

Real Ecolodges:

Interview: Eleni Svoronou, WWF Greece

What it takes

Real Ecolodges: What makes one, what it takes to be one

Five Elements ! They are clearly stated at <http://ecoclub.com/canon.html> and have been our guiding lights. Element 1: **Try to minimise your own environmental impact**. Science tells us that whatever we do, has an environmental impact. Trying to minimise that impact, to the best of our abilities, is important. The abilities of an affluent lodge in the first world are higher than those of a struggling one in the developing world, so the bar is higher for the affluent one. Element 2. **Support environmental conservation and local projects**. Supporting can mean active participation, or at least financial support. It certainly can not be just paying lip service. Local, social projects are at least as important as conservation, as without them, conservation ultimately fails. Element 3. **Increase environmental & cultural knowledge**. Knowledge, and informed, rational choice, rather than blind faith, is the basis of progress. Element 4. **Involve the local people as equal partners**: How many times, have we rejected an expat application because it just read "we give work to locals", as if this was a favour by the benevolent new arrival. You don't give "them" work, they give their work to you, and you have to show them your respect, starting with a fair pay, fair working hours, then with involving them in decision-making, management and profit-sharing, and why not, with ultimately handing over the Lodge to them. Element 5: **Include the less affluent**: how? By lower prices for local people, students, elderly, researchers, people with special needs, the poor. It is not only unethical to create a golden prison, it is also idiotic, when it comes to ecolodges, as ecotourists do not need or seek luxury. Lux is the antithesis of eco. Ecotourism should be affordable for all, it should become the mainstream, and not be perceived as a niche for the affluent few. And as with the three musketeers, who were four, there is an implied sixth element: **PASSION for people & the environment**, in that order, I may add. The picture on our cover, was sent to us by Mr. Peter Pichler, the owner of our Ecolodge Member Pensão Gurué, in Mozambique. Peter has left the Lodge to his mother in law and went to Zimbabwe to help as a Water and Sanitation Engineer, you can read his report on this page. It is just one of the many examples of Ecolodge owners who really care.

So, are we confident that all our Ecolodge Members, fully and always meet all five Elements? It would be a lie to state so. It would be impossible to prove so. In some cases it would be even impossible to do so. Ecotourism, like all things human, is the art of the feasible. People are not robots, mistakes are made, and processes occasionally fail. In the end, what matters is the will to improve, to progress and to act. This is again the meaning of the word "Try".

We at ECOCLUB also want to try to do our small bit, albeit from the comfortable surroundings of cyberspace. The ECOCLUB.com Ecolodge Fund (EEF) is now active, and seeking the best new Ecolodges. After some thought, we have decided to focus the EEF on new, up to 1 Year old, genuine Ecolodges, that are already in operation. The reason is that it is those Ecolodges that need the most support, as they have proven to be serious efforts (and not paper projects). They need moral, financial, and promotional backing so that they can survive and become known. Many international organisations give some funds before hand (sometimes exorbitant), and never follow up. We now wish to close this attention gap. We pledge at least 10% of Supporter Membership revenue, and 10% of ECOCLUB.com Shop profits to this new annual fund. We welcome applications directly from new Ecolodges at <http://ecoclub.com/finance/development.html> The winner (or winners if the funds allow it) will be chosen democratically by our Supporters in June 2004, and announced on July 1, 2004, the fifth anniversary of the founding of ECOCLUB S.A. As always we welcome your input and comments, at the Café (<http://ecoclub.com/cafe>)

Antonis B. Petropoulos, ECOCLUB Editor



News from our Ecolodge Members

LAOS: Mr. Bill Tuffin, of The Boat Landing Guesthouse [<http://ecoclub.com/theboatlanding>] informs us that the guesthouse was showcased as a best case in a 2-page article in the Pacific Asia Travel Association's (PATA) Compass Publication. Excerpt "The Boat Landing Guesthouse's business model focuses on small-scale local operations and attempts to spread as much economic benefit to the local economy as possible...The Boat Landing has reduced its waste consumption by reusing plastic bags, which are washed and sold at the local market. Scrap paper is reused for taking restaurant orders, and management is looking at ways to produce paper logs for firewood using paper that would otherwise be thrown away. Water bottles and cans are sold to local scrap collectors. Containers are also reused where possible for market purchases, and the storage of food and drinking water. All organic waste is composted and engine oil is reused as a wood preservative and termite deterrent." In addition, The Boat Landing has become the first operation in the world to be "benchmarked" for the second time by Green Globe, a tourism certification body, congratulations !

ZIMBABWE: Mr. Peter Pichler, an Engineer, and Proprietor of Pensão Gurué (Mozambique) [<http://ecoclub.com/gurue>] is currently in Zimbabwe working as a Program Manager – Water & Sanitation, for World Vision International's Zimbabwe Relief Operations [<http://www.wvi.org>] He sends us this report from Harare:

Zimbabwe is currently facing a complex emergency as a result of recurrent areas of drought in past seasons and several other contributing factors. Overall macroeconomic decline accelerated dramatically over the past year, indicated by a cumulative decline in GDP of over 24% over the last 3 years, plunging the level of human development in country back to mid-1970s levels. This economic environment has extensively impacted all sectors, including water and sanitation. The macroeconomic decline has impacted the availability and quality of public service provision, especially in primary healthcare, education and water. Hyperinflation, combined with shortages of fuel and foreign currency has eroded the capacity of rural communities and service providers to maintain existing water infrastructure. This, coupled with a low rate of

replenishment (limited new boreholes being drilled over the past 3 years), poor maintenance systems, lack of spare parts, erosion of community coping capacity and purchasing power for simple spares, and the effects of low rainfall upon the water table and overuse of aged boreholes, has resulted in an increasing rate of breakdown of existing water points.

