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New Institutions for Global Resource Management

By Raimund Bleischwitz and Stefan Brinzeu, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy

The structures for natural resource management as they exist globally today are inadequate. The establishment of the UNEP International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management in November 2007 was a big step in the right direction. Unlike previous international commissions (Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development, World Bank Extractive Industry Review Commission) the Resource Panel enjoys intergovernmental legitimacy, therefore there is greater scope for its recommendations to be politically binding on supplier and recipient countries. A further positive aspect is that this expert panel has been tasked with developing principles for sustainable resource management, especially for metals and biofuels. These principles should pertain not only to mining but should also take into account a life cycle and global resource management perspective. Simultaneously the Panel should prepare guidelines and recommended actions for selected sectors, e.g. biofuels. Nevertheless, an expert panel has certain inherent limitations in that it can neither take any decisions nor undertake implementation. Thus, while a panel of this kind is important it also requires institutional back-up.

International Convention for Sustainable Resource Management

An international convention for sustainable resource management is necessary in the medium term. The purpose of such a convention would be to establish sustainable resource management and the principles of resource conservation at the international level. The preamble could refer to the "common heritage of mankind" principle, according to which resources can be utilized by individual countries and actors but should ultimately be passed on to future generations, at least with regard to their most important functions. The convention should support and strengthen existing initiatives and programmes. At the same time there must be arrangements to ensure that profits from the extraction and utilization of natural resources are ploughed back into building up sustainable production and consumption patterns and benefiting the communities through good governance and effective governance processes. A convention should impose binding obligations regarding transparency and enhanced access to information. It should provide the legal framework for setting up and managing a regional raw material fund and facilitate the inclusion of economic instruments, as has been done in the climate sector. The negotiation processes for deciding the objectives of resource use should, moreover, be institutionalized. This includes objectives for improving material efficiency and resource productivity as well as resource conservation targets.

An international convention should also be conceptualized to provide an overall framework for bilateral programs and agreements. In this context, "road maps for sustainable resource management" agreed between the G8 and BRIC states are of special interest.

Although it may still sound visionary at this point, over the medium term it should be possible to impose fees for usage of internationally traded raw materials and to agree on objectives and road maps for resource conservation

International Agency for Sustainable Resource Management

An international agency for sustainable resource management is required for the long term implementation of specific and defined tasks. Unlike an international convention, such a body would not be concerned with the ongoing development of the international legal and economic framework, but with the implementation processes for agreed tasks. The agency would be responsible for knowledge exchange, training programs, skills upgrading, providing data, scenario projections and an information radar for natural resource conflicts. The agency could also conduct professional programs to promote resource productivity in all countries, particularly in small and medium sized companies.

Global resource management must be integrated in existing international conventions and policy sectors from an early stage. Some potential approaches, for instance, are the Basel Convention on the International Transport of Hazardous Waste and climate protection, where there is regulation of energy-intensive industries under European emissions trading and presently a more or less exclusive focus on biofuel subsidization. In principle, life cycle management (LCM), climate protection and resource management are all highly compatible, with material and energy intensive production and consumption patterns on one hand and better management of natural resources on the other.

Ultimately, the fact that current WTO rules consider extraction and production processes to be trade neutral needs to be recognized as a problem. While material efficiency can greatly enhance competitive advantage, if companies or governments recklessly externalize the costs of destructive exploitation and foist these on the general population, the international community must have mechanisms for holding the perpetrators to task. Thus, a binding system is required in the medium term which has provision for economic and legal sanctions if there are violations of key principles of sustainable resource use. Certification and consumer interest are important milestones on the path to sustainable global resource management.

Dr. Stefan Brinzeu is Director and Prof. Dr. Raimund Bleischwitz is Co-Director of the Research Group 3: Material Flows and Resource Management at the Wuppertal Institute. Their article summarizes some of their conclusions recently published in a policy paper for the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF).

The paper entitled "Global Resource Management. Conflict Potential and Characteristics of a Global Governance Regime" is available at <http://www.sef-bonn.org/en/publications/index.php>

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POLICY & RESEARCH

The Nobel Prize for Peace

At the 10th December Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) received the 2007 Nobel Prize for peace in Oslo. Below you find the main part of the Presentation Speech by Professor Ole Danbolt Mjøs, Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

[..] There was for a long time great doubt about whether global warming was man-made. Thanks to the IPCC there is very little such doubt today. Then there are those who doubt that there is any connection between the environment and the climate on the one hand and war and conflict on the other. Why have the IPCC and Al Gore been awarded a Nobel Prize for *peace*?

