



# ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING



NEWSLETTER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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## Letter from the Editor

The arrival of the new Millennium is immersed in the process of economic, ecological, technological and cultural globalisation that sets the leading pace into this new civilising era. This is the time of sustainability and democracy, of the recognition of diversity and the emancipation of indigenous peoples.

The efforts in favour of a greater inter-relation between the peoples and nations through the liberalisation of trade and the integration of markets take place in this setting. These processes directly affect the decision-making criteria for the formulation of economic, commercial, technological and environmental policies. In the last few months the intensity of the discussions has increased and focused on the benefits of free trade versus the ecological risks inherent to global warming and bio-technology, on the rights of the private sector, of the State and of the indigenous peoples over genetic resources, on the role of citizenry in the preparation of new rules for democratic governance.

Under such circumstances and at this turning point in history, the perspectives of sustainability in Latin America are shaped by the objective to achieve greater hemispheric integration via the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). This embracing goal, based on the market, shall not be founded on the deterioration of the underpinnings of ecological balance, social equity and cultural diversity that ensure sustainable development in the region.

Responding to the implications in the formulation of environmental policies, the Environmental Training Network of UNEP organised the *International Conference on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Conference congregated experts who represented Governments, international organisations, academic institutions and the organised civil society with the purpose of encouraging an open, critical and positive dialogue on the relationship between trade and the environment, from which better integrated economic and environmental policies could be drawn (see page 2). The Conference sought to foster the discussions between the Governments and the civil society in the region, so as to move towards a more participative and well-informed decision-making process on these issues. The Publishing Programme of the Environmental Training Network will publish the papers arising from the Conference as part of its new series "Foros y Debates Ambientales" (Environmental Forums and Debates).

The open, participative and critical atmosphere of the Conference spread to the Third Hemispheric Summit held in Quebec in April 2001, a Symposium on Trade and Environment co-chaired by UNEP, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and UICN. As a result of the discus-

sions held, the Symposium carried the environmental view to the Quebec Summit in the shape of the formal dialogue previously established with the civil society. Three basic proposals were put forward to formulate a strategy on Trade and Sustainability for the Americas: a) include an environmental regime in the FTAA; b) strengthen environmental co-operation in the Americas, mainly in the critical sectors related to trade; c) create a hemispheric group of Senior Experts in order to keep a permanent and constructive dialogue with the civil society, industry and other stakeholders.

These trends raise the need to reinforce environmental co-operation to provide sustainability basis to free trade agreements in the region. On the other hand, the Rio+10 Summit will soon be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2002. In face of the limited progress made since the Rio Summit held in 1992 with regard to the objective of mainstreaming growth oriented to sustainable development and the weak implementation of Agenda 21, it is imperative to cogitate on and ponder the experiences and achievements so far reached, as well as the new strategies to be defined towards sustainability. Environmental education will surely be an input for the discussions to come in the next months, discussions that will lead to the formulation of new initiatives to strengthen educative processes and environmental training to mainstream sustainable development policies.

As announced in the last issue of **Environmental Training**, the Network has launched a new series of publications, "Foros y Debates Ambientales" (Environmental Fora and Discussions). The first papers published were those that resulted from the Colloquium on *Development and Advocacy of the New Environmental, Cultural and Collective Rights in Latin America*. Furthermore, the new series "Pensamiento Ambiental Latinoamericano" (Environmental Thought in Latin America) was launched as well (see Publishing Programme of the Network, page 18).

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## International Conference on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

The *International Conference on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean* was held on 19-21 February 2001 in Mexico City. The Conference was organised by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROLAC) with the joint support of the Economy and Trade Unit of UNEP, the Centre for Cross-Disciplinary Research on Science and Humanities of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (CIICH/UNAM), the Mexican Council for Sustainable Development (COMEDS), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Conference was organised as a response to the need of proceeding with the debate on the policies of sustainability in the region, within the framework of the trade liberalisation process of the last two decades, which has had a significant impact on environmental and sustainable development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean and all over the world. This situation has highlighted the challenge of drafting suitable strategies that allow for environmental and commercial policies to meet at a crossroads where sustainable development can be assured in a spirit of equity, democracy and justice. Thus, the objective of the Conference was to outline an agenda to analyse controversial issues related to the rationality of the market, ecological preservation and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

The Conference was held at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), in an academic atmosphere conducive to a critical, plural and positive debate on these subjects. Over 140 participants attended, including representatives of international organisations and national Governments, as well as academic experts and distinguished members of the civil society. The Conference was also the ideal opportunity to launch the UNEP/UNCTAD joint project on training on environmental and development issues in the region (CBTF). One of the main principles behind this initiative is that the balanced integration of commercial, environmental and development policies means a substantial contribution to the achievement of the objectives for sustainable development. The general goal of the CBTF is to promote capacity-building in the countries, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, so they may be able to successfully deal with issues related to trade, environment and development. The training project will help the recipients to: i) promote the expansion of trade and development in such a way that it is sustainable and harmless for the environment; ii) evaluate the impact of commercial policies on the environment and development, and of environmental policies on trade and development, in order to maximise their potential benefits; iii) design and implement sets of political measures to foster integrated national policies on trade, environment and development; iv) analyse adequate methods to address the problems related to trade, environment and development; v) successfully participate in regional and international negotiations on trade,

environment and development; vi) gather information from relevant organisations that are actors in the realm of trade, environment and development and establish mechanism of co-operation with them.

The following subjects were addressed during the Conference: Commercial, Environmental and Sustainable Development-oriented Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean; Agriculture, Bio-security and Social-Environmental Disasters; the Convention for Biological Diversity, Intellectual Property of the Private Sector and the Rights of the Peoples in the Appropriation of Genetic Resources; Capacity-Building and Environmental Training; Opportunities and Future Guidelines for Latin American and Caribbean Countries in Terms of Trade and Sustainable Development.

The need to integrate these policies was discussed and admitted, mainly by governmental officers from the LAC region. In the same respect, the group discussed the need to improve the co-ordination in the formulation of policies at the national level and to increase the consistency between the national positions assumed during the negotiations of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and trade agreements. In this context, the need to appraise the methodologies for holistic environmental assessment became evident in the definition of the relationships between trade, environment and development, and so did the need to fill the gaps of empirical knowledge and to support the formulation of policies. Strong emphasis was placed on the fact that trade itself cannot address underdevelopment and that a multi-sectoral approach is required to reach sustainable development.

The papers prepared and the discussion on these issues during the Conference add information and valuable criteria to guide the decision-makers in Latin America and the Caribbean in the formulation of sustainability policies in the region, closely linked to the targets of democracy, participation, eradication of poverty and promotion of social equity. The participants reached a consensus on the urgent need to devise a strategy to improve the quality life of all the people in every nation, conceiving free trade only as an instrument to reach sustainable development in the region. In addition, the crucial importance of capacity-building, technical and financial assistance and international co-operation was highlighted as the basis to enhance the relationships between trade, environment and sustainable development.

The Conference was a preliminary to the Symposium on Trade and Environment held in Quebec back in April, within the framework of the Summit of the Americas, thus inaugurating an hemispheric agenda where UNEP shall carry out important activities related to these issues in order to make sustainable development a reality in the LAC region.

