

Editorial

This issue of the Journal of Transdisciplinary Environmental Studies contains three articles that provide the framework for several general discussions about environmental planning and regulation dealing with such questions as: How can we integrate environmental considerations into planning and regulation within other sectors? How is it that the development within planning theory has failed to influence the way national environmental planning is undertaken in third world countries? And, finally, there is a reflection about different types of errors within science that have consequences for environmental planning and regulation.

In the article “Environmental Policy Integration – Organisational Obstacles”, Claus Hedegaard Sørensen analyses the integration of environmental considerations into the Danish Ministry of Transport’s work and discusses how the ministry has handled the requirement of integrating environmental considerations, and what the institutional barriers for a more extensive integration are. In a closing remark, the article reflects upon how civil servants could act to help overcome these barriers.

Henrik Secher Markussen’s article ”National Environmental Planning in the Third World: Sustaining the Myths?” uncovers the mismatch between the intentions behind the national environmental action plans and how they were actually carried out in practice, and it raises the question of whether environmental planning is based on the unfounded myth that we can control the environment.

The last article in this issue “Precautionary Limits to Environmental Science and Risk Management – Three Types of Errors” by Hans Sanderson and Keith R. Solomon discusses some problems in the interface between science and public environmental policy making, especially the risk for Type III errors (accurate answer – wrong question), and how these problems might be litigated through interdisciplinary analyses and better communication in the risk management process.

This issue is limited to three articles. We use a ‘batch production principle’ when publishing an issue of TES. During the peer review process of the batch of articles intended for this issue serious problems in some of the articles was uncovered. These articles are in the process of fundamental rewriting and will hopefully be published in later issues.

Jens Stærdahl, Co-editor.