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has always had a broad approach to peace. Its opinion has been that there are many different paths to peace. A number of these paths have been contentious, not so much among ordinary people, who are inclined to believe that any good cause deserves the Peace Prize, as among scholars, whose task it is to study interrelations between phenomena. When the Nobel Committee handed out human rights prizes, scholars queried the connection between democracy and peace. Today they no longer ask. The connection is now regarded as among the most "robust" in modern political science.

The traditional concept of peace and security emphasises war between states. In order to protect all the individuals of which states consist, it is of course important to prevent any attack from outside. But wars between states have become increasingly rare. Wars within states, on the other hand, have grown more frequent. Many more people are killed today in civil wars than in wars between states. Those who attach importance to "human security" argue that the main thing is to protect individuals. The chief threats may be direct violence, but deaths may also have less direct sources in starvation, disease, or natural disasters. A goal in our modern world must be to maintain "human security" in the broadest sense.

Environmental problems certainly affect human security in this broad sense. When low-lying areas are flooded, their inhabitants will no longer have any form of security. In the words of last year's Laureate, Muhammad Yunus, "My country Bangladesh is already paying a very high price for global warming and stands to face even greater challenges in the future. As natural calamities intensify year on year, climate change has already become a question of survival". We can already see how millions of refugees from Bangladesh are creating social and political tensions in India. Melting glaciers, and rivers, which first overflow and then have their rate of flow reduced or dry out, mean dramatic changes in people's everyday lives. In many places, such events are coinciding with rapid increases in population. Such cities as Quito, La Paz and Lima are affected by the melting of glaciers in the Andes; the rivers from the glaciers in the Himalayas supply half of the fresh water needed by 40 per cent of the world's population. Desertification in China and Africa is threatening vast land areas.

In some parts of the world global warming can be beneficial. We see farming being undertaken in northern regions where it has hitherto been difficult or impossible. Nevertheless, Inuit and Sami people are worried. Sheila Watt-Cloutier has said that this year it was planet earth that got the Peace Prize. The overall effect is negative. In the south the picture is even clearer. The effect will be particularly damaging for those who are already in the greatest difficulty, the weak states and vulnerable people who are least well-equipped to meet the new challenges. They are paying a high price for a problem largely brought about by the wealthy countries to the north.

Unfortunately we can already establish that global warming not only has negative consequences for "human security", but can also fuel violence and conflict within and between states. It can be argued that the melt-down in the Arctic is giving a sharper edge to the new series of sovereignty claims that we are seeing in this northernmost part of the world. The consequences are most obvious, however, among the poorest of the poor, in Darfur and in large sectors of the Sahel belt, where we have already had the first "climate war". The wind that blows the sand off the Sahara sets people and camels

moving towards more fertile areas. The outcome is that nomads and peasants, Arabs and Africans, Christians and Muslims from many different tribes clash in a series of conflicts. There are many dimensions to this, but it is growing increasingly obvious that desertification is a central underlying factor. The pattern from Darfur has now spread to Chad and the Central African Republic. Large parts of the Sahel belt, from the Sudan to Senegal, are coming under threat.

It is not only the Norwegian Nobel Committee that sees interrelations between nature and the environment, war and conflict. So does the UN Security Council. In April this year, on Britain's initiative, the Security Council held its first debate on the effect of climate on war and conflict. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, said in his careful way that "when resources are scarce – whether energy, water or arable land – our fragile ecosystems become strained, as do the coping mechanisms of groups and individuals. This can lead to a breakdown of established codes of conduct, and even outright conflict". Climate and the environment have thus become one of the threats "to international peace and security" which the UN Security Council is meant to deal with. A committee of prominent American military officers recently stated that climate changes are "a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world".

The Norwegian Nobel Committee rarely raises its voice. Our style is largely sober. But it is a long time since the committee was concerned with such fundamental questions as this year. Desmond Tutu, Peace Prize Laureate in 1984, put it as follows in Tromsø's Arctic Cathedral in connection with World Environment Day on the 5th of June: "To ignore the challenge of global warming may be criminal. It certainly is disobeying God. It is sin. The future of our fragile, beautiful planet is in our hands. We are stewards of God's creation".