The presentations made and lectures given at the Conference will be published as part of the series "Foros y Debates Ambientales" (Environmental Fora and Debates) of the Publishing Programme of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

# ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL NETWORKS AND THE NETWORK REGIONAL PROGRAMME

## ARGENTINA

### *International Seminar on Integral Management of Hydrographic Basins*

The Rosario University Centre for Hydro-environmental Research (CURIHAM), the National University of Rosario, UNESCO's Science and Technology Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Hydrological Programme, are organizing this seminar to be held in Rosario, Argentina, on October 8-12, 2001. The objective is to gather specialists in different disciplines, and from various countries, who are working at the basin level with the purpose of learning the techniques and methodologies employed in the use, occupation and structural intervention. **For further information:**

[www.fceia.unr.edu.ar/curiham](http://www.fceia.unr.edu.ar/curiham)

### *Geographic Information Systems*

The Architecture, Design and Urbanism Faculty of the Buenos Aires University, is integrating a list of users with the purpose of facilitating contact among the GIS community in Argentina. Subscription to the list is open to anyone without previous approval. The list is not moderated and the exchange of messages is limited to subscribers. To register you may contact [majordomo@fadu.uba.ar](mailto:majordomo@fadu.uba.ar). **For further information:**

[mfrassia@mail.retina.ar](mailto:mfrassia@mail.retina.ar)

### *Training Project for Peasant Women in Agroforestry*

The Andean Institute of Studies and Human Promotion (ICEPH) and the Canadian Fund are developing this project for the women of Rio Negro, Argentina. The objective is to improve living conditions of participant women and their families, by means of training them in agroforestry and its production. It is intended to encourage a different conception with regard to environmental recovery and preservation, based on agroforestry and diversification oriented

towards self-sufficiency. **For further information:**

[iceph@bariloche.com.ar](mailto:iceph@bariloche.com.ar)

## BRAZIL

### *Fourth Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management*

This fourth dialogue, to be held on September 2-6, 2001 in Foz de Iguazú, Paraná, Brazil, intends to make a contribution to the discussions of the Second Hemispheric Summit on Sustainable Development or the Santa Cruz + 5, programmed for 2001, as well as to the meeting for the evaluation of Agenda 21 implementation or the Rio + 10 in 2002. During the event, the documents "The Vision of Water in the Americas" and the "Action Framework", presented at the Second Water World Forum that took place in The Hague in March 2000, would also be discussed in depth. **For further information:**

Maria do Carmo Zinato  
Fonte D'água  
[mariacz@ces.fau.edu](mailto:mariacz@ces.fau.edu)

### *Forty-first Brazilian Congress on Olericulture. Vegetables: from Organic to Trans-genics*

This congress will take place in Brasilia, Brazil on July 22-27, 2001 and is being organized by the Olericulture Society of Brazil (SOB) with the support from various organizations. The subjects to be addressed are olericulture and biotechnology; organic cultivation; and medicinal, aromatic and condimental plants. **For further information:**

[41cbo@cnph.embrapa.br](mailto:41cbo@cnph.embrapa.br)  
[www.horticultura.com.br/Soblnf/](http://www.horticultura.com.br/Soblnf/)

### *"Research on Environmental Education: Tendencies and Perspectives"*

This inter-institutional meeting, to be held

on July 29-31, 2001, will be attended by several Brazilian universities (UNESP, USP and UFSCar). The objectives are to identify and analyse the tendencies and perspectives of scientific production on environmental education; to discuss, analyse and disseminate research work on this subject; and to provide the elements for an initial profile of the situation with regard to the state of the art on environmental education research in the country and its perspectives. **For further information:**

Tel.: (19) 526-4155  
[epeac@rc.unesp.br](mailto:epeac@rc.unesp.br)  
[www.rc.unesp.br/espea](http://www.rc.unesp.br/espea)

### *Latin American Course on Conservation Biology and Management of Wild Life*

This theoretical and practical course will take place from November 5 through December 7, 2001 at the *Centro Brasileiro de Biologia da Conservação* and at the *Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo*, both in the State of São Paulo. The course is being organized by the *Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas* (IPE) and the *Instituto Florestal* of São Paulo and will be given in Portuguese. Applications must be received by September 5. **For further information:**

Laury Cullen Jr.  
IPÊ- Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas,  
Parque Estadual Morro do Diabo  
C.P. 91. Teodoro Sampaio  
CEP 19280-000  
SP, Brasil  
Tel.: (018) 972-8853 / 282-1944  
[lcullen@stetnet.com.br](mailto:lcullen@stetnet.com.br)  
[www.wpti.org/ipe.htm](http://www.wpti.org/ipe.htm)

### *International Seminar "Education on Agrarian Reform: Society, Land and Citizenry"*

This seminar will be held on July 18-22, 2001 at the *Universidade Estadual de Maringá*, Paraná, Brazil. The seminar will focus on subjects such as: Education; the National Education Programme on Agrarian Reform (PRONERA); Social Movements; Economy, Politics and

History; Human Rights; and Environment  
– Agenda 21. **For further information:**

J. Guerra  
jorgegeo@uem.br  
www.dge.uem.br/seminario/seminario1.htm

## COLOMBIA

### *National Directory of Researchers of Biodiversity*

This first edition of the directory forms part of the Facilitation Mechanism (MF) of Colombia, and offers information on researchers and entities engaged in biodiversity research in Colombia. It represents an instrument for information and co-ordination among these professionals and institutions in the country and also serves as a connecting line with their peers in other countries. **For further information:**

chm@humboldt.org.co  
www.humboldt.org.co/chmcolombia

### *First International Congress on Medicinal Aromatic Plants*

This congress on Agro-Industrial Development, Conservation and Exploitation as Instruments for Sustainable Development is being organized by the University of San Buenaventura and will take place in Cali, Colombia on August 13-15, 2001. **For further information:**

Sandra Patricia Guzmán  
sandraaromatic@mixmail.com  
www.redeco.org

### *Fifth International Congress on Management of Wild Fauna in Amazonia and Latin America*

This international event will take place on September 10-14, 2001 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. Its general objective is to learn about, evaluate and inform on the situation of wild fauna management, particularly regarding sustainability criteria in Latin America. **For further information:**

Rocío Polanco  
Fundación Natura  
Calle 61 No. 4-26  
Apartado Aéreo 55402. Bogotá, Colombia  
Tel.: (571) 345-6188. Fax: 346-1382  
quintocongreso@internodos.com  
www.vcongresofoana.org

### *First International Symposium: "Biodiversity as a Future Source of Medication"*

The Pharmacological Association of Colombia is organizing this symposium to be held at the Del Valle University, in Cali, Colombia, on August 16-19, 2001. One of the central subjects of this meeting will be property rights of biodiversity. **For further information:**

Oscar Gutiérrez M, MD, M Sc  
ogutie@telesat.com.co  
biofarmacongress@telesat.com.co  
www.biofarmacongress.com

## COSTA RICA

### *International Course on Tropical Agroforestry and Agroecology*

The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Costa Rica and the University of California, in Santa Cruz (UCSC) in the United States, are organizing and implementing this course. The event will be held at CATIE's facilities in Turrialba, on October 8-20, 2001. The application of agroecological knowledge in the design of sustainable agricultural systems in the tropics will be explored, emphasizing the integration of the theoretical framework of agroecology with practical applications. The contents focus on sustainable management strategies of systems at farm level, as well as their role in the support and promotion of agricultural communities and environmental wellbeing at higher scales. **For further information:**

Reinhold Muschler  
muschler@catie.ac.cr  
www.agroecology.org/espanol/  
cursocorto\_cr.htm

### *Thirteenth International Intensive Course on Diversified Management of Tropical Natural Forests*

The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Turrialba, Costa Rica, is organizing the event that will take place from August 20 through September 21, 2001. **For further information:**

CATIE 7170,  
Turrialba, Costa Rica  
Tel: (506) 556-2703. Fax: 556-7730  
dquiros@catie.ac.cr  
capacita@catie.ac.cr  
www.catie.ac.cr

### *Third Course on Management of Tropical Wild Areas*

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) in collaboration with the Fishery and Wild Life Service of the United States, is announcing the third edition of this course to be held from August 5 through September 27, 2001. **For further information:**

Organization for Tropical Studies  
Curso Manejo de Áreas Silvestres Tropicales  
Apartado 676-2050  
San Pedro de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 240 66 96. Fax: 240 67 83  
edamb@ots.ac.cr