According to recent information provided by the District Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-committee and the District Development Fund for the 4 proposed districts, the average rate of breakdown has been accelerating cumulatively at a rate of at least 5% each month. Because of the long distances to water sources, people recycle water and consequently often suffer from skin and other sanitation related diseases. With the current drought, access to safe water is further compromised. Rainfall predicted for the coming season, according to meteorological reports, is expected to be below normal again. This will worsen the current plight of the people. Long distances to water sources, high population to borehole ratios and the prevalence of water-borne diseases are the principal characteristic of these conditions. Due to recurrent drought and input shortages in the area, agricultural production has been limited and food shortages experienced. Apart from being vulnerable to drought, the area's inhabitants are also vulnerable to waterborne diseases due to lack of adequate safe water sources. Common water-borne diseases are diarrhoea, scabies and bilharzia.

Clean water on its own without sanitation and hygiene cannot result in good health through the reduction of diarrhoea diseases. This being the case, there is a need to complement water development with sanitation and hygiene initiatives. Hygiene education greatly improves the impact of water and sanitation interventions, whereas providing toilets alone has been shown to have little or no impact. Participatory methods of hygiene and sanitation promotion are also an effective way of helping communities and households mobilise, plan and carry out their own improvement. It is against this background that World Vision and its partners intend to assist the community to address the water and sanitation problem in various projects. World Vision is currently leading implementing agency with the World Food Program, and the lead agent of the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Emergency (C-SAFE) in partnership with Catholic Relief Services and Care international. World Vision is also currently implementing numerous programmes with funding from the European Commission, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Canadian International Development Agency, United States Agency for International Development, UNICEF among others.

COSTA RICA: Mr. Steve Friedman, Proprietor of Genesis II Ecolodge [<http://ecoclub.com/genesis>], is pleased to announce the following two recognitions of its status and programs. On Sunday July 6th, the Miami (Florida) Herald selected Genesis II as one of the two best lodges in Costa Rica - and one of the ten best in the entire Americas!. The September issue of Geographical Magazine (The Royal Geographical Society, U.K.) listed their volunteer programme as one of the ten best in the world. Well deserved !

ECUADOR: Black Sheep Inn [<http://ecoclub.com/BlackSheepInn>] have completed 9 years of successful operation (and almost 3 years as Ecolodge Members). Happy Birthday Andres & Michelle !



New Expert Member

We warmly welcome, Ms Hilary Kuhn, Principal at Lakuna Liaison Ecotourism Consultancy, in Julatten, Queensland, Australia. as a new Expert Member. Ms Kuhn specialises in design and planning for Ecotourism attractions using tools such as natural and cultural resource inventories, Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) to the environment, carrying capacity measures, renewable energy and environmental technologies. She has experience with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander communities in tropical Australia and Papua New Guinea. Ms Kuhn has a Background in marketing of retail and wholesale Ecotours and Ecolodges in tropical Australia. She is also a Sessional Lecturer in Tourism Program at James Cook University, Cairns Campus.

Contact Ms Kuhn at <http://ecoclub.com/experts/kuhn.html>



ECOCLUB Team strengthens

Ms Stella Bell has just joined our team at our Athens office, increasing our expertise in both practical and theoretical aspects of sustainable tourism. Stella holds a BA in Communication Arts & Theatre Studies, and is currently completing an MA in Tourism & Sustainability. She has many years of experience working in the Tourism Industry as an overseas representative for a UK tour operator and has travelled extensively in Africa. You can read Stella's article on seasonality in this issue.

Ms Eleni Svoronou
Capacity Building Officer, WWF Greece

Eleni Svoronou is responsible for the Capacity Building program of WWF Greece. A major part of her work in the organisation is devoted to ecotourism as a vehicle for nature conservation. More specifically her work on ecotourism, for WWF, has included:

- *The coordination of a study commissioned by the Greek National Tourism Organisation on ecotourism in Greece*
- *The design and organisation of an international conference in Athens on the concept of carrying capacity*
- *A manual on ecotourism for the Management Bodies of the National Parks of Greece*
- *Design and implementation of workshops on ecotourism, addressed to local communities and other interested parties.*
- *Articles, papers and conference presentations on ecotourism in Greece.*
- *This work is based on the experience of the conservation projects of WWF Greece in the field.*



Eleni is also the author of children's books, guidebooks and articles on ecology, archaeology and conservation.

WWF Greece, an independent national organisation of the WWF international network, was founded in 1990. Its mission is the conservation of the Greek natural heritage. WWF Greece works on multiple levels including (a) field work in selected ecologically sensitive areas, (b) advocacy and policy work and (c) awareness, communication and environmental education. WWF Greece, with the support of its approximately 15.000 active members, has achieved major successes, such as the protection of endangered species and habitats under threat, the halt of destructive development projects. It has also contributed in the rationalisation of the management of Greek protected areas. WWF Greece views and uses Ecotourism as a means of conservation and as an alternative to unsustainable development of protected areas.



If you were to choose three main achievements of WWF in Greece, what would they be, and what obstacles had to be overcome?