We congratulate the IPCC and Al Gore on receiving this year's Peace Prize. We thank you for what you have done for mother earth, and wish you further success in a task that is so vital to us all. Action is needed now. Climate changes are already moving beyond human control.

For the complete speech, please see the Homepage of the Norwegian Nobel Committee:

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2007/presentation-speech.html

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Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution

The recently published book "Peace Parks. Conservation and Conflict Resolution" edited by Saleem H. Ali, examines the ways in which environmental cooperation in multijurisdictional conservation areas may help resolve political and territorial conflicts. Following a historical and theoretical overview that explores economic, political, and social theories that support the concept of peace parks, and discussion of bioregional management for science and economic development, the book presents case studies of existing parks and proposals for future parks. After describing such real-life examples as the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Africa and the Emerald Triangle conservation zone in Indochina, the book looks to the future, exploring the peace-building potential of envisioned parks in security-intensive spots including the U.S.-Mexican border, the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, and the Mesopotamian marshlands between Iraq and Iran. Against this backdrop, ECC editors asked Saleem H. Ali about the

contribution of Peace Parks to conservation, peace and regional cooperation as well as on potential obstacles to achieving these goals.

ECC Editors: Under which circumstances can peace parks contribute to conflict resolution? Which peace park is the most outstanding example in this regard?

Saleem H. Ali: If there is a clear connection made between conservation of resources and mutual gains for adversaries, peace parks can work effectively as an instrumental means of conflict resolution. The issue needs to be presented pragmatically (not just idealistically) with a clear set of tangible advantages of establishment laid out to the contending parties. The Cordillera del Condor region between Ecuador and Peru is a good example of how environmental factors were used to resolve a territorial dispute with mediation from the U.S.

ECC Editors: What are the key requirements needed for the successful establishment of a peace park?

Saleem H. Ali: Effective community interactions prior to the establishment of the park is essential to avoid micro-conflicts. Furthermore, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to prevent abuse of the system are also vitally important. Modern remote sensing technologies are being applied by organizations such as Sandia National Labs' Cooperative Monitoring Center to help with such efforts. Joint environmental management by security forces can also be an important way of linking ecological conservation and security and building trust between parties.

ECC Editors: What are on the other hand the main obstacles regarding the establishment and success of peace parks at the different political and regional levels? Can you give a regional example to illustrate these difficulties?

Saleem H. Ali: The most significant obstacle is the way government bureaucracies are managed in most countries and jurisdictions. Environmental issues are completely separated from defence and security issues and often relegated to "low politics". Leaders who understand the primacy of environmental factors as a cooperative tool are essential to make this happen. Let me give an example from South Asia: two years ago we got some funding from the National Science Foundation to initiate collaborative environmental research between Pakistani and Indian scientists in the Siachen region with the goal of potentially having a "science for peace" park to deescalate the conflict (similar in conception to the Antarctic Treaty). At the last minute both sides denied visas to each other's scientists because the security personnel thought that environmental scientists might get access to sensitive "state information". Until leaders are willing to work beyond such irrational rivalries, it is difficult to get peace parks established in the areas of active conflict that need them most.

ECC Editors: One of the greatest challenges for most protected areas is the lack of effective communication and cooperation between stakeholder groups. What is the strategy of transboundary protected areas in addressing this problem?

Saleem H. Ali: The process of establishing a peace park inherently requires consensus to emerge about management strategies across borders – both physical and ideological. In the book we describe the strategy of using peace and conflict assessments with stakeholders prior to establishing a transboundary protected area, as has been used

particularly in central Africa. Once it is clear to the stakeholders that the peace park effort is not an attempt at cooptation or manipulating their rights, you can have sincere engagement. As with many other well-intentioned efforts, the implementation strategy can make or break the project. However, there is now a critical mass of experience and guidance that is available to help governments and communities work constructively in this regard.

ECC Editors: Thank you very much for the interview.

Saleem H. Ali is Associate Professor of Environmental Planning at the Rubenstein School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont and holds adjunct faculty appointments at Brown University and the United Nations mandated University for Peace.

The book "Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution" is available at <http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=11250>

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Adapting to a Climate of Conflicts

The British NGO International Alert (IA) estimates that the consequences of climate change coupled with poverty and poor governance could lead to an increase in armed conflict in 46 countries with a total population of 2.7 billion. According to another study by the US Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) the implications could be even more drastic. The authors claim that the interplay of growing nuclear energy use and the destabilizing impact of climate change can heighten the risk of (regional) nuclear wars.