### *Course on Tropical Ecology and Conservation*

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) of the University of Costa Rica is organizing the twenty-sixth promotion of this intensive postgraduate field course. Activities will begin on January 17 through March 4, 2002. Dateline for receiving applications is June 15, 2001. **For further information:**

Organization for Tropical Studies  
Ecología Tropical y Conservación 2002-2  
Apartado Postal 676-2050  
San Pedro, Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 240-6696. Fax: (506) 240-6783  
academic@cro.ots.ac.cr  
www.ots.ac.cr

### *International Short Course on Agroecology and Sustainable Rural Development: Concepts, Methods and Implications*

This event is being organised by CATIE and the NGO Committee of CGIAR's and will focus on the application of agroecological knowledge for rural development based on the design of diversified agricultural systems, as well as on the use of ecological methods for the management of plagues and soil. The course is for extensionists, researchers, NGO's personnel, postgraduate students, teaching staff and professionals related to agricultural areas of Middle America. It will take place at CATIE's headquarters in Turrialba, Costa Rica on August 20-27, 2001. Dateline for receiving applications is July 15, 2001. **For further information:**

Capacitación CATIE  
CATIE 7170  
Turrialba, Costa Rica  
Fax: (506) 556-0176  
capacita@catie.ac.cr

### **Course "Capitalization and Sustainability of Natural Assets and their Environmental Services"**

The National Biodiversity Institute and the Institute of Policies for Sustainability are organizing this course with the object of contributing to the strengthening of human and institutional resources. Such contribution will consist of theoretical and methodological instruments for environmental services that will allow giving an impetus to the capitalization and sustainability of natural assets in the countries. It will take place in Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica, on September 24-28, 2001. **For further information:**

Erick Vargas

Programa de Educación de la Biodiversidad  
Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, INBio  
evargas@inbio.ac.cr  
www.redeco.org

### **Second International Course on Health, Disasters and Development "2001 Leaders"**

This course of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) will take place in San José, Costa Rica on July 2-19, 2001. It will focus on the managerial aspects of programmes for disaster reduction covering topics from the preventative phase through its relevant response, with an emphasis on risk management. Participants must submit prior to the beginning of the course an original paper on any of the course subjects. **For further information:**

Programa de Preparativos para Desastres  
Organización Panamericana de la Salud  
OPS/OMS

Tel. (202) 974-3531

Fax (202) 775-4578

curso-lideres@paho.org  
Universidad de Costa Rica  
www.ucr.ac.cr

Tel. (506) 207-3308 / 225-7041

spaniagu@cariari.ucr.ac.cr  
www.paho.org/desastres/

## **CUBA**

### **International Scientific Conference: Environment Twenty-first Century (MAS XXI)**

The "Marta Abreu" Central University of Las Villas (UCLV) in Cuba and the Autonomous University of Barcelona, in Spain, sponsored by the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of

Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, as well as the Generalitat of Cataluña, Spain, are announcing the second edition of this Conference to be held on November 21-24, 2001. The following subjects will be addressed: Sustainable Development and Clean Technology; Environmental Education and Communication; Environmental Management and Biodiversity; and Energy, Resources and the Environment.

#### **For further information:**

Ing. Pedro Casanova Treto

Tel: 53 422 281194.

Fax: 53 422 281608

pcasanova@uclv.etecs.cu

www.geocities.com/

medio\_ambiente\_siglo\_xxi

### **Second Caribbean Workshop on Plant Biotechnology BioCaT'2001**

The Centre for Studies of Plant Biotechnology (CEBVEG) of the University of Granma (UDG) is inviting researchers, professors and producers to relate their experiences at this workshop that will take place on October 17-19, 2001. The event will be part of the festivities to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the university's founding and the Cuban Cultural Symposium. **For further information:**

Ing. Juan José Silva Pupo

Secretario Científico

Apdo. Postal 21

85100 Bayamo, Cuba

Fax: (53 23) 9-2131 / 33-3028 / 33-4133

silva@udg.granma.inf.cu

### **Second International Workshop "Environmental Education for Sustainable Development"**

This workshop is organised by the Juan Marinello Pedagogic University and will take place in Matanzas, Cuba on September 24-28, 2001. Among its objectives is the interchange of information on the methodology of environmental education at every educational level; the analysis of psychological, pedagogic and sociological aspects that intervene in environmental education; and dissemination of new ideas for their implementation. **For further information:**

Ramón J. Almeida Fernández

almeida@cdict.umtz.edu.cu

almeida@quimec.umtz.edu.cu

### **Second Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Chemistry and Physics**

This event will take place in Havana, Cuba on November 5-9, 2001. The subjects to be addressed are: Atmospheric chemistry and physics; The hydrological cycle; Land-ocean-atmosphere interactions; Soil, the foundation of land ecosystems and the environment; Education and extensionism; Technologies, processes and new products; Biological agriculture, environment and human health; Data bases, information and processing systems. **For further information:**

Adriano Cabrera Rodríguez

Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones  
de la Caña de Azúcar

Ave Van Troi 17203, Boyeros,

CP 19210, C. Habana, Cuba

Fax: (53 7) 666036.

nani@inca.edu.cu

### **Scientific Forum on Studies of the Global Change**

The Management Centre of Programmes and Priority Projects Centre of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Cuban Government is organizing this event that will be held in Havana, Cuba on November 28-30, 2001. The main subjects to be addressed are: Understanding the climatic variability in America; Integral evaluation, human dimensions and applications; Comparative studies on ecosystems, biodiversity, land use and hydraulic resources; and Changes in the composition of the atmosphere, oceans and fresh water. **For further information:**

Centro de Gerencia de Programas y

Proyectos Priorizados

Calle 20, 4103e/18A y 47

Playa, Ciudad de la Habana

Tel.: (537) 229-372

Fax: (537) 229-372

geprop@ceniai.inf.cu

www.acytec.cu/geprop

## **CHILE**

### **First International Course in Urban Management and Sustainable Development**

This course is being organized by the Environmental and Human Settlement Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with the collaboration of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute

of Economic Planning. It will be held in Santiago de Chile on August 13-31, 2001 and is intended for public officials at the central, regional and local management levels of LAC countries that already have, or are about to have, managerial responsibilities related to urban development and territorial management. Date line for receiving applications: July 15, 2001. **For further information:**

Ricardo Jordan Fuchs  
rjordan@eclac.cl  
www.eclac.cl

***Eighth Inter-American Congress on Environment: "Challenges and Opportunities of Environmental Management within a Globalized Economy" CIMA 2001***

Talca University, the Inter-American Network for the Improvement of Quality (RICA) and the Inter-American University Organization (OUI) are the organizers of this event. The objective is to gather professionals and researchers with the purpose of sharing experiences in the fields of research and technological applications and innovations related to the environment. The congress will take place on December 5-7, 2001 and the dateline to receive papers prepared by applicants via electronic mail, is October 15. **For further information:**

Arcadio Cerda Urrutia  
Tel.: (56 71) 200-310. Fax: 200-358  
acerda@cima2001.cl  
www.cima2001.cl

***International Symposium "Measuring and Monitoring Carbon Absorption in Forestry Ecosystems"***

The Faculty of Forestry Sciences of the Austral University in Chile, is organizing this symposium to be held in Valdivia, Chile on October 18-20, 2001. The objectives are: to evaluate the methodologies presently applied for measuring and monitoring carbon in forestry and agroforestry ecosystems; to propose new methodologies to increase the efficiency of such measuring; to establish priorities of research and standardization of monitoring methods; and to strengthen the links between Latin American researchers and professionals in order to establish a network for scientific and technical collaboration. **For further information:**

carbono@uach.cl  
www.uach.cl/simposiocarbono

***International Symposium on Animal Production and Environment***

This symposium is the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Chilean Society of Animal Production (SOCHIPA) and will be held in Santiago de Chile on July 25-27, 2001. The Pontifical Catholic University of Chile is organizing the event, which will cover the following topics: Small ruminates; Animal nutrition and the environment; Large ruminates; and Grasslands and Forests. **For further information:**

pcretton@puc.cl  
www.tierraverde.cl/seccion/puc/index.htm

**EL SALVADOR**

***Fifth Congress of the Middle-American Society of Biology and Conservation***

This event will take place in San Salvador on October 15-19, 2001. Among its objectives are: the dissemination of scientific and conservation advances; to promote interaction among actors working in the region; to allow professionals to learn about the reality of each country; to present an opportunity for the education of new talents and to make known the region's interest as an area for global conservation. **For further information:**