E. Svoronou: I would choose the most long term achievements, the ones that are less visible and, unfortunately, the most difficult to communicate to people:

(a) The long-term field projects of the organisation in wetland, forest and coastal ecosystems. The two more successful ones could be considered to be the projects in the Dadia forest (N.E.Greece) and in Prespa (N.W. Greece). These projects managed to achieve high standards in conservation work, involvement of local communities and ecotourism. Considering the fact that 10 years ago local communities in Greece were uninformed and sceptical about the ecological movement, it required a lot of effort, time and ongoing work to make these projects work and to develop a sense of ownership in the local communities. An element of these projects, which is easier to communicate, concerns the protection of species. When the organisation started working in these areas, the numbers of the birds of prey in the Dadia forest and of pelicans in the Prespa National Park were decreasing. WWF, through its long term work in these areas, managed to reverse this tendency and secure healthy and sustainable populations of these species.

(b) The organisation's contribution to people's awareness of the ecological issue. WWF Greece has managed to mobilise, one way or another, more than 50,000 supporters in various conservation efforts and "hot issues", such as the campaign against the diversion of the River Acheloos, the campaign for the protection of the forests, the campaign for toxics, etc.

(c) The organisation's contribution to the establishment of the first 25 National Parks of Greece, with their respective management bodies.

WWF Greece has achieved to become a player in various decision and policy-making bodies. Its voice is being taken seriously. However, there is still a long way to go to see its advice and recommendations taken seriously and being implemented in public policy.



In your view, how protected are Greek Protected Areas today from: arson, hunting, property developers, pollution (chemical, light & sound)? What could prevent new protected areas, such as the so-called "Natura 2000 network" ending as little more than paper parks?


E. Svoronou: The questions are very relevant at this initial stage of the Natura 2000 network and the National Parks in Greece. To answer the first question about what is happening today, I would say that up until now Protected Areas were not protected in a systematic way. I do not mean that there was no protection at all. But protection fell into the responsibility of different competent authorities, there were no coherent management plans, guarding systems and conservation strategies. As a result, the degree of protection depended upon the specific conditions of each Protected Area. The general picture is that Protected Areas were insufficiently protected from all the threats you mentioned. Illegal hunting, illegal building, road construction, and, in general, uncontrolled development (often related to tourism) are the commonest threats. The

laws to protect the environment exist. The implementation of the laws is the problem. In the Marine National Park of Zakynthos, to give one example, there are still illegal buildings in the habitat of the sea turtle, Caretta.

The Natura 2000 network and the recent establishment of the 25 National Parks (under the E.U. Directive 92/43) is a very positive step taken by the Ministry of the Environment. WWF Greece, with the collaboration of other environmental NGOs has pressed for the establishment of these Parks and their management bodies. It was about time. Greece has been extremely late to rationalise its Protected Areas management. Now, to what degree these management bodies will succeed in their role to protect the natural heritage of the Parks and to stimulate sustainable development in their areas remains to be seen. WWF Greece is represented in some of these management bodies. We will make our best to help these institutions work effectively. There are serious constraints, such as the availability of funds and the lack of sufficient expertise in conservation work. As long as the priority is the conservation of nature and the well being of the local communities, they will succeed. If, however the, well known in Greece, clientelistic practices and bureaucracy prevail, the results may be disappointing. The organisation will contribute and work for the management bodies, but it will keep its independent judgement and voice. We hope for the best. We will work for the best.

 **Tourists in Greek Protected Areas: on horses or trojan horses?**

E. Svoronou: Horses, if properly managed, Trojan horses if left in the "law of the market". With the recent trend of ecotourism, tourism in Protected Areas has increased. It is mainly Greek tourists who visit these areas in the mainland. Fortunately, the numbers are not frightening. The 50.000 annual tourists in the Dadia forest do not compare to the 600.000 tourists of the Marine National Park of Zakynthos! The mainland is still relatively safe from a large influx of tourism. However, even these relatively small numbers, if not managed properly, can become a threat. What is more important, is to prevent the uncontrolled development that even a few tourists can stimulate. Hotel and rooms construction has to be rationalised. Environmental standards in tourism infrastructure have to be introduced in the tourism business sector. Visitor management tools have to be applied. Marketing and "de-marketing" policies to address seasonality have to be thought of. Capacity building opportunities for local communities have to be developed. If we start thinking and acting about all these aspects of tourism in Protected Areas, we might head towards the right direction, towards the "on horses" and not the "Trojan horses" role of tourists.

 **Each time wildlife conservation makes the news in Greek TV stations, it is when the obligatory 'local' is 'confessing' live to credulous TV reporters that "The Ecologists" arrived from Athens and released wild animals (wolves, snakes, bears etc.) who then harmed our live stock and crops". Is the problem just a lack of personal financial interest for locals out of wildlife conservation, or a deeper political-cultural resentment towards central authority, and affluent, urban-types who do not like hunting.**

E. Svoronou: It is amazing how much widespread is this story about ecologists releasing wolves and snakes! As if ecologists could put wolves in a bag and release them in nature! The fact that these stories are believed by many locals shows that there is still a mistrust towards the "ecologists". The mere word "ecologist" in Greece has a negative overtone. It describes conservationists as fanatical people who care for nature and hate people. It is true in the past the conservation movement made mistakes. It did not take enough into consideration the human aspect of nature conservation. Now things have changed. We talk about people and nature, about sustainable development, not about the pelicans and the black vultures. And if we do talk about them, we use them as "indicators" for a healthy ecosystem where man and nature are in harmony. Still, however, we have not found the proper "language" to communicate with local communities. Every local community and every sector of local community has its own values, needs and fears. We have to understand them and "put ourselves in their shoes" before we communicate our conservation message. Very often it is a lack of time and resources that prevent us from doing this thorough investigation. Local communities are not homogenous and have varying attitudes towards ecology, conservation and protected areas. Not all of them believe in stories like the ones you mentioned. Some of them are asking to enlarge their Natura 2000 sites to include greater areas! Therefore, we have to work with every local community on the basis of their specific values, needs and fears.