Although in both cases the underlying assumptions for these scenarios are perhaps debatable – for instance the figures used by IA are based on the sum of all countries considered fragile or prone to conflict according to various international indices (e.g. CrisisWatch) – such developments are not entirely impossible. However, both scenarios serve very different purposes. The US study is concerned with highlighting the potential consequences, which are to some extent extreme and perhaps also unavoidable. Yet it does not present any concrete policy options that emerge from its findings. In this respect the study is similar to a series of reports over the last months that have dealt with the potential threats of climate change.

IA on the other hand has focused on adaptation to climate change. If adaptation is not undertaken cautiously it could result in new conflicts. Migration, which is one adaptation strategy, has considerable potential to cause conflict. Peacebuilding and peace research can prove helpful here. The focus will be to shape the process of societal change, be it at a social, economic or political level, such that it occurs as peacefully as possible and is able to balance diverse interests. (*Achim Maas*)

The International Alert study is available at: http://www.international-alert.org/climate_change.php

The study by CSIS and CNAS is available at: http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task/view/id,4154/type,1/

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Bridges Over Water

It's a common situation: Two riparian states sharing one transboundary aquifer cannot yield the highest joint payoff from using the shared water resources, because they are pumping water without consulting the other, instead of following a cooperative strategy. With this short transboundary groundwater version of the famous prisoner's dilemma the authors of "Bridges over Water: understanding transboundary water conflict, negotiation and cooperation" introduce their chapters on how a transboundary water situation can be expressed using game theory concepts. The textbook presents the multidisciplinary facets of freshwater, considering political, economic, legal, environmental and hydrological nuances. Its target audience is graduates in economics, engineering, water law, and international relations as well as practitioners in water resource management, international water law and water policies. The book gives theoretical background on water resources and international water law and various quantitative approaches to analyzing transboundary water problems, such as river basin modelling and game theory. Modelling software that comes with the book allows these approaches to be applied to case studies. The Annex provides detailed case studies of particular transboundary river basins, lakes and aquifers, together with the treaties governing cooperation on them.

"Bridges over Water" is thus a very valuable contribution to filling the gap of comprehensive textbooks on the issue: the theoretical foundation. However, the book could have gained from starting with a clearer introduction to the main problems and issues of dispute in transboundary basins, such as common negative transboundary effects or divergent water management priorities such as hydro-power, flood protection or wetland protection. Moreover, more attention could have been given to the actual problems water managers face on the ground, especially in developing countries, ranging from the lack of data, to difficulties in enforcement of agreements and limited institutional capacities to maintain river basin organizations. (*Annika Kramer*)

The book can be purchased at <http://www.worldscibooks.com/economics/6184.html>

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GEO-4 - Brundtland Reloaded

Global warming, environmental degradation and the potential for conflict growing out of competition over dwindling resources are the topics analyzed in the fourth Global Environmental Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4), recently published by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). 20 years after the Brundtland Commission produced its report "Our Common Future", GEO-4 assesses the current state of the world's environment, describes the changes since 1987, and identifies priorities for action. Over the past two decades, the world has changed radically. On energy, it faces a twin threat: inadequate and insecure energy supplies, and environmental damage from consuming too much energy. The decline of freshwater resources constitutes another peril: by 2025, close to two billion people are likely to live in 'absolute' water scarcity. Unsustainable land use and climate change are driving land degradation, including soil erosion, and desertification. While there has been progress in tackling some of the environmental problems, such major threats remain unresolved.

GEO-4 recalls the Brundtland Commission's statement that the "environmental crisis", "development crisis", and "energy crisis" are all one. This crisis includes not just climate change, extinction rates and hunger, but other problems driven by growing human

numbers, the rising consumption of the rich and the desperation of the poor. The only way to address these problems requires moving the environment from the periphery to the core of decision-making. "There have been enough wake-up calls since Brundtland. I sincerely hope GEO-4 is the final one." said Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director. The transition towards sustainable development needs to be pursued more intensively by nations and the international community, including through capacity building and technological support to developing countries. However, the report abstains from offering concrete propositions for solving the problems. (*Christiane Roettger*)

The fourth "Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4)" assessment, the press releases, media briefs and the remarks by Achim Steiner are available at <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/>

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

Fair Play, Not Charity. How to Organize Global Resource Management

The creation of an international organization (IO) for global resource management looks unlikely. The interests of importers and exporters are too divergent to permit such a scenario, as is the global distribution of resources. This was the key conclusion at the conference on "Resource Management as a Challenge for Global Governance" organized by the German Federal Academy for Security Policy, the Wuppertal Institute and the Development and Peace Foundation in Berlin from October 11 – 12. The conference was attended by at least 100 participants.

