

Editorial

This issue of TES begins with a short essay from the editors on the concept of resilience and its application from a socio-ecological perspective, including a request for articles which deal with the concept of resilience from an environmental perspective. The issue continues with two main articles, one on Environmental Impact Assessments, and how it is approached in Thailand and the USA, and the second on environmental policy in India.

The article “Lessons learned from environmental impact assessments (EIA): a look at two widely different approaches – the USA and Thailand” by John Stampe, looks two different approaches for the environmental impact assessments, and their different strengths and weaknesses. The article illustrates the differences between the two cases. For example, US EIA law only covers public projects, which is in contrast to Thailand, which covers projects specified on a list, which is drawn up by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Differences in scoping (i.e. determining the range or extent of action, inquiry, ect.) is also significant, where the USA has a detailed scoping process including public participation, where as the process is lacking in Thailand. In the end, the authors conclude that EIA process is most effective if it includes a listing procedure which includes both public and private projects, involves a scoping process with significant public participation, and followed up with enforcement of the EIA requirements.

The article “Reorienting environment policy in India towards a local area-based development and management paradigm” by Tishyarakshit Chatterjee looks at the lack of effectiveness of the environmental policy in India at the local level. The article points out that, while India’s environmental policy at the national level meets sound scientific principles and recognized norms, these policies are not being effectively implemented. The article goes in depth to describe this disconnect. The article concludes that, a participative, market oriented, local area-based approach would be more effective in the carrying out of environmental policy. The authors then recommend “eco-synergy” as the framework that could be used as a guide in order to add a local basis for the implementation of the environmental policy.

As usual, we welcome the submission of papers to be considered for publication.

Paul Thorn
Co-Editor