 **Greek Environmental Organisations: cooperating or competing for limited funds and limited government & public attention?**

E. Svoronou: We certainly cooperate, especially in major issues, like our campaign for the case of Schinias (against the construction of the rowing center for the Olympic Games), or the case of the Natura 2000, the establishment of the National Parks and the management bodies. WWF Greece takes an active role in coordinating the collaboration of NGOs in these campaigns. We believe in joining forces. On the other hand it is true we are competitors in raising funds from the government, the citizens, the European Union etc. It is a time of economic crisis and financial resources, especially from the private sector, are limited. Sometimes we join efforts there, too. We may collaborate on a project and submit it for funding by the E.U. In this case we collaborate mainly because we want to share expertise and secondly because we increase our chances to get the funding. No matter if "the pie" is limited and if it has to be cut in smaller pieces, we believe that each NGO has its own niche and expertise. At the end of the day, our final purpose is the environment and the sustainable development. Our survival as organisations is the means to this end, not an end in itself.

 **2004 Olympic Games in Athens: the last opportunity for a greener city gone to waste? WWF and other Greek NGOs were unable to stop Olympic construction in the Schinias marsh, an important bird & archaeological area, despite an international campaign. Were any lessons drawn that would allow for better NGO tactics / coordination in the future?**

E. Svoronou: We might not have stopped the construction of the rowing centre altogether, but we have improved the plan considerably. Some of our proposals have been taken into consideration. The lesson learnt, in this case, in my opinion, is that our society still values development at any cost more than nature, history and quality of life. What could we have done better? This campaign, as you say, gained international support and still the project went on. The failure of the rowing centre to function properly due to strong winds, last August, proved we were right. The

only lesson to be learnt is that our society has a long way to go before it places real ethical values and, after all, reason above the short term interests. Meanwhile we, NGOs, have a lot of work to do.



Transboundary Protected Areas in the Balkans / the Mediterranean: Mission Impossible? Do national & security sensitivities affect conservation, and your organisation's work in border areas, or do you overcome this via cooperation with your colleagues across the border wire?

E. Svoronou: I was wondering whether I should put it as one of the three successes of the organization's work, so I am happy you raise this question now. WWF Greece has worked systematically for the establishment of the Prespa Park, which is a pioneering effort of collaboration between three Balkan countries for the management of the Prespa wetland ecosystem. The three countries are Albania, FYROM and Greece. The Prespa Park was established in 2000 and the transnational coordination committee has already started to work effectively and take action on the protection of the common wetland. So it can be done! It requires a lot of effort and in some cases transboundary collaboration for nature protection might not be possible if political issues are very hot. We hope the case of the Prespa Park will become a promising precedent for other collaborations.

The international WWF network has a special section that works on cross-Mediterranean issues and is based in Rome. It puts emphasis, among other sectors, on capacity building and exchange programs between the Mediterranean countries of the North and the South. This program is called "Across the Waters" and is worth a visit in their Internet site. [www.atw-wwf.org]. So there are opportunities for transboundary collaborations. Let us start from the "easy" cases where there are no strong political tensions!



A few years ago the Greek environmental movement succeeded in briefly installing a vice minister for the Environment, (a former head of Greenpeace Greece) who later confessed it was not many actions that he could get through. If you, or a colleague, from WWF Greece, were to be appointed as Minister in a future government, what would be your Nr. 1 priority and how would you go about it?

E. Svoronou: I will speak for myself. As a Minister of Environment my Nr.1 priority would be to rationalise the spatial development pattern, the land use and building regulations throughout the country. Illegal building and anarchy in spatial planning is a major problem. Since I do not know enough about this complex issue, I will elaborate on my priority Nr. 2 which would be to make the 25 National Parks and their management bodies work effectively. I would try to raise some funds to support their start and I would make sure the management bodies start prioritising their actions according to the conservation needs of each area. My initial action plan would include:

1. A conference addressed to the 25 management bodies on the issue of their "financial sustainability". I would call directors from a few National Parks of Europe and experts from Greece to share their experience with them. I would organise the conference in small workshops so that the managers of the Protected Areas would get a chance to practice on various scenarios on their financial sustainability.

2. I would stimulate the "Commission Nature 2000", an independent advisory body that has been established to support the management bodies of the National Parks and the Natura 2000 network, to take an active role in supporting the managers of the National Parks through advice, guidelines, capacity building, proper evaluation systems, etc.

3. I would make sure that all management bodies function with transparency in all sectors (hiring staff, prioritising action, etc.)

4. I would ask a 3 year plan from all the management bodies making it clear that priority should be given to nature conservation and not to peripheral activities (communication, promotion of tourism, etc.) I would add more but since it is not probable I will be asked to become a Minister of the Environment, I will stop here!



The WWF in Greece has an active Volunteer Program. This may be good for motivating urban, café-dwelling affluent youths, but wouldn't it be wiser in the long term, to employ poorer rural youths in and around protected areas?

E. Svoronou: Our Volunteer Program is not for the urban, café-dwelling affluent youths. It is open to all youths. Especially in our summer camps, there are participants from all over the country. They live on very low budget, they share the everyday housework and they work together on a common task that involves manual work. Very few café-dwelling youths, of the mentality you imply, can give up their comforts. So, by definition, our volunteer camps address youths who are active, have an ideology, can share responsibilities and work together. No matter what is their background, we cultivate an ethos of living together, sharing and protecting the environment. Our volunteers come from all different parts of the country and they enjoy it a lot. Having said that, young people who are inhabitants of a Protected Area have less interest in spending some time of their holiday to work in the same area. It is natural that this type of activity is more attractive to young people from other areas who take the opportunity to get to know another part of Greece. But in terms of social and economic background, we have all kind of young people.