Although an IO does not appear possible, there was no disagreement about the need for a global framework for resource management. But the fundamental question is whether such a framework should be regulatory and restrictive in nature or follow the logic of deregulation and free markets. While free trade can result in asymmetric conditions, e.g. due to cartel formation, regulatory approaches are often difficult to implement. The International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management recently set up by UNEP is a committee of experts and therefore cannot close this gap, but at least it enjoys inter-governmental legitimacy.

There was unanimity in the view that issues of global resource management are about fair play, not charity. The potential solutions, however, remained unclear and contentious. For instance, should resource funds be established or should profits from national resource wealth be equitably distributed among the population as a de facto basic income?

With regard to equitable resource distribution, it was asked to what extent a UN Security Council resolution on conflict resources - as in the case of blood diamonds - is useful in preventing illegal resource exploitation, which is frequently associated with violence as well. However, this question was not dealt with in-depth at the conference and will certainly require further discussion. (*Achim Maas*)

Further information on the conference is available at <http://www.sef-bonn.org/de/aktuelles/index.php>.

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A New Partnership Portal for Peace-builders

The European Union is playing an important role in crises prevention – but could still do a lot more. This was one important message from the European Commission's conference "From Early Warning to Early Action: Developing the EU's Response to Crisis and Longer-term Threats" which was held in Brussels 12-13 November 2007. The conference agenda with its diverse range of panel discussions reveals the European Commission's broad conceptualization of 'crises'. The inclusiveness and networking value of the event was also revealed by more than 600 registrations.

During the opening panel, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner highlighted the EU's comprehensive range of tools for crises management, but also its need for support from civil society to enhance their impact. For this purpose the new funding mechanism called Peace-building Partnership might be helpful. Officially launched during the conference, the Peace-building Partnership aims at mobilizing and consolidating civilian expertise for peace-building; and addressing, in particular, non-state actors, international organizations and relevant agencies of EU Member States. The Partnership is currently collecting information on organizations and entities working in the fields of conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building. This web-based portal will allow the EC to draw on and rapidly mobilize civil society expertise. The Partnership is part of the Instrument for Stability the most important funding mechanism for crises management in the EU. Its budget was stocked up substantially in 2007, reflecting the increased role the EU wishes to play in this area. This funding instrument is considered very flexible for a Commission mechanism and allows for a wider range of activities, from crises response to work related to prevention and stability development.

The broadness of crisis prevention was also illustrated by a parallel session on 'resource based conflicts' as part of the conference. Contributions included a scientific presentation on the security significance of oil geopolitics to a video of grassroots NGO activity against illegal logging in South East Asia – touching upon each rather than bringing them together in discussion. (*Maira Feil*)

Video and audio documentation of presentations and panels is available here: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tariqa/conference/>

To register an organization with the Peace-building Partnership, visit: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tariqa/PeaceBuilding>

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Does the Dead Sea Need to Be Put on a Drip?

Transboundary governance of joint water resources is a challenge. In the case of the Dead Sea, however, conflicting interests appear to pitch governments against environmentalists rather than the three riparians against each other. This, at least, was the impression left behind from the workshop on "Transboundary Natural Resources Governance in Regions of Extreme Conditions". It was sponsored by the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme and took place on November 19-21 close to the Dead Sea in Ein Gedi, Israel - a location that mirrored the workshop's title in various ways: it

suffers from extreme conditions of water scarcity and long history of conflict. Both make the transboundary governance of the regional water resources particularly challenging. While economic and legal approaches and lessons learned from other cases were also presented during the workshop, the drying Dead Sea was the main subject of interest. One initiative that is meant to alleviate the above mentioned stress factors in the region intends to build a canal to convey water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. The governments of Jordan, Palestinian Territories and Israel have already agreed on the terms of reference for a 15 million dollar feasibility study funded by the World Bank. Does the Dead Sea need a drip from the Red Sea? Various presentations challenged the plan and called for alternative solutions. Main concerns were expressed about the high costs of the project and the negative effects that mixing the two waters might have on the Dead Sea characteristics.

