

Editorial

This issue of TES contains three articles that illustrate the transdisciplinary nature of environmental issues, including both social and natural science based perspectives. The first article, by Heike Walk, takes a social scientist's approach, assessing the progress of the climate movement in Germany. Walk specifically addresses the question as to why more people in Germany are not getting actively involved in the climate movement, and provides an assessment on what is needed to get more people involved, both politically and in actual actions. The second article, by John Edinger and James Martin, takes a more technical approach at on management of lakes with respect to the water quality. The article assesses the influence multi-slip boat docks have on water circulation and flushing in the lakes, and how it affects the lake's ecosystem – particularly with respect to coliforms, dissolved oxygen, algal densities and sedimentation in the lakes. The authors show that multi-slip docking facilities can have a negative impact on water quality in the lake, affecting the ecosystem as well as use for the recreational purposes from which the docks were built for in the first place, and thus these issues need to be considered in the management of the lakes. The final article, by Zarrien Ayub, goes back to the climate change issue, looking at the impact of changes in temperature and rainfall on fisheries in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Pakistan. This article uses a natural science based approach, looking at correlation between temperature and precipitation on catch totals of a number of commercial fish species. The author shows a correlation on a number of species, and concludes that this needs to be studied more closely in order to properly manage these fish stocks with respect to climate change predictions.

These articles provide a good cross-section over how important different approaches in the assessment of environmental issues are. The first article shows the importance of assessing societal action on environmental issues – without public support and willingness for action on an environmental issue, there will not be progress to solve the environmental problem. The second article shows how modelling of the natural system can help describe and predict future problems resulting from human actions and developments, and be used in management and planning. The final article shows how analyzing current and historical data can bring to light potential environmental threats, warranting further study on the issue. Three different approaches – all important for sustainable management of our environment.

The editors welcome any articles which deal with transdisciplinary approaches on studying or evaluating environmental problems at all scales, from local to global.

Paul Thorn
Co-Editor