Roberto Rivera  
rrbiosis@es.com.sv  
mesoamerica2001@yahoo.com.mx  
www.geocities.com/smbc\_elsalvador\_2001/

**GUATEMALA**

***First National Congress on Environmental Education***

The National Network for Environmental Education and Research of Guatemala (RED-FIA), and the Education and Communications Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Guatemalan Association of Environmental Education (AGEA), are organizing this first congress to be held during the first half of November, 2001. **For further information:**

Germán Rodríguez  
grodriguez11@hotmail.com

**HONDURAS**

***Twenty-Second Congress of Central America and Panama on Sanitary and Environmental Engineering***

This congress will take place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on August 21-24, 2001. Its objective is to facilitate a framework for the analysis and discussion of the sanitary and environmental problems presently affecting the region. It also intends to contribute to the establishing of policies leading to the achievement of goals regarding improvement of life quality for individuals and the society, and the conservation of natural resources. **For further information:**

Congreso AIDIS/C.A  
El Obelisco, Primera Avenida, 134 Calle  
Apartado postal No. 447  
Tegucigalpa M.D.C., Honduras, C.A.  
Tel: (504) 237-8551  
Fax: (504) 237-8552  
gerenciasanaa@yahoo.com  
Cgcaidis2001@hotmail.com

***Methodology and Results of the Study for Identifying the Areas of Greater Vulnerability in Case of Natural Disasters in Honduras***

The SIG Unity of CIAT has made this methodology available on line, which is the result of a project implemented in collaboration with the World Bank. The SIG Unit of CIAT is inviting all REDECO members to submit their suggestions and comments to SIG Communications Office (b.arana@cgiar.org) or to use the form in the Internet:

<http://gisweb.ciat.cgiar.org/Forms/form1.html>

**MÉXICO**

***Tenth International Course in Agroforestry for Ecodevelopment***

The Centre of Agroforestry for Sustainable Development (CADS) of the Chapingo Autonomous University is the organizer of the tenth edition of this course, to be held on September 2-22, 2001. The objectives are: to analyse and explain the concepts, principles and potentialities of agroforestry; to provide

basic training on capabilities for the management of diagnosis and design methodologies focused on the analysis, planning and implementation of agroforestry technology; and to discuss strategies, alternatives and resources available for the dissemination of agroforestry programmes. **For further information:**

Dr. L. Krishnamurthy  
Apartado postal 88, 56230, Chapingo  
Edo. de México, México  
Telfax: (52 59) 540-516  
krishna@mail.internet.com.mx  
www.chapingo.mx

### **Workshop-Course "Agroecology, a Bio-intensive Cultivation Method"**

The training, demonstration and research centre Las Cañadas is offering this course intended for farmers, peasant trainers and promoters, governmental and non-governmental organizations, technicians, as well as students and independent professionals involved with sustainable rural development. The main purpose is furnishing participants with the ability and knowledge that will allow them to initiate, improve or promote agroecological food production. The dates for the workshop-course for 2001 are July 9-14; August 27-September 1; and October 8-13. The course will be taught at the private reserve of the fog forest "Las Cañadas" in Huatusco, in the state of Veracruz, Mexico. The course for local farmers participating in the event is free of charge. **For further information:**

Ricardo Romero  
bosquedeniebla@infosel.net.mx  
www.bosquedeniebla.com.mx

### **University and Change of Era 2001. Scientific Knowledge, every day knowledge: an Encounter between science and the human spirit**

This event will take place at the facilities of *Golfo Centro* of the Ibero-American University on August 29-31, 2001. The subjects to be discussed are: To whom does knowledge belong? A dialogue between scientific and other knowledge; and Spirituality, science: what is human. **For further information:**

Biól. Luis Enrique Fernández Lomelín  
Universidad Iberoamericana  
Plantel Golfo Centro  
km 3.5 Carretera Federal Puebla-Atlixco  
Tel.: (5 22) 31-0811 / 31-0846  
lmontes@uiagc.pue.uia.mx

### **Non-Violence Culture. A Latin American Encounter**

The Latin American Alliance for Learning (IAL) announces this meeting that will take place in Mexico City on November 26-28, 2001. The main objective is to contribute elements for the building of a non-violence culture. **For further information:**

IAL  
Tabasco 294, 4o. piso  
Col. Roma, 067000, D.F., México

## **PARAGUAY**

### **Training Course in Management for Environmental and Developmental NGOs**

The International Training Centre for Environmental and Developmental Org-

anizations (CICOAM) is organizing this event to be held in San Bernardino, Paraguay, on August 5-11, 2001. The course consists of three interdependent modules of one-week duration per year. **For further information:**

Secretaría del CICOAM  
cicoam@pla.net.py

## **PERÚ**

### **International Seminar on Globalization, OMC, Sovereignty in Food Security and Organic Products**

The Network for Action on Alternatives to the Use of Agrochemicals (RAAA) and the Network for Action on Pesticides and its Alternatives for Latin America (RAPAL), are organizing this seminar. They have the support of the Consumers Union of Andalucía, Spain, the Humanistic Institute for Collaboration with Developing Countries (HIVOS) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSCN). Its main objective is to promote the reduction of agro-chemicals use as well as the development of sustainable agriculture. It will be held in Lima, Perú, on July 9-12, 2001. **For further information:**

RAP-AL  
Julio Rodavero 682  
Urb. Las Brisas - Lima 1, Perú.  
Telefax: (51-1) 4257955 / 3375170  
rapalpe@terra.com.pe  
www.rap-al.com/

### **Note to our readers:**

In the web site of the Ibero-American University Foundation (FUNIBER) and the Institute for Environmental Studies (IEM) (<http://iem.cicei.ulpgc.es/>) is stated that the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROLAC) is one of the sponsors of the courses and masters offered by these institutions. We want to inform our readers that UNEP/ROLAC has not established any agreement with FUNIBER nor with IEM in this respect and thus, is not endorsing these courses. We are also stating that both institutions are making improper use of UNEP's logo.



## ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE REGION

### GERMANY

#### *International Conference "Sustainable Food Security for all by 2020"*

This conference will examine the present food situation, consider factors with possibilities of affecting future food security and discuss priority actions that may improve food security. It is being organized by the initiative "2020 Vision" of IFPRI and it will be held in Bonn, Germany on September 4-6, 2001. **For further information:**

[www.ifpri.cgiar.org/2020conference/program/program.asp](http://www.ifpri.cgiar.org/2020conference/program/program.asp)

### UNITED STATES

#### *Program in International Development Policy*

The Center for International Development of Duke University is offering, by means of this program, inter-disciplinary training in the analysis of policies for

topics related to social and economic development in the long run. There is an option for a Certificate or a Master of Arts Degree in International Development Policy. **For further information:**

Center for International Development Research  
Duke University  
Box 90237  
Durham, NC 27708-0237, USA  
Tel.: (919) 613-7333  
Fax: (919) 684-2861  
cidr@pps.duke.edu  
[www.pubpol.duke.edu/centers/cidr](http://www.pubpol.duke.edu/centers/cidr)

