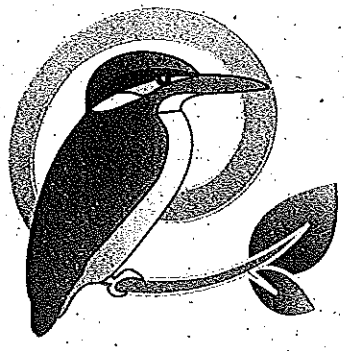

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198. THE CASE FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT IN FOUR EUROPEAN WETLANDS

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The paper is based on findings from an EU funded, three year research project - Integrated Management of European Wetlands (EVK2-CT-2000-0081) conducted during 2001-2004. Research was located within four protected areas. This discussion focuses on three, the Danube Delta, Romania; the Nemunas Delta, Lithuania; Kerkini Lake, northern Greece. The most significant finding demonstrates that inhabitants of these wetlands feel marginalized by conservation biologists and policy makers. Local people believe that their experiential knowledge and opinions are relevant and valuable, but are undervalued and ignored by professional experts and people with political power. Despite the negative appraisal of those who make and contribute to conservation policy, local people are not against the general principles underlying nature conservation. The paper argues that despite the continuing controversy about the value of participatory approaches to conservation management, much greater transparency is required between scientists, policy makers and local populations and more respect paid to potential input from local natural resource users. Collaborations and co-management regimes must be tailored to configure a host of factors including the rate of economic development, the style of political culture, types of environmental education, the form of local and national governance and conservation practices.

199. THE OBSERVATORY OF MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS

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This talk presents the Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands, a new program supported by the Mediterranean initiative of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, addressing two objectives all over the Mediterranean Basin. First, it seeks to create a research network to explore the linkages between human activities and the fate of wetlands ecosystems. This issue is of particular conservation interest as Mediterranean wetlands hold a great biodiversity, are the source of a number of ecosystem services, and yet under the threat of dramatic anthropogenic pressures. In this complex socio-ecological context, there is a pressing need for a long-term ecological monitoring scheme of biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Beyond this first objective, this Observatory explicitly relies on institutional and technical alliances in order to build a shared view for wetlands management. The communication of these synthetic results should in turn facilitate the policy-makers' awareness. The first promising outputs will also be presented; an assessment of biodiversity trends around the Mediterranean Basin measured with the Living Planet Index and a prospective work on ecological services and land use changes in selected wetlands. We show that this initiative is a valuable tool for habitat conservation embedded into a fragmented territory resulting from social and historic confrontations.

200. EUROPE-WIDE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL ON FARMLAND

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The intensification of agriculture associated with increased production during the last 50 years has resulted in the decline of biodiversity of many taxa and the loss of ecosystem services. The increased use of fertilizers and pesticides, higher inputs of energy, larger farms and fields and landscapes simplification are all components of agricultural intensification. However, the relative contribution of the different components to the decline of biodiversity is hardly understood. In a large-scale study, including nine different European countries, we investigated the effects of agricultural intensification on vascular plant, carabid and bird species. In addition, we tested experimentally the biological control potential of natural enemies, by putting living aphids, glued on plastic labels, into arable fields and measuring their survival time. After correcting for differences in regional landscape structures, we found consistent negative effects of agricultural intensification on the species diversity at three trophic levels (plants, carabids and birds) and on the biological control potential of natural enemies. Furthermore, we were able to disentangle the relative effects of 14 different intensification components on the different species groups. We conclude that Europe-wide negative effects of agricultural intensification still continue and that current policy is apparently not sufficient to reverse these losses.

201. LINKING SUBSTRATE AND HABITAT REQUIREMENTS OF WOOD-INHABITING FUNGI TO THEIR REGIONAL EXTINCTION VULNERABILITY IN SOUTHERN FINLAND

Berglund, Håkan, Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; **Hottola, Jenni**, University of Helsinki, Finland; **Penttilä, Reijo**, Finnish Forest Research Institute Metla, Finland; **Siitonen, Juha**, Research Institute Metla, Finland

We assessed the habitat requirements and extinction vulnerability of wood-inhabiting fungi by analyzing the occurrence patterns of 13 spruce-associated polypore species. The data consisted of 95,535 dead-wood objects in 331 stands located in three regions across southern Finland.