
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Andrea Babon recently completed a Masters of Social Science in International Development at RMIT University, completing a minor thesis entitled 'Community forestry as a mechanism for poverty alleviation: a case study from Cambodia'. She spent two years working in Cambodia in the field of community-based natural resource management. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Melbourne, has worked as a Policy Adviser for several Victorian Government Departments providing research and advice on issues pertaining to sustainability, and is currently working part-time with the Australian Conservation Foundation's Asia-Pacific Unit. She is on the Environmental Research Event organising committee.

Ours is a globalised world. Information can reach the farthest corners of the earth in seconds; goods produced in one hemisphere may be consumed in the other. Pollution can spew and seep across national borders. Indeed, many of our most significant environmental problems now affect the entire globe. From biodiversity loss, to climate change to toxic waste – global environmental issues require concerted international collaboration and cooperation if we are to find practical solutions.

This special edition of the *International Journal of Global Environmental Issues* draws together eight articles that were presented at the 10th Environmental Research Event (ERE) in Sydney, Australia between 10 and 13 December 2006. The ERE is the largest conference of Australia's post-graduate environmental students. The theme of the conference was 'Environment – Working Together', promoting collaborative research and a multidisciplinary approach to environmental management, recognising that we will all need to work together to solve our most pressing environmental problems.

The papers in this issue cover a wide range of disciplines and were authored by postgraduate students. Each paper was blind peer-reviewed by two academic and/or professional reviewers. The papers highlight the many important research areas that postgraduate students are contributing to. From issues at the macrolevel such as climate change models to those at the microlevel, this special edition of the *International Journal of Global Environmental Issues* highlights the important contribution that postgraduate researchers are making towards a greater understanding of the issues facing the global environment.

The first paper in this Special Issue considers the 'Ability of global climate models at a regional scale over Australia' by Sarah E. Perkins et al. In the paper, the authors evaluate the climate models used in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The authors provide guidance on those

climate models that are skillful over Australia, providing direction on those that should be used in impact assessments where those impacts are based on precipitation or temperature.

The second paper in the series looks at 'Recreational impacts on the environment: analysing appropriate updates and improvements in the Washington administrative code' by Alla Sushko. The paper examines the ability of relevant legislation to protect public land in Washington State, USA from environmental impacts as a result of recreational activities. The author demonstrates what updates and improvements are needed in the relevant regulations to allow for emerging situations that have never been addressed but are threatening the natural resources, the public and the environment as a whole.

The third paper in this Special Issue looks at 'Major paradigm shifts in NRM in Australia' by Lisa Robins. The paper examines the influence of global discourses on policies and programmes for Natural Resource Management (NRM) in Australia. It describes a number of paradigm shifts in NRM in Australia, and notes that the formalisation of 'regionalism' for NRM in Australia marks a shift in power and resources from the state level to both the federal and regional levels. What remains to be seen is whether the responsibilities devolved to regional NRM bodies and their boards are realistically within their capacities to deliver.

The next paper examines the interaction between marine mammals and commercial fisheries, and looks at the 'Application of a three-dimensional hyperbolic location system to the false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) depredation issue' by Craig McPherson et al. The paper focuses on the problem of 'depredation' of longline fisheries in the Coral Sea by false killer whales and proposes a novel approach to locating whales using their acoustic behaviour and sound receivers placed in a specific configuration.

The penultimate paper in this series is 'From wisdom to information: 350 years of ecosystem management' by Cameron Archer. This paper examines how the Paterson Valley ecosystem has been managed by humans over time from 1750, 1830, 1900 and the present. It concludes that whilst today's inhabitants of the valley have information and knowledge regarding the valley's ecosystem health, they have lost the wisdom of the traditional land managers.

The final paper in this Special Issue poses the questions 'Too dry and too cold for mould germination in New Zealand dwellings?' by Mikael Boulic et al. The study investigated the indoor climate of households in New Zealand to assess the conditions for mould germination, which has implications on human health and conditions such as asthma. Interestingly, the measured average temperature and relative humidity were lower than normally considered necessary for significant mould development.

We hope you enjoy reading this diverse collection of papers covering a wide range of environmental issues and all authored by postgraduate students. We would like to thank all the authors who presented their research at the 2006 ERE conference and the external reviewers for their invaluable contributions to the reviewing process. Finally, we would also like to thank the Editor-in-Chief of Inderscience Publications, Dr. Dorgham for giving us the opportunity to publish these papers in this Special Issue.