### HOLLAND

**International Courses.** Various Dutch educational institutions are offering different courses in English for students from all over the world, among others, in the following areas: Ecology; Energy Management and Clean Production Environmental Management; Environmental Sanitation; Environmental Sciences; Environmental Technology; Mana-

gement of Natural Resources; Management of Plagues and Wild Life. **For further information:**

<http://www.nuffic.nl/index-en.html>

### INDIA

#### *Course in Environmental Education*

The Centre for Environmental Education of India is offering its sixth certified course in environmental education, intended for professionals who wish to further their knowledge and capabilities in this area. The three-month course includes the following modules: Basic ecology and environmental aspects at the regional and global levels; Education for sustainable development; Environmental education and communication: methods and strategies; Resources for environmental education; and Project administration and strengthening of capabilities. **For further information:**

Centre for Environmental Education  
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad 380 054, India  
Tel.: (91 79) 685-8002. Fax: 685-8010  
[www.saseanee.org](http://www.saseanee.org)





# POSGRADUATE SYSTEM

## ARGENTINA

### *Masters in Latin American Integration and Specialization in Integration Policies*

These postgraduate courses are organized by the Institute of Latin American Integration of the La Plata National University, Argentina. Their programmes allow the incorporation of the integration perspective to the professional profile of each participant, promoting this way the development of their capabilities for the implementation of activities related to this area of knowledge and encouraging them to devote themselves to teaching and research. Registration is open until August 3, 2001. **For further information:**

integra@netverk.com.ar  
www.redcapa.org.br/redcapa2.htm

## BOLIVIA

### *Masters in Agroecology, Culture and Sustainable Development in Latin America*

This postgraduate course has been structured to contribute to the theoretical, conceptual and practical education of professionals in order to enable them to address, within certain contexts, the potentials and limitations of the society-nature relationship. The scope of the Masters is international and is especially intended for candidates who are permanently working in the Latin American region, mainly in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia, without disregarding other countries in the continent. **For further information:**

AGRUCO  
Av. Petrolera km 4 1/2 (Fac. Agronomía)  
Casilla 3392.  
Tel./Fax: (0591-4) 252601 / 252602  
Cochabamba – Bolivia  
agruco@pino.cbb.entelnet.bo

## COSTA RICA

### *CATIE Postgraduate Courses 2002-2003*

The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) has

updated and redesigned the plans of studies for major subjects or specialization areas of its Masters programmes, as follows: Ecological agriculture; Tropical agroforestry; Management and conservation of tropical forests and biodiversity; Integrated management of hydrographic basins; and Environmental socio-economy. The re-structuring facilitates for each of the five major subjects to be combined with 15 minor ones. With this new modality, the calendar for the Masters Programme is as follows: **January-June** for reception of basic documents (university certificate, application form, thesis summary and CV); **March-August** communication of results to complete files; **August-September** for receiving missing documents; **October**, end of the regular admission period and pending communications; **November-December** questions and information for travelling to Turrialba. **Course initiation:** the second week in January of each year. The Doctorate programme, same as the Masters, is open for applications all year-round. Presently, CATIE is offering the Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph. D) in areas similar to those of the Masters. **For further information:**

M. Sc. Emilio Mora Guzmán  
Asistente Académico  
Escuela de Posgrado, CATIE  
Código Postal 7170  
Turrialba, Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 556-016. Fax: 556-0914  
emora@catie.ac.cr  
posgrado@catie.ac.cr  
www.catie.ac.cr

## CHILE

### *Masters in Economy of Natural Resources and Environment*

The Concepción University is offering this postgraduate course through its Faculty of Economic and Administration Sciences, with the participation of the Centre for Economy of Resources, the EULA-Chile Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Among the programme's objectives is the training of qualified personnel for developing high level research in the area of natural resources economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the

training of professionals in the public and private sectors for the efficient environmental management and decision making regarding the use of natural and environmental resources. The programme has three specialization areas: Economy of Natural Resources; Biodiversity and Conservation; and Quantitative Methods. Several institutions are offering scholarships for Latin Americans applicants. **For further information:**

Director Programa MERNYMA  
Universidad de Concepción  
Casilla 1987, Correo 3  
Concepción, Chile  
Tel.: (56 41) 204-200. Fax: 254-591  
mernyma@udec.cl

## ECUADOR

### *Masters in Energy and Environment*

The Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the University of Calgary in Canada are offering this international postgraduate programme. The course will be taught in Quito and the University of Calgary extends the Degree. Other participants in this programme are the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Alberta Energy Company (AEC) and the Committee for the Management of Training Resources (CAREC) of Peru. There is a possibility to obtain partial scholarships for applicants from Latin America and the Caribbean. **For further information:**

Organización Latinoamericana de Energía  
Tel.: (593 2) 293-531. Fax: 595-674  
maestria@olade.org.ec  
www.olade.org.ec/

## MÉXICO

### *Postgraduate courses of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Research and Studies on the Environment and Development (CIEMAD)*

The **Masters in Environment and Integral Development** intends to train professionals and researchers with a high sense of responsibility and social commitment, as well as an interdisciplinary vision to overcome the existing

problems in the society-environment-integral development relationship. It also aims at enabling them to propose, promote and carry out scientific and technological interdisciplinary actions and research at consultancy level, external service and academic exchange, oriented towards improving the exploitation of natural resources and solving environmental problems in priority areas of sustainable development. The **Doctorate in Environment and Development**, organized in conjunction with the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Integral Regional Development in Oaxaca, Mexico of the National Polytechnic Institute, intends to train high level personnel to contribute alternatives leading to the improvement of the society-nature relationship. **For further information:**

Subdirección Académica CIIEMAD  
Av. Miguel Othón de Mendizábal 485  
Col. Nueva Industrial Vallejo  
07000, D.F., México  
Tel.: (52) 5586-9370 / 5586-0830  
ciiemad@vmredipn.ipn.mx  
www.ciiemad.ipn.mx

***Masters in Regional Studies on Environment and Development. Interdisciplinary Programme for Sustainable Development and Environment***

The *Centro Golfo* facilities of the Ibero-American University offers this postgraduate programme directed towards the training of professionals who, from different discipline perspectives, will contribute to the solution of environmental problems associated with the development of contemporary societies in the region, by means of: a) the analysis of the complexity of environmental problems of development; b) the design of management strategies for the solution of environmental problems in the Middle America region; c) the analysis and interpretation of social manifestations and aspirations of the populations for the full usufruct of citizenry rights; d) training for confronting situations of socio-cultural development that are collective and dynamic in an uncertain context; e) the design and promotion of efficient public policies within the government reform framework; f) to contribute to the improvement of working conditions and

quality of life of the populations, reverting the marginalization and exclusion tendencies; and g) the implementation of actions oriented towards the solution of local priority problems. **For further information:**

Gerardo Tapia Hervert Calderón,  
Tel: (52 2) 290-700, ext. 529, 366  
bortiz@uiagc.pue.uia.mx  
gtapia@uiagc.pue.uia.mx  
www.pue.uia.mx/UIAGC/actividades/  
mambiente/pidsma/maestria.html

***Postgraduate Courses of the National Ecology Institute (INECOL)***

The mission of the Postgraduate Division of INECOL is to train high level personnel capable of carrying out original scientific research and applying scientific and technological knowledge, to the solution of concrete problems confronted by the society to which they belong. Presently, it is offering the following programmes: **Masters and Doctorate in Ecology and Management of Natural Resources; Masters and Doctorate in Systematics and Masters in Management of Wild Fauna.** For the period 2002, the dateline for receiving documentation is November 30, 2001. **For further information:**

División de Posgrado  
Instituto de Ecología, A.C.  
km 2.5 antigua carretera a Coatepec,  
Apartado Postal 63  
Xalapa 91000, Veracruz, México  
Tel.: (52 2) 842-1809. Fax 818-7809  
posgrado@ecologia.edu.mx  
www.ecologia.edu.mx