Environmental Education in Greek public schools, does it exist? Should it exist within schools and taught by public teachers, or should it be left to NGOs and taught by enviro activists outside schools?

E. Svoronou: Environmental Education exists in the Greek school system on a voluntary basis. Teachers and students who want to participate in Environmental Education projects, they can do it outside the official curriculum and they get a small financial support from the Ministry. It is good that schoolteachers teach it but it is also good if NGOs (no matter how much activists they are) support their work through material, transfer of

knowledge and direct participation. Students should be exposed to the work of NGOs and judge by themselves their credibility. I sense in your question scepticism whether public teachers are appropriate to teach Environmental Education and whether they would deprive it of its "activist" aspect. Maybe you are afraid that they implement Environmental Education in a mild, passive way. Well, we are clear about it: all environmental education projects should lead to some kind of action. Whether teachers lead their teams to do it or not is a matter of their personal attitudes and values. NGOs are not necessarily the best to do this because they have got very limited time to work with the students. Unfortunately, there is a scepticism on behalf of the Ministry of Education towards the NGOs and their involvement in the school program.



What do you find most appealing about your job, and what keeps you going?

E. Svoronou: The cause I work for: people and environment. Mainly the fact that we have a philosophy that includes alleviation of poverty, equal distribution of wealth and natural resources, sustainable development, peace and respect to the "other". We envisage a different pattern of development of the world. What else is more rewarding than working for a cause and your personal ideology? Major source of motivation is also people: working with people of the same philosophy.



Is there anything else you would like to add, such as future events / initiatives?

E. Svoronou: I will mention the plans of the capacity building initiative. Capacity building initiatives include workshops, seminars, "schools", publications etc. Our future plans include, among others, a 7-day school on wetland management and ecotourism. Anyone who is interested in getting more information about capacity building may contact us. Thank you very much and congratulations for this excellent work you do through ECOCLUB. It is based on solid views and ideas!



Thank you very much.

for further details please contact

Ms. Eleni Svoronou
Capacity Building Officer
WWF Greece, 26 Filellinon St.,
Athens, 105 58 - Greece

Email: e.svoronou@wwf.gr
tel: +30 210 33 14 893
fax: +30 210 32 47 578

Eco-Quiz



Where is this?

*Hint: Search <http://ecoclub.com/lodges.html>
Replies to a@ecoclub.com*

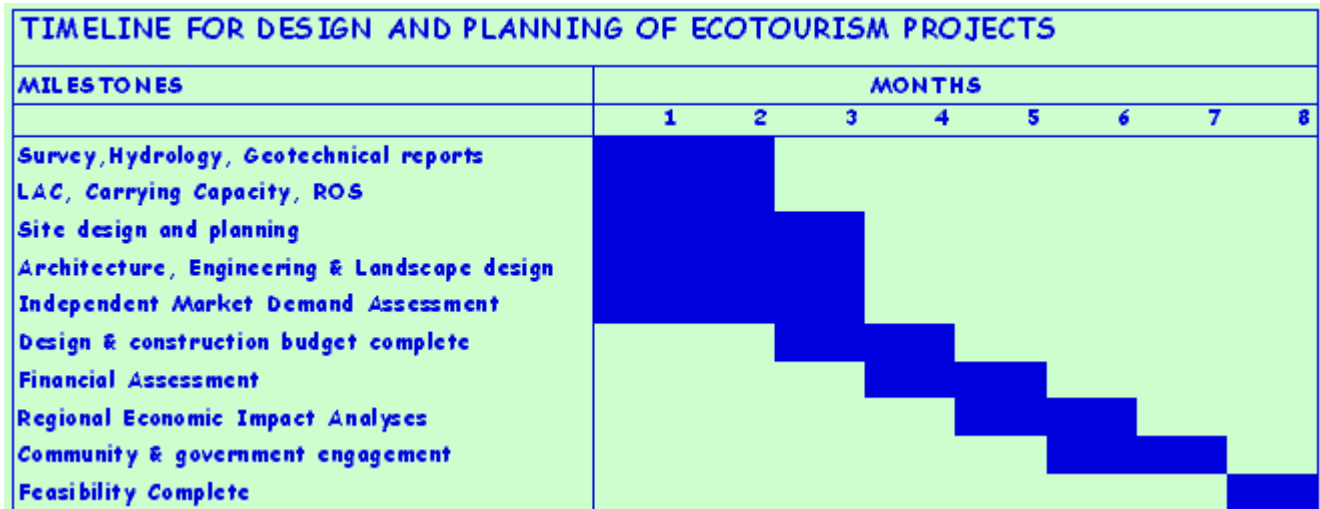
First correct answer wins a surprise gift from
The ECOCLUB.com Shop (<http://ecoclub.com/shop>)

Last Month's Solution:
"Tree Tops Farm, Sri Lanka" <http://ecoclub.com/treetops>

The Expert showcases contributions by our **Expert Members** <http://ecoclub.com/experts.html> who offer a free basic consultancy to businesses on their topic of expertise.

 **The Value of Independent Appraisals of Ecotourism scenarios**

Article by Hilary Kuhn, Ecotourism Consultant, BA (Hons), M.Admin (Tourism), (Expert, Australia), <http://ecoclub.com/experts/kuhn.html>



When an Ecotourism scenario is visualised for a site, many operators rely upon subjective judgements of the sustainability of their vision. Yet a lack of understanding of the ecosystems in which the visualised scenario will be constructed and of the target markets may constrain the delivery of environmental and social benefits expected of Ecotourism.

