

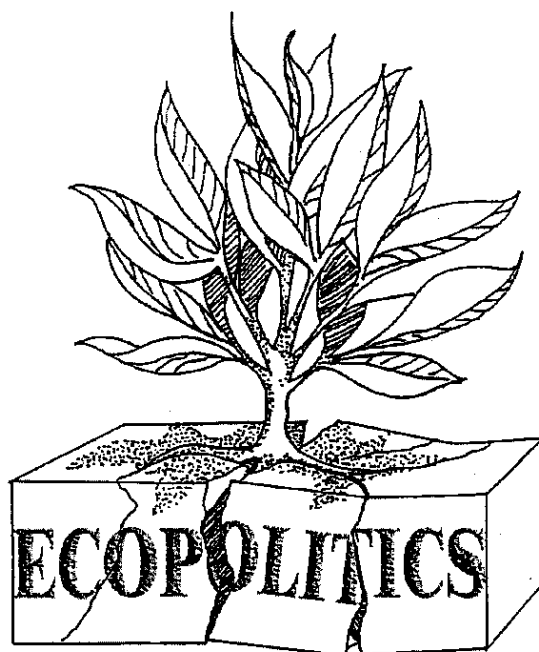
# **Ecopolitics XV International Conference**

*Environmental Governance:*

*Transforming Regions & Localities*

12 – 14 November 2004

**Conference Program & Abstracts**



**Graduate School of the Environment  
Macquarie University, Sydney**



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"Environmental Governance: Transforming Regions and Localities"  
Macquarie University, 12 - 14 November 2004

**Abstracts for Saturday, 13 November 2004: 1:30am - 3:00pm**

Theme: Case Studies of Environmental Governance  
Location: E7B 200

**Challenges and Approaches for Protecting the Environmental Resources in Semi-Arid Metropolitan Cities: The case of Mashhad, Iran**

Mohammad Rahim Rahnama  
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran

**Abstract:** Because of rain shortages, semi-arid regions are naturally faced with insufficient water resources, fertile soils and vegetation. Water shortages and a lack of urban green areas are among the consequences of this dryness in semi-arid cities, such as Mashhad in Iran, the topic of this paper. As well as the natural restriction on valuable agricultural land, rapid growth of urban population and demand for housing have resulted in the physical extension and elimination of agricultural lands inside the city limits and city margins. Further, a lack of attention by governmental departments and municipalities to the protection and management of scarce natural resources, poor and conflicting economic decisions and policies, a lack of legal development control and environmental management mechanisms, and poor comprehensive environmental planning, have culminated in the further reduction of scarce environmental resources, threatening the natural urban environment and sustainability of Mashhad City.

This paper investigates firstly, the reasons for the destruction of natural resources in a third world semi-arid city such as Mashhad; secondly, the impacts resulting from the shortage of environmental resources and resulting problems for the urban environment; and thirdly, offers initiatives for protecting and developing environmental resources in the third world's cities in arid regions. This is done by looking at the experience of Mashhad City.

**About the Author...**

Mohammad Rahim Rahnama is a 1997 graduate in urban planning and geography from Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran Iran, has taken part in 5 international conferences, and has undertaken research in the urban planning field. He has published several papers in national scientific journals, and spent 4 years as the Head of Commission of Urban Planning in Mashhad City Council (1998-2002). His university has granted him one year sabbatical leave in School of Environmental Planning at Macquarie University in Sydney.

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**Lord Howe Island: Customary Law, Corporations and the State. An Historical but Contemporary Case Study of Environmental Governance**

Rod McInnes  
Agricultural and Resources Economist  
Epping, NSW

**Abstract:** Lord Howe Island is an important environmental asset, as recognised in its listing by UNESCO in 1982 as the first World Heritage Area from NSW. The environmental governance of this unique system over its inhabited history of almost 180 years has spanned common law, corporate approaches, and direction by the State. This gives a unique opportunity to compare and contrast these different approaches. This analysis will be undertaken within the "new institutionalist" paradigm. The analysis is applied to a number of issues such as the sustainable management of forest products, the management of sewage pollution and to the setting of private property rights. In each case, the different forms of governance attempted, the apparent reason for their application, and the outcomes as far as is known, are reported. The analysis draws conclusions on the most successful forms of governance in each case, and proposes refinements to current forms to maximise gains.

**About the Author...**

Rod McInnes is an agricultural and resources economist, currently working for the Sydney Catchment Authority. This role has included being co-manager of the SCA's Ecosystem Services Project. The SCA can be seen as an attempt to create an institution that fits environmental governance to the "ecosystem services district" of the natural water catchments supplying Sydney and the Illawarra. From this perspective, has recently evaluated the economic services of water quality from the natural capital of the "district" as part of the SCA's water quality risk management planning process.

Independently to his SCA role, he last year conducted a consultancy for the Northern Territory Government on the preservation of the unique freshwater wetlands of the Mary River catchment. This study has resulted in a report on the economics of mitigating sea-water encroachment which is soon to be published by the Australian Greenhouse Office.

He was previously a consultant in private practice with ACIL for over 11 years from 1991.

His consulting work has a focus on water and environment issues. He has managed or conducted personally:

- A series of studies conducting contingent valuation of environmental services such as enhancing freshwater and estuarine ecosystems (eg. the Sewerage Overflow Licensing Project for Sydney Water).
- Economic analysis of environmental impacts as part of EIS processes, including the Audit of the Second Sydney Airport EIS.