***Masters in Social Anthropology***

The Centre for Research and Advanced Studies on Social Anthropology (CIESAS) convenes the third generation in San Cristóbal de las Casas, promotion 2002-2004, of its Masters programme. This postgraduate course seeks to train high level professionals with theoretical and methodological command in a specialization area of the anthropology and history fields with special interest in regional research (southeast of Mexico and Central America) that will permit addressing the rich diversity of topics offered by this region. The specialization areas of study are **Anthropology for**

**development; Medical anthropology; Studies on politics, power and social movements within multi-ethnic societies; and Anthropology and history of religion. For further information:**

Maestría en Antropología Social  
Dra. María Dolores Palomo Infante  
Carretera a Chamula, km 3.5  
Barrio la Quinta San Martín  
29247, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas  
Telfax: (52 967) 8-56-70 / 8-70-50  
dpalomo@juarez.ciesas.edu.mx  
www.ciesas.edu.mx/bibdf/docencia/ma-  
antro2.html

***Masters in Agroforestry for Sustainable Development***

In order to fulfil the existing demand for education and training in agroforestry for sustainable development, the Agroforestry Centre for Sustainable Development (CADS) of the Chapingo Autonomous University created this Masters in Sciences in 1997. Admissions are open every two years and it is a two-year course. The first year is devoted to courses and the second is dedicated to research and preparation of theses. This Masters is intended for professionals from Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. **For further information:**

Universidad Autónoma Chapingo  
Coordinación General de  
Estudios de Posgrado  
Edif. Efraim Hernández X.  
Km. 38.5 Carretera Federal México-Texcoco  
56230 Chapingo  
Estado de México, México  
Tel.: (52 9) 521-500  
www.chapingo.mx

**VENEZUELA**

***Masters in Management of Wild and Aquatic Fauna***

The University of los Llanos in Guanare, Venezuela offers this postgraduate course aimed at the training of fourth level human resources, scientifically trained to design, prepare, develop and direct research projects, as well as management plans for wild and aquatic fauna, oriented towards minimizing existing conflicts between human demands and conservation. **For further information:**

Dr. Andrés E. Seijas  
aeseijas@cantv.net

# TOWARDS AN ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Armando Páez G. \*

*The philosopher was strolling in the fields when he found a busy fisherman by the river.*

*-What are you doing, fellow? –He asked.*

*-I'm throwing the fishing net to the river.*

*-What for?*

*-To fish.*

*-Why do you want to fish?*

*-So I can sell the fish.*

*-Why do you want to sell it?*

*-To earn some money.*

*-And, what do you want the money for?*

*-So I can get something to eat.*

*-But, why do you want to eat?*

*-To live, sir, to live!*

*-But, why do you want to live...?*

*The fisherman stood there puzzled and could not utter a word.*

*-Why do you want to live? –The philosopher insisted.*

*The fisherman reflected upon the question for a moment and finally replied:*

*-So I can fish.*

Giovanni Papini

1. During the second half of the twentieth century, the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean experienced the times of development: modernisation became both discourse and conviction. Such project, drained out as a consequence of the social and environmental impacts it entailed and due to its own dynamics based on the exploitation of men and of nature, proves unable to improve or to avoid damaging the life conditions of millions of people in the continent and to prevent further harm to the biosphere.<sup>1</sup>

The times of development are coming to an end. It is possible to read their epilogue in the misery that surrounds overpopulated cities and in the pollution that suffocates them; it is spelled out in the streets of rural villages; in the abandoned fields; in erosion and deforestation; in the rivers and in the beaches; on the face of the emigrant and on the face of the single mother who is an illegal peddler selling imported goods, whose stand is a few meters away from a McDonalds restaurant.

We should be pronouncing the arrival of the times of sustainability,<sup>2</sup> but, on the contrary, the times arriving are those of unsustainability. Otherwise, what other word should we use to describe the depletion of the natural productive capacity

of the soil, the loss of biological and cultural diversity, the “desertification” of the coastlines, chronic unemployment, the millions of dollars invested by politicians (right-wing, left-wing and centre) in electoral campaigns, and the persistent increase of poverty? It is an economic, political, urban, agricultural, fishing, livestock-breeding model... that is unsustainable. The greater the amount of wealth produced, the greater the amount of wealth needed to uphold it... in a world where the resources are limited and the dreams of human beings are quite diverse while their pains remain the same. It is not apocalyptic to proclaim the collapse of the current model of civilisation: only then the imaginations will have a reason to outline new forms of human production and reproduction.

Poverty, unemployment, the underground economy,<sup>3</sup> visible pollution (easily perceivable, e.g., smog), the addiction to drugs and drug-dealing are not the only challenges faced by the region. Hence, several aspects of development arise and have not as yet been paid enough attention.

i) The population is growing old. Even though we are still far from a worrying average (as opposed to some European countries), the number of people over 65 years of age is increasing. As a result, there will be a higher demand for subsidies applied to medical care and personal care in some cases, to the construction and maintenance of nursing homes, to the launching of suitable jobs for elderly people whose pensions are insufficient (i.e. the majority), to the design of entertainment and leisure activities. The process of ageing will take Latin America and the Caribbean by surprise, even though the region is still young.

ii) Each year, the consumption of oil in the region increases. Many might see it as an encouraging fact (there is industrialisation and consumption), but in the long run it is more a source of worry than of joy. The dwindling of this hydrocarbon, expected to take place by the year 2050, will lead to an increase in the prices of oil on one hand, and to the need for technology transfer according to the trends of the market (alternative energy sources, transportation and chemical industries) on the other. In less than two decades, the global economy will suffer the consequences of its addiction to oil at the national and local level. Will the small enterprises -that account for over 70% of jobs in each country- and the municipal authorities be able to afford the costs intrinsic to industrial change?

iii) Ecological trails are increasing. The transition from

\* M.A. in Anthropology and Development by the University of Chile

<sup>1</sup> It is necessary to question why the quality of life of the inhabitants in the region is decreasing every year, when millions of dollars are allocated to eradicate poverty since the 1950's and the investment in environmental restoration and “ecologisation” of industrial practices has dramatically increased since the 1980's.

<sup>2</sup> As from the 1990's discussions revolve around a new paradigm of development: sustainable human development.

<sup>3</sup> The official discourse frown upon the underground economy, even though it means survival to of millions of people.

peasant to urban-metropolitan societies<sup>4</sup> modified the traditional forms of social production and reproduction. In moving from relatively self-sufficient societies (barely dependent on external products and inputs), integrated into natural cycles, to consumption-oriented societies (highly dependent on external products and inputs), we have grown apart from nature. The processes of industrialisation and urbanisation, and the pre-eminence of the media all over the continent, have introduced productive-reproductive patterns that have a negative impact on ecosystems, agricultural and fishing systems. We now belong to societies whose demand for energy, water and wood in order to “operate” is ever increasing; we produce more pollutants, industrial and domestic waste, and negatively alter the quality of the soil and of drainage blankets. Beyond global warming, the ecological problem must be considered as a dynamics of bio-regional self-sterilisation: in modifying or destroying the cycles of nature we are becoming ineffective of reproducing our species, we destroy the resources that allow for our survival, hence worsening this condition of dependency.

iv) Deficient diets. The agricultural and bio-technological revolutions of the twentieth century seemed to entail benefits in the short term, but the negative consequences are now becoming evident. Pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilisers and transgenic products alter the biological diversity that allows for life on Earth and endanger the health of the consumers of so-produced foods. In addition to under nourishment, malnutrition and over nourishment, we must now consider the problem of “feeding” on vegetable and non-vegetable products polluted by toxic substances or that have been genetically modified. Consuming a specific number of calories no longer guarantees a healthy life. A new agricultural revolution -and food revolution in general if we take into consideration the impact of the fishing and livestock industries- is urgently needed.