In order to remedy this, independent appraisal needs to be conducted to ascertain the feasibility of the visualised Ecotourism scenario and conditions of development for consideration. This would require integration of existing data, independent appraisal, primary research and detailed planning on a timeline as illustrated below.

Such independent appraisal would need to include analyses of:

- existing data on natural and cultural resources to describe Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) to the environment, assessment of carrying capacity and a recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) in order to establish ecologically sustainable parameters for the site planning and project design.
- existing and projected markets to this destination by independent market demand assessment that would include primary and secondary research (surveys) based upon the visualised scenario.
- capital development costs and independent financial assessments of the visualised scenario for development (based on the independent market demand assessment) that would include sensitivity analyses and financial models.
- regional economic impact of the visualised scenario in terms of employment
- opportunities, purchasing policies and description of multiplier from visitor expenditure, income and provision of goods and services.
- community and government engagement through workshops, surveys and meetings with interested parties and relevant groups and research on legal frameworks and government policy.

The site planning, architecture and infrastructure (including any utilities) of the visualised scenario will be assessed in terms of application of LAC, carrying capacity assessment, ROS, market demand assessment, capital development budgets and financial analyses. After an interactive process of review and reappraisal, conditions for the feasibility of the visualised Ecotourism scenario (with possible modifications) would thus be described. (Refer example of a site plan after appraisal as below).

The benefits of such appraisal include protection of the environmental values for Ecotourist attraction, a detailed understanding of the target market(s) for promotions and marketing, greater investor confidence in the visualised scenario, and enhanced community and government support with regional impact analyses. For the Ecotourism operator committed to sustainable operations and management, the information gathered for such an appraisal will become invaluable.

References:

- International Hotel Environment Initiative: refer web site: <http://www.ihei.org>
 Office of National Tourism. (1997). Twinshare Accommodation: Tools for Environmentally Sensitive Accommodation and Case Studies in Australia. Commonwealth Government. Refer web site: <http://twinshare.crctourism.com.au>
 Sweeting, J., Bruner, A., & Rosenfeld, A. (2000). The Green Host Effect: an integrated approach to Sustainable Tourism and Resort Development. Conservation International. http://www.conservation.org/xp/CIWEB/publications/books_papers/policy_papers/index.xml
 Tourism Queensland. (2002). Environmental Tourism Publications and Research. Tourism Queensland, Brisbane. <http://www.tq.com.au>

Brief Observations on African Lodge Trends :
 by Dr. Godfrey Anyumba*, (Expert, South Africa) <http://ecoclub.com/experts/anyumba.html>

Lodges and Tourism are still mostly developed in East, Central and Southern Africa. Except for Southern Africa, most of Africa depends on non-African tourists. Most African governments harbour favourable policies for constructing Lodges which are perceived as a consumer friendly marketing brand. Few Lodges however fully satisfy the ecotourism criteria of protecting the ecology, and community benefits.

As a rule, African lodge designs are a professional undertaking and there is no room for spontaneous rustic designs. Externally the lodges are based on African architectural, art forms and cultural themes. Internally they are sanitised to Western levels of comforts and luxury and tend to be physically and psychologically secure. They usually offer an abundance of recreational and interpretive facilities, with 'Bush' Conferencing being an important income generator.

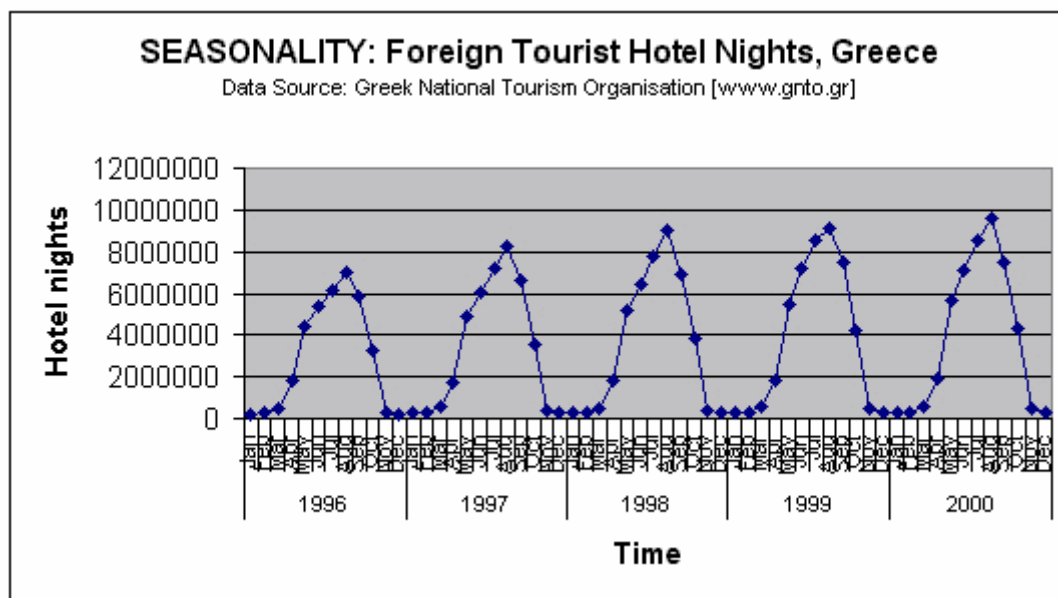
In terms of Operation and ownership, family operators are still important but are now a minority, Lodges are increasingly dominated by large Investment Corporations. Invariably, lodges are marketed and networked by these companies and their own website. On the optimistic side, there is evidence of increasing partnerships with local communities. Overall, most lodges still 'import' essential needs and 'export' their wastes.