The three governments benefit in different ways from the canal: for Israel the main benefit is supposedly the additional water flow into the Dead Sea; Jordan and Palestine are supposed to get 850 million cubic meter annually of desalinated water for drinking - just about as much as the total renewable water resources available to Jordan today. The Palestinians, who do not have access to the Dead Sea's coast and water see another benefit from cooperating on the issue in their own recognition as a riparian state. Governmental representatives also stressed the symbolic importance of having agreed on the terms as an act of cooperation. The intricacies of water cooperation became once more evident from the repeated calls to better exchange data and information on the water resources as well as from the different views on water rights versus water needs that were presented during the workshop. (*Annika Kramer*)

More information about the workshop can be found here <http://www.natodeadsea.org/>

Friends of the Earth Middle East <http://www.foeme.org/projects.php?ind=51> have studied environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Red Sea Dead Sea project.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events are also regularly published at <http://www.ecc-platform.org/>.

"Climate Change: Science and Solutions" in Washington, D.C. (16–18 January 2008)

The National Council for Science and the Environment organizes the 8th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment to develop and advance science-based solutions to climate change. Scientists, policy makers, industry leaders, educators, and other solutions-oriented innovators are invited to develop comprehensive strategies for protecting people and the planet against the threat of climate change.

For the draft agenda and to register, please see <http://ncseonline.org/2008conference/>

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"Asian Drivers of Global Change - Challenges for Europe" in Bonn (17-18 January 2008)

The workshop, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and organized jointly by the German Development Institute (DIE, Bonn) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS, Sussex), will concentrate on one of the big issues of our time: the rise of China and India and the challenges which this presents for Europe. It focuses on both countries as innovation powers and their increasingly important role in finding solutions to global climate change. Leaders from the research communities in these countries have been invited to bring in the corporate and government views.

For more information on this event, please see http://www.die-gdi.de/die_homepage.nsf/FSefer?OpenFrameset

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"Living with Climate Change: Are There Limits to Adaptation?" in London (7-8 February 2008)

Announced by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the University of Oslo, with the support of the Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GECHS) project, this two day international conference wants to consider strategies for adapting to climate change, in particular to explore the potential barriers to adaptation that may limit the ability of societies to adapt to climate change and to identify opportunities for overcoming these barriers.

For further information on the event, please see <http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/research/programme3/adaptation2008/index.html>

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"Long-Term Policies: Governing Social-Ecological Change" in Berlin (22-23 February 2008)

This conference will be the eighth event in the series of annual European Conferences on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, and the first International Conference of the Social-Ecological Research Programme. It particularly aims at bringing together transdisciplinary research results on long-term policies from various fields. It will provide ample opportunities to advance social-ecological research into international debates and to discuss future perspectives of this field.

Further information is available at <http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2008/>

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This section serves as a platform for Institutions and Initiatives to present their activities on Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation.

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

Sustainable development requires an integrated approach to policy and science because many of the issues it raises cannot be addressed within a single department or using the tools of individual scientific disciplines. This is where the Wuppertal Institute's research programme begins - by taking an interdisciplinary approach and working towards systems understanding. Applied sustainability research is the Wuppertal Institute's stated mission.

Research Group 3 explores material flows from extraction to final disposal, taking account of global "ecological rucksacks" and the extent of land use involved. We develop concepts, strategies and instruments aimed at improving resource productivity and sustainable resource management.

What does sustainable resource use look like, and how can we achieve it? That is the question addressed by the Material Flows and Resource Management Research Group. There is an immediate need for research on the sustainable use of non-renewable and renewable resources - research, moreover, that takes account of the limited availability of land and the requirements of natural and material metabolisms, and combines approaches from natural sciences, engineering, economics, planning and the social sciences. The economic areas to be analyzed include the European Union as well as international, national, regional and local levels.

The Material Flows and Resource Management Research Group examines

- the dynamics and structures of the "industrial metabolism",
- analyses information on indicators and goals that is relevant for policy,
- develops scenarios of sustainable resource use,
- formulates and evaluates resource management and policy.

For further information, please see

http://www.wupperinst.org/en/our_research/material_flows_and_resource_management/index.html

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