The above-mentioned problems are issues of public interest, which require the active participation of the State (as the human organisation created to monitor the well-being of the people), i.e., through subsidies, supervision, regulation, and advise. However, the situation described demands a different State, one that goes beyond the welfare State and, of course, beyond the capitalist State.

The region will not overcome its current situation by allocating more funds to health and education. Even though investment is necessary, more available beds in every hospital and more computers in every classroom, more doctors per family and more English teachers do not guarantee social welfare. The challenge is not just achieving a wider scope in the health care system and introducing technology in education, but having a healthy population, able to ponder the importance of these issues, to reproduce itself without threatening the biological and social interactions that provide for the preservation of life. The new paradigm is Human Ecology, not sustainable economic growth.

2. The logic of the current capitalist State is not to address the demands posed by the population, but to create the conditions that allow for the reproduction and appropriation of all forms of capital: natural, social, cultural, human, and financial. The ecological aspect does not fit into that logic, while the social and cultural aspects hinder it: all that matters is trade and consumption. A dismantled popular State, a weak welfare State, a capitalist, blind and deaf State... The demographic, energy, ecological and food challenges demand the revitalisation of the political perspective and of the institutions in charge of preserving the well being of the people.

Sustainable times draw up an ecological society. We might be able to further discuss post-capitalism once a higher value is placed on, for example, preventing pollution, than having an extra dollar in one’s pocket. An ecological society is not the one where the natural aspect (animal and plant species) is more relevant than the human aspect; on the contrary, in an ecological society the human aspect is understood as part of nature, as an element that is able to produce its own destruction or self-reproduction, to criticise and modify its life-style. This sort of society requires an ecologic State.

In a capitalist society the highest value is placed on the reproduction of capital, whereas in an ecological society the essential substance is placed on the conservation and generation of natural and social cycles that provide for the preservation of life. There is a need for production, distribution, consumption, organisation, creativity and debate systems that overcome consumerism and the trend to treat everything on Earth as an object.

An ecological society entails the adjustment of productive systems: many industries will have to reduce their production, temporally stop, or even disappear. Thus, it is necessary to create new activities -not only productive, but educational, cultural, and recreational.

Such adjustment processes will imply a new valorisation of local activities: the economic growth in the private sector will not be the only key factor, but the sustainable livelihoods of the local communities. The search for food self-reliance, the emphasis on local/regional manufacture of household products, and the promotion of local workshops and micro-industries are being revalued as well as social work involved in these community solidary and sustainable ends. The industrial transition and the reinforcement of communitarian capacities will demand subsidies. An ecological State must come about as a promoter and guarantor of changes in the modes of production, a State that not only protects natural and human resources that allow for social reproduction but, that fosters the productive activities needed to preserve social reproduction.

The use of non-oil technologies (sun and wind power), the change in the patterns of consumption and the production of foods free of toxic substances and genetic alterations are all part of the eco-social project; on the other hand, in valuing

<sup>4</sup> Over 80% of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean will inhabit the urban developments during the first fifty years of the twenty-first century. This phenomenon of continental urbanisation is a process of concentrated metropolis, by which we understand a phenomenon of trans-municipal urban growth, characterised by overpopulation in specific cities. Santiago, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Bogotá, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Mexico City are the main metropolitan centres in the region; nevertheless, this process takes place with less population in other cities, creating a similar pattern of settlement, only at a smaller scale. Cordoba, Valparaiso-Viña del Mar, Concepcion, Porto Alegre, Caracas, San Juan, Puebla, Torreon, Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, among others, are “minor” cities, which can illustrate the described phenomenon.

self-reproduction within the communities over commercial production, all the etarian groups have a chance to participate.

Organic communitarian vegetable gardens are a good example of eco-social projects. With regard to the above-mentioned problems, the following benefits would be obtained: 1) The gardens would not only provide a workplace for the elderly, but would also promote the integration of youngsters and unemployed people into a job that does not involve intensive or expensive training programmes. 2) The main source of power in agro-ecology is the sun; since it does not need chemical inputs and is labour intensive, it is not oil-dependent. 3) Organic agriculture does not pollute the soil nor the drainage blankets because it does not use pesticides or other toxic substances; moreover, in so far as it promotes mixed farming, it favours the preservation of biological diversity. The ecological trail of the groups who practice agro-ecology is fading; actually, these human beings are starting to have a positive impact on the biosphere. 4) The foods produced at the organic gardens are “natural”, meaning that they do not undergo the traditional alterations of the conventional industry, excused by commercial arguments.

Are small-scale productive projects, agro-ecological practices, non-industrial fishing, the re-orientation of the economic aspect to local and micro-bio-regional aspects solutions to the social-environmental crisis? How many of the problems we suffer from as a society are the consequence of our lack of ability to perceive the vicious circles in which we have incurred?

3. An ecological society not only demands a new approach in terms of the State, but also in terms of science and of social sciences in particular. How does this affect anthropology? A notion of the human being that transcends the *homo oeconomicus* must urgently be provided. The co-operative and ecological *ethos*, poorly considered in the times of development,<sup>5</sup> is again in the foreground of the new project.

An eco-social anthropologic project goes beyond the studies in ecological anthropology: further than analysing how the natural environment determines the life-style of human groups or shapes the relationships between culture and nature, it is the emergence of a project for the search and dissemination of socio-ecological experiences in the rural and urban spheres (organizational systems, collective references).

A post-capitalist anthropology must be focused on those

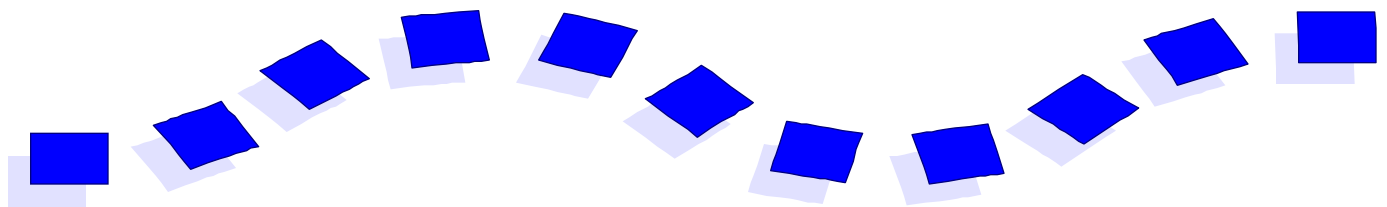
experiences that surpass the dynamics of the capital from a critical position, i.e., projects that interpose the value of use to the value of change, substantial rationality to instrumental rationality, community to market, every-day local experiences to ephemeral global ones. This kind of anthropology must overcome fads and go back to modes.

This is not about an explicative anthropology (one that is only in search of reasons), nor interpretative (*what* was said), but rather a political anthropology, in which it is not only relevant to study the meanings that sustain eco-social reproduction, but how to bring them about. It has a political character due to its project and proposal-oriented meaning: the ecological society is utopian.

Such a society demands social sciences to go beyond inter-disciplinarity: their challenge is not to operate inter-related, but to cross over scientific frontiers. We must discuss multi-disciplinarity, but cross-disciplinarity as well: the consideration of culture, society, thought, economics, and the history of each place must be in the mind of every expert who is closely related to production, reproduction and daily life in the communities. Doctors, architects, lawyers, administrators, engineers, teachers, etc., they all affect the bodies, spaces, and organisation of people. The relationships and situations that shape one's inhabitancy are not casual.

Although the epistemological critique of social sciences has included self-consideration, the so called “liberal” professions must see themselves in the mirror of their own decisions. A more human world demands collective references that rescue the notion of human being. An ecological society would be the outcome of reflexive and decision-making processes.

Sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists, economists and historians need to leave their inscrutable debates and turn to human beings, their mental, social and cultural manifestations and the inter-relations they create. They must hold a dialogue with non-scientists. The imminent revolution in social sciences -and therefore in anthropology- is not technological, nor methodological, nor epistemological: it is social. The task is to turn science into an accessible element to all people and not just a few, and to ensure that knowledge and thought are part of the world heritage. Thus, housing, education and health will be post-capitalist. Only then we will be able to talk about a modern, and maybe post-modern world: compassionate and ecological.



<sup>5</sup> The social capital ¼ a concept recently disseminated by the international organisations¼ does not respond to the eco-social logic, because the social aspect is only valued in its capacity to reproduce the financial capital. This is also valid for human and cultural capital. The social, human and cultural aspects are defined according to the market.

# PUBLICACIONES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## **SERIE TEXTOS BÁSICOS PARA LA FORMACIÓN AMBIENTAL** (*Series Basic Texts for Environmental Training*)

*Curso de Economía Ecológica* (Course in Ecological Economy) Joan Martínez, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, nr.1, Mexico, 1998, 164 p.

*Economía de la biodiversidad* (Biodiversity economy) Alejandro Toledo, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 2, Mexico, 1998. 273 p.

*Agroforestería básica* (Basic agroforestry) L. Krishnamurthy and Marcelino Avila, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 3, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 1999, 340 p.

*Agroecología: Teoría y práctica para una agricultura sustentable* (Theory and practice for sustainable agriculture) Miguel Altieri and Clara Nicholls, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 4, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 2000, 250 p.

*Interdisciplinaridade em Ciências ambientais* (Inter-disciplinarity of environmental sciences) Arlindo Philippi Jr., Carlos E. Morelli Tucci, Daniel Joseph Hogan and Raul Navegantes (coordinators) 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 5, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil, United Nations Environment Programme, Signus Editors, São Paulo, 2000, 318 p.

*Gestión ambiental de ciudades. Teoría crítica y aportes metodológicos* (Environmental management in urban areas. Critical theory and methodological contributions) Roberto Fernández, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 6, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 2000, 335 p.

## **SERIE MANUALES DE EDUCACIÓN Y CAPACITACIÓN AMBIENTAL** (*Series Manuals for Environmental Education and Training*)

*Manual comunitario de saberes ambientales* (Community manual for environmental learning) Maritza Gómez Muñoz, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 1, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 1999, 72 p.

*Principios de intervención en la Capacitación Comunitaria* (Principles for intervention in community training) Gonzalo Abella and Ramón Fogel, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 2, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 1999, 96 p.

*Protegiendo lo nuestro. Manual para la Gestión Ambiental Comunitaria, Uso y Conservación de la Biodiversidad de los Campesinos Indígenas de América Latina* (Protecting what is ours. Manual for environmental community management and use and conservation of biodiversity of the indigenous Latin American peasants) Eckart Boege, with collaboration from Porfirio Encino and Gustavo Ramírez, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 3, UNEP, Development Fund for Indigenous Populations of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Instituto Nacional Indigenista* (Indigenous National Institute), Mexico, 2000, 165 p.

*Manual de Técnicas Agroecológicas* (Manual of agroecological techniques) Miguel Angel Núñez, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, nr. 4, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 2000, 96 p.

## **SERIE PENSAMIENTO AMBIENTAL LATINOAMERICANO** (*Series Environmental Thought in Latin America*)

*¿Qué es el ambientalismo?* (What is Environmentalism?) Julio Carrizosa Umaña, UNEP/ROLAC, National University of Colombia, Centre for Studies on Colombian Reality, nr. 1, Bogota, 2001, 134 p. This book is a modernization of the ethic-esthetic thinking and of the complexity in environmental code. Within this perspective, Carrizosa adds the systematic analysis, multi-causal and diachronic of differentiated processes, and values a historical holistic vision that recognizes inter-relations, discontinuities and synergies of environmental changes. Within a retrospective reflection the author sets out to search for the precursors of today's environmentalism, seeking among old oriental philosophies and within the western classical thinking, travelling around

the scientific and philosophic thinking of modernity and romanticism esthetics. The multiple interpretations of what is ethical and esthetic, of being and must be in the course of history capture this vision of environmental complexity.

*La modernidad insustentable* (Unsustainable modernity) Hector Leis, UNEP/ROLAC, Nordan Community, nr. 2, Montevideo, 2001, 224 p.

This book has the merit of consistently combining four problematic fundamentals in order to understand the civilizable dynamic of the end of the Twentieth Century. Its author offers a sophisticated conception of globalization, going beyond apologetic catastrophic simplifications, together with a deep analysis of contradictions and paradoxes of the urgency of developing environmentalism in the western hemisphere and in the rest of the world, as well as progress and limitations of ecological modernization of capitalism and of the complex relationship between environmentalists and spirituality. The book explains the present reality without theoretical or ideological concessions and thus, represents a very welcome reflection in a field where on one side predominate essays with little consistency and ideologized in favor of the environmental movement and, on the other, empiric studies well criticized but not related enough with the social macro-dynamic.

## **SERIE FOROS Y DEBATES AMBIENTALES** (*Series Environmental Forums and Debates*)

*Justicia ambiental. Construcción y defensa de los nuevos derechos ambientales, culturales y colectivos en América Latina*. (Environmental justice. Building and defense of the new environmental, cultural and collective rights in Latin America) Enrique Leff, coordinator, UNEP/ROLAC, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Sciences and Humanities/UNAM, nr. 1, Mexico, 2001.

The essays presented in this forum on *La Construcción de los Nuevos Derechos*

*Ambientales, Culturales y Colectivos* (Building of new environmental, cultural and collective rights) are drawn around a reflection on the configuration of a new judicial order, based on the rights arising today in connection with ecological sustainability and cultural diversity. The emerging social movements –whether in the countryside or the cities– are opening a new space in which it is explained the confirmation of ethnical identities and the ecological conditions for sustainable development of peoples who inhabit this planet and of humanity as a whole. Such new rights are gestating in response to an environmental problem that is perceived today as a “civilization crisis”, an effect of a saturation point and overflowing of economic rationality.

#### **FUERA DE SERIE (OUT OF SERIES)**

*Saber ambiental: sustentabilidad, racionalidad, complejidad y poder* (En-

vironmental knowledge: sustainability, rationality, complexity and power) Enrique Leff, Siglo XXI Editors, CIICH/UNAM, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 1998, 286 p.

*La complejidad ambiental* (Environmental complexity) Enrique Leff (coordinator) 1<sup>st</sup>. edition, Siglo XXI Editors, CIICH/UNAM, UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 2000, 316 p.

*Economía ecológica y política ambiental* (Ecological economy and environmental policies) Joan Martínez Alier and Jordi Martínez Roca, 1<sup>st</sup>. edition, Economic Cultural Fund (Mexico), UNEP/ROLAC, 2000, 493 p.

*Manual del promotor y educador ambiental para el desarrollo sustentable* (Manual for the sustainable development promoter and educator) Joaquín Esteva and Javier Reyes R., 1<sup>st</sup>. edition, Minis-

try of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fishery (Mexico), UNEP/ROLAC, Mexico, 1999, 174 p.

#### **IN PREPARATION:**

*Salud ambiental básica* (Environmental Basic Health) Annlee Yassi, Tord Kjellstrom, Theo de Kok and Tee Guidotti, Series Basic Texts for Environmental Education, nr. 7, WHO, UNEP/ROLAC, UNESCO and the Consejo de Rectores de Universidades Europeas (European Universities Vice-chancellors Council), Mexico.

*Comercio, ambiente y desarrollo sustentable: perspectivas de América Latina y el Caribe* (Trade, environment and sustainable development in Latin America) Enrique Leff and Mindahi Bastida (editors) Series Environmental Forums and Debates, nr. 2, UNEP, UNAM, COMEDS, IISD, México.

#### **Translator’s note.**

The translation into English (in brackets) of organizations’ names, book titles and series is with the only purpose of giving and idea of the meaning and may, or may not, coincide with the official English version should it exists.





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