**Godfrey has left the Durban Institute of Technology and will take a position with the University of Pretoria (UvP), in January 2004. As he likes to be active, and now has time to spare, he particularly welcomes consultancy enquiries by ecotourism businesses in the course of the next three months. Contact him at <http://ecoclub.com/experts/anyumba.html>*



Seasonality: Tourism Highs and Lows – what causes them and what if anything should be done?
 by Stella Bell*

Seasonality is the tendency for demand to be concentrated at specific times of the year. Most businesses experience these fluctuations of demand, but for industries where the product is a service, like the tourism industry, the product cannot be stored. This means that in the high season resources are stretched to their limits, whilst during the low season hardly used, if at all. Because of this, in the tourism industry seasonality has come to be viewed as a problem.



It is said that the fluctuations become more extreme the further you move from the equator as climatic fluctuations are much more extreme at high latitudes – (although temperature is a far more complex phenomenon), but the importance of climate in defining the length of the tourist season, is often overstated, as there are many other cultural (or institutional) factors which influence season length.

These include religious or national festivals; school and industrial holidays; sporting season (for example with skiing – which clearly, is closely linked to the weather); the habit of the customers; the availability of facilities at the destination country; and transportation (this is a lot more significant in peripheral regions, particularly islands, where access is almost entirely through public services, so is dependent on the providers of those services).

Because seasonality is often viewed as a problem, businesses and governments have attempted to address it through the introduction of a number of measures. These include pricing holidays differently at different times of the year (generally cheaper in low season to encourage more business); making changes to the school holidays (in Germany and the Netherlands particularly) to spread the season; changing or adding

to the product on offer (organising a special events at different times of the year, selling summer walking holidays in mountain ski resorts); diversifying the market – attempting to appeal to different groups of travellers who may travel at different times of the year (older travellers, and those without children are not restricted by school holidays). This is where ecotourism comes in. Because for the ecotourist the focus is on environmental and cultural matters, they are not as influenced by climate, as would be, say, a beach tourist.

More recently it has been recognised that fluctuations in demand can be a good thing, especially in areas of mass tourism, where local people find the off-season to be their only opportunity to regain their equilibrium, when they can enjoy much needed time with family, and perform cultural or religious rituals which were not possible during the rush of the high season. Clearly for small businesses, paying considerable amounts of money to build and maintain their properties, seasonality can be a big problem. Ecotourism can offer an alternative to the highly seasonal markets of the sun-worshipping tourists, by spreading the season into periods of the year that may otherwise be considered out of the question.

Are you a lodge member? Do you experience extreme seasonality? Is it a good or a bad thing to have quieter times? What is the main cause? Is it climate in your country? Perhaps it's the climate of the countries from which your visitors originate? Are you a tourist who would like to travel at different times of the year, but are put off because transportation provision is inadequate out of the main season? Please post your feelings and responses at the ECOCLUB Café.

Recommended Reading

- Allcock, J.B. (1994) Seasonality. In: Witt, S.F. and Moutinho, L. (eds). *Tourism Marketing and Management Handbook*, (pp. 387-392)
 Butler, R.W. (1994) Seasonality in Tourism: Issues and Problems. In A.V.Seaton (ed.) *Tourism the State of the Art* (pp.332-339), Chichester, England: Wiley
 Hartmann, R. (1986) Tourism, seasonality and social change. *Leisure Studies*, 5(1): 25-33
 Hinch, T.D. & Jackson, E.L. (2000) Leisure Constraints Research: it's value as a framework for understanding Tourism Seasonality Current Issues in *Tourism* 3 (2): 87-106
 Lundtorp, S., Rassing, C. R. and Wanhill, S. (1999) The Off-season is 'No season': The case of the Danish Island of Bornholme. *Tourism Economics*, 5(1): 49-68

* About the Author

*Stella Bell has first hand-experience of seasonality, having worked as a resort representative for a UK holiday company in Greece, and has also researched seasonality for her MA in Tourism & Sustainability at the University of West of England at Bristol. Stella has just joined the ECOCLUB team in Athens.



Bulgaria: The PAN Parks Foundation welcomed the fourth European national park to its circuit - the Central Balkan National Park. Official certification will be presented to park officials at Europe's Wilderness Days, the PAN Parks conference, hosted by Central Balkan, October 4-9. To be accepted for PAN Parks certification, Central Balkan worked to pass three principles of verification – natural values of the area, nature management and visitor management 20 parks in 12 different countries, as well as interested part . Further details: <http://www.panparks.org>

Live Event: Environmental Impact of Transportation Chat. A live chat took place on Wednesday 15th of October at the ECOCLUB.com Live Chat Centre <http://ecoclub.com/chat/> in the context of the on-line Conference organised by Planeta [Details at <http://www.planeta.com/ecotravel/tour/transportation.html>] A follow up chat on sustainable transport is scheduled for November the 5th, all interested members and readers are welcome. More details will appear at <http://ecoclub.com/chat/> closer to the date.

