberoamericana de Economía Ecológica, RIEE). RIEE will have the permanent secretariat at FLACSO Ecuador, with the support of the Ecological Economics Group of Barcelona. RIEE has already the support of the Argentino-Uruguay Sociedad de Economía Ecológica, Eco-Eco Brasil, IUCN Mesoamerica, Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentavel de Brasilia, Institut de Ciencia I Tecnologia Ambientals de Barcelona, FLACSO Ecuador, CONAIE (confederation of indigenous people of Ecuador), and is going to have the support of many other institutions. RIEE is not a society, but a network for exchanging information and encouraging working together; therefore its activities will always support and reinforce those of the sub-regional societies for ecological economics, as agreed with the representatives of those societies during the constitutional Forum. The final document of constitution will be available soon, when finalised by the members of the Scientific Committee.

RIEE’s first activity will be to decide the venue for the next meeting in 2005, likely Mexico or Brasil. RIEE’s second activity will be launching an on-line peer-reviewed academic journal on ecological economics in both Portuguese and Spanish languages. This is aimed to be the reference journal on EE in the region in non-English language. The Scientific Committee of the event will help deciding the editorial board and publication strategy of the journal in the mid term, with the intention of including all the relevant actors dealing with sustainability in the region in the board.

*Jesus Ramos-Martin*

*Ecol Econ in Latin America* <http://www.cidma2002.org>

*Ecol Econ in Barcelona* <http://www.h-economica.uab.es/tercicle/econecol/index.html>



## **Forthcoming ISEE Conferences**

*For fuller details of forthcoming ISEE meetings, see our website:  
www.ecologicaleconomics.org*

### **ISEE 2004 Eighth Biennial Conference**

*Theme: Challenging Boundaries: Economics, Ecology and Governance.*  
Montreal, July 11-14, 2004.

### **V Biennial Conference of the Brazilian Society for Ecological Economics – 2003**

*Theme: Brazil and Southern Cone: Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Development*

3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2003 University of Caxias do Sul, State of Rio Grande do Sul

#### **Preliminary Programme**

**Session 1:** Economic Theory and Environment: microeconomics and macroeconomics, valuation methods.

**Session 2:** Public Policies and Economic Instruments for a Sustainable Development.

**Session 3:** Urban Development and Environment.

**Session 4:** Sustainability of the Agricultural Production.

**Session 5:** Poverty and Environment.

**Conference 1:** International Relations and Environment.

**Conference 2:** Energy, Development and Environment.

The event will include short-period courses, technical visits, artistic and cultural activities.

#### **Deadlines**

Extended abstracts: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2003

Announcement of the selected papers: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003

Papers (complete version): 15<sup>th</sup> August 2003

The extended abstracts and the complete papers must be sent to: [ecoeco@nepam.unicamp.br](mailto:ecoeco@nepam.unicamp.br) with the **subject**: "Paper V ECOECO".

Website: <http://www.nepam.unicamp.br/ecoeco/>

### **ANZEE 2003**

*Theme: Information, Knowledge, Wisdom*

18-20 November 2003. Aotea Centre, Auckland

The Sustainable Business Network (SBN), Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics (ANZSEE) and The Natural Step New Zealand (TNSNZ) will



host the 2nd Sustainable Business Conference & Exposition in Auckland between 18-20 November 2003.

Website: <http://www.sustainable.org.nz/conference2003>

### **INSEE 2003**

*Theme: Biodiversity and Quality of Life*

Third Biennial Conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) will be held in Kolkata, at the Indian Institute of Management, from 18-20 December 2003.

Website: <http://indev.nic.in/insee/>

### **RSEE 2003 - 6th International Conference**

*Theme: Economic Development and the Environment: Information, Modelling and Management*

August 18-23 2003. Lake Boukal, Siberia, Russia

The Sixth International Conference of the Russian Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE Russian Chapter) at Lake Baikal will offer an opportunity to discuss advances in ecological economic approaches to environmentally sustainable decision and policy making in economies in transition. It will place particular emphasis on regional and local decision-making by government and business, as well as applications of information sciences and modelling in environmental-economic management. Specifically, the Conference is aimed to exchange findings in these areas, expose Russian scholars to relevant international research and practice, discuss the Russian experience to date, and recommend further efforts contributing to sustainable society.

Website: <http://www.eecenter.chita.ru/con3.htm>

### **CANSEE 2003 - Fourth Biannual Conference**

*Theme: Sustainable Development: Are we making genuine progress?'*

October 16-19, 2003. Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada  
With special guest speakers: Herman Daly and John Cobb Jr. (co-authors of "For the Common Good")

#### **Call for Papers.**

Abstracts of papers and oral presentations will be accepted up to **July 31, 2003**.

All submissions will be reviewed and responded to by mid-August.

Abstracts must be no more than 300 words in length.

We invite you to join and contribute to this dialogue and co-learning forum about making genuine progress on the journey to economic and ecological sustainability. Share your knowledge and ideas relating to best practices in sustainability, and help to craft practical recommendations for the development of personal, household, corporate and public policies that effectively support sustainability. These recommendations will guide the future development of ecological economics as a field of professional practice and scholarly research. Website: <http://www.cansee.org/>



## Other Forthcoming Conferences

### The Third Sustainability Days

4-10 September 2003

Zuckerman Institute, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

*A series of seminars, workshops, conferences, and lectures to mark the official opening of the Zuckerman Institute for Connective Environmental Research addressing the challenges of sustainability.*

Website: <http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/events/>

### Sustainable Management in Action Smia 03

4-6 September 2003, University of Geneva

**Organiser:** University Center of Geneva for Human Ecology and Environmental Sciences.

**Plenary Sessions:** Concepts, strategies, practical tools, technological innovations in sustainable management, as well as results, outstanding examples and future development.

**Workshops:** Sustainable entrepreneurs, sustainable mobility, capacity building, sustainable management in developing countries, environmental management systems, sustainable financing, standards and certification, social responsibility, sustainable energies, clean production, e-innovation (Internet), sustainable SME's, eco-efficiency, new markets.

**Evening:** Forum of consumers, shareholders and students.

**For further information see:** [ecolu-info.unige.ch/colloques/SMIA03](http://ecolu-info.unige.ch/colloques/SMIA03)