

From the President's Desk

The European Environmental Agency has commissioned a project to identify a list of conservation projects producing most value for money. The list is to inform future EU investments in the environment. The author of the best-selling book *The Sceptical Environmentalist*, Dr Bjørn Lomborg, is to lead the project. 'Naturally, we need to price the value of nature: Do we want lobsters and clear water or less air pollution? We cannot do everything, and we need to ask. What to do first?' says Bjørn Lomborg.

This piece of news was reported in Danish newspapers in early June, but was not much reported outside my home country. Lomborg is a highly-contentious political scientist who declares: 'Economic studies clearly show it will be far more expensive to cut greenhouse gases than to pay for the cost of adapting to a warmer planet'. Lomborg believes that the long-term perspective of 50–100 years of climate change studies is irrelevant to the present and next generation, and that we should therefore spend all money on concerns that may be solved in a 10–20 year perspective, and quotes clean water and fighting AIDS as his top priorities.

All things being equal, Lomborg has a point. But the problem is that everything is not equal – nature is not an economic model. Nature is another word for a highly-complex biosphere that we cannot even pretend to be able to predict, let alone control.

As an environmental historian, I am concerned that the European Environmental Agency embarks on a project that restricts its own priorities to only those that will have marked effect in a 10–20 year perspective. Environmental history is too full of examples of human folly that allowed short-term gains to weigh more than long-term losses. As President of the European Society for Environmental History, I believe we need to alert the European Environmental Agency to the fact that not only economic value but also social and cultural values need attention when setting environmental policy priorities.

The European Environmental Agency has promised that Lomborg's voice shall not be the only one. I urge members to let their voices be heard in the debate that will unfold in the coming year. Environmental history is about the past, but the consequences of past actions rest with us in the future. The future is too valuable to be left to those who want to know its price.

Poul Holm
President ESEH

Request for Proposal to Host the WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY CONVENTION in 2009

The International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO) invites offers to host the first World Environmental History Conference to be scheduled in 2009. The parameters of the meeting are outlined below. The successful proposal will be expected to meet the minimum requirements as outlined and consider additional local investment that may strengthen the proposal. The Consortium is in its fledgling state, yet supported by existing environmental history organizations. The local host will be expected to work closely with the leadership of ICEHO to plan the Convention, as well as provide basic support staff to help plan local arrangements and registration

The criteria for evaluation will include:

1. Adequacy of facilities (both hotel and meeting space) to accommodate the size of the Convention
2. Ease of participants to travel between lodging accommodations and the meeting venue
3. Cost of travel and of lodging facilities
4. Time of year, atmosphere, and climate of the location
5. Quality of support staff investment
6. Experience in hosting conventions of this size and nature
7. Enthusiasm of the local host and community
8. Overall probability of conducting a successful convention.

General requirements of a venue to hold the convention:

- The convention is expected to draw between 500 and 1000 participants from around the world.
- It is planned to last 5–6 days between June and September (preferably between July 1 and August 15, 2009).
- A number of half-day (during the program) and full-day (after the program) excursions to places of interest to environmental historians shall be offered.

Meeting Room requirements:

- 10 middle-sized (at least 50 people each) seminar rooms. Rooms should be equipped with modern communication equipment – computer projectors should be available as well as overhead and slide projection.
- A technical pre-view room should be available throughout the conference.

- Technical staff for equipment should be available.
- A large lecture hall to host all participants.
- A room with space for ca 100 posters, with poster boards.
- Coffee break area preferably located with Exhibits.
- Exhibit area that can be locked after exhibition hours.
- Internet connection should be available for participants during the conference, as well as copier, fax, etc. and other business services.
- Meal service or restaurant service available in the immediate vicinity of the Convention venue.

Local Staff:

- Either a professional convention organizer is used (monetary requirements will have to be included in a proposal) or the hosting institution offers administrative assistance over the period of two years prior to the conference. Specify what positions and what percentage time.

Housing:

- A minimum of 200 to 350 lodging rooms should be available.
- Special rooms rates with hotels should be negotiated.
- Student dormitory rooms may be made available to reduce costs.

Social Program:

- The hosting institution should consider hosting a reception for convention participants.
- A Conference Dinner should also be offered. While participants can be expected to pay for this (at least partially), a special venue should be offered.
- Other complimentary amenities for conference participants

Additional monetary requirements:

- Travel bursaries for students/independent scholars/participants from low-income countries should be provided. Please specify what commitments can be made or what opportunities may exist to provide such bursaries.
- The host institution may consider what arrangements may be made to share revenue from the convention with ICEHO.

Proposal should be forwarded by December 1, 2005 electronically to:

Steven Anderson, president

Forest History Society

stevens@duke.edu

Phone: 919-682-9319, FAX: 919-682-2349

Call for New Editors for H-Environment

Dear Colleagues,

H-Environment is looking for two new editors: one list editor and one website editor.

At the core of H-Environment's operations are the volunteer editors of the discussion list.

List editors manage, edit, and support the H-Environment discussion list.

They moderate discussions, edit posts, directly post messages to the subscribers of their lists, and manage subscriptions. Each editor moderates the list for several months per year. Editing takes up to an hour per day, depending on how busy the list is. We are looking for an individual who is committed to serve the list for at least a couple of years. The candidate must be interested in environmental history, and be able to send, receive and edit electronic mail on a reliable and regular basis. Before an editor starts active duty H-Net provides basic training in the operations required to moderate and maintain the discussion list.

The website editor maintains the H-Environment website, refreshes the content, such as the links list and other resources, and updates the layout when necessary. Furthermore the web editor actively solicits material for the course syllabi and environmental course survey. The website should be updated at least three times per year.

The H-environment editorial team is looking for an individual who is committed to maintain the site, and has some basic web editing skills and experience with a graphical web editing package. Knowledge of HTML is desirable but not necessary. The editorial team of H-Environment will provide basic web editing training before the web editor starts active duty.

If you are interested in becoming an H-Environment list or web editor please send an email with your CV to Melissa Wiedenfeld <mwiedenfeld@fcdarwin.org> or Mark Stoll <mark.stoll@ttu.edu>. In the email you should indicate your motivation for becoming an editor, and, for the web editor post, your experience with editing websites. Please indicate clearly for which post you apply.

If you like to receive further information about one of the two posts or have any questions contact either Melissa Wiedenfeld <mwiedenfeld@fcdarwin.org> or Mark Stoll <mark.stoll@ttu.edu>.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

The H-Environment editorial team

Environmental History Appointment

In June ESEH Regional Representative for France, Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, was appointed as Directrice d'Etudes at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. She will occupy the newly created chair 'Political and Anthropological History of the Environment', which is the very first chair

in France dedicated to the history of the environment. The board of ESEH congratulates Geneviève with this success and wishes her all the best in her new appointment.

European Society for Environmental History

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ESEH aims to promote environmental history in Europe, by encouraging and supporting research, teaching and publications in the field. The ESEH maintains their web site at <www.eseh.org>.

Notepad Editor: Lenka Uhlířová

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 October, 2005 to the address shown below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:

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