A Summary of worldwide ecotourism-related Events in the next 4 months follows:

October 2003

- October 20-21, 2003 UNEP FI Global Roundtable: Sustaining Value. A Meeting on Finance and Sustainability-JAPAN
 October 21-26, ASTA's 73rd World Travel Congress –USA
 October 22-24, AL-INVEST EUROAIR - ECOMONDO 2003-ITALY
 October 22-25, EuroCHRIE Congress 2003: The Internationalisation of Future Hospitality, Tourism and Aviation Management Education –GERMANY
 October 22-25, Asia Pacific Ecotourism Conference (Apeco 2003)-MALAYSIA
 October 29-31, IV Encuentro Internacional sobre Derecho del Turismo-CUBA
 October 30-November 1, Expo Ecoturismo 2003-VENEZUELA

November 2003

- November 1-2, The Daily Telegraph Adventure Travel and Sports Show-UK
 November 3-5, World Forum for a Responsible Business-SWITZERLAND
 November 3-7, ICLEI World Congress, Local Action 21, Local Governments Implementing Sustainable Development-GREECE

November 4-7, Green Business Conference-USA
 November 6, TIES MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP-USA
 November 6-8, Capacity Building and Rural Development-HUNGARY
 November 6-7, Annual General Meeting of the Tour Operators Initiative-SPAIN
 November 6, European Regions: Tourism and Sustainable Development from Global to Local-ITALY
 November 6-7, International workshop on Mobility and Tourism-BELGIUM
 November 6-8, Advanced Research Workshop on Climate Change and Tourism-POLAND
 November 6-9, Fair of the Mediterranean Archaeological Tourism-ITALY
 November 7-8, ANZIBA Annual Conference 2003: the challenge of international business-Tourism Session-NEW ZEALAND
 November 8, Workshop on Responsible tourism-ITALY
 November 8-9, Wildlife Tourism Workshop-AUSTRALIA
 November 9-13, World Travel Market-UK
 November 10, WTO 13th meeting of the Task Force for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism-UK
 November 10-14, Ecotourism Australia 11th National Conference-AUSTRALIA
 November 13-15, WTO Workshop on global tourism trends and best practices-ARMENIA
 November 17-20, USA Parks Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship-USA
 November 19-22, 5th Guangzhou International Environmental Protection Exhibition-CHINA
 November 20-23, CITM 2003 - China International Travel Mart-CHINA
 November 22-25, FIT 2003 - Feria Internacional de Turismo de America Latina-ARGENTINA
 November 23-26, 2nd World Wind Energy Conference and Renewable Energy Exhibition-SOUTH AFRICA
 November 23-26, TIANS 2003 - "Tourism Summit: A Question of Balance"-CANADA

December 2003

December 1-14, Advanced Seminar on Protected Areas Management and local development in the Mediterranean context-SPAIN
 December 2-4, WTO Regional Seminar on tourism partnerships in destination development and management-CHINA
 December 2-7, Africa Travel Association 7th Cultural & Ecotourism Symposium-TANZANIA
 December 3-5, "Managing change : the public-private partnership, a success factor for sustainable development"-FRANCE
 December 7-12, Second African Conference on peace through tourism-TANZANIA
 December 9-11, Taking tourism to the limits-NEW ZEALAND
 December 11-12, WTO Regional Conference of Asia on sustainability certification in tourism-MALAYSIA
 December 16, Developing Cultural Tourism-UK

January 2004

January 5-10, 5th International Camping Congress: "Beneath the Southern Cross"-AUSTRALIA
 January 5-8, 3rd Symposium on the Consumer Psychology of Tourism-AUSTRALIA
 January 9-11, Adventures in Travel Expo-USA
 January 14, WWF Greece Meeting-GREECE
 January 17-19, Adventure Outdoors Targets Active and Able Explorers-USA
 January 17-26, International Green Week 2003-GERMANY
 January 19-21, ATB 2003-AUSTRIA
 January 20-23, Hospitality Week-UK
 January 20-24, VI Congreso Internacional de Gestion de Recursos Naturales-CHILE
 January 22-25, The WEA National Conference on Outdoor Leadership-USA
 January 27-February 1, ENTER 2003-FINLAND
 January 29-February 2, FITUR The 23rd International Tourism Trade Fair-SPAIN
 January 31-February 2, Reise pavillion, The sustainable Travel Fair-GERMANY

If you are organising or are aware of an ecotourism-related Trade Show, Conference or Workshop please request a "Free Event Listing" (<http://ecoclub.com/events/freelisting.html>) on this page and in our Events Database <http://ecoclub.com/events/>

● Full listings at <http://ecoclub.com/events/>

NEW PUBLICATIONS 

 Free Publications

Rural Ecotourism Assessment Project (REAP), a guide for community assessment of ecotourism

REAP is a new publication by EplerWood International. It is a guide for community assessment of ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development. This publication can be located and downloaded for free at www.eplerwood.com. (422 KB, 82 pages). REAP was originated at The International Ecotourism Society in partnership with Programme for Belize as a means to help communities determine what is their potential for developing a viable locally based tourism initiative, using both community based assessment tools and market based instruments to come to conclusions about community readiness and market interest. The project and publication was made possible with support from the Summit Foundation. The researchers and authors, Gail Y.B. Lash and Alison Austin spent months working in coastal Belize to determine how community assessment tools might work within three local communities, and they worked hand in glove with the communities to draw the conclusions found in the publication. This REAP document includes both a detailed methodology and a case study analysis based on real community experiences in Belize. It should be useful to both researchers and practitioners.

Rights and Responsibilities: Codes of Conduct for Tourism & Indigenous and Local Communities

This TIES publication gathers existing guidelines that have been created by indigenous advocacy groups, lodge owners, tour operators, guidebooks, and others in the travel industry, governments, NGOs, the UN, multilateral lending agencies, and other organisations, each offering its own perspective on the rights held by local and indigenous peoples with regard to tourism and the duties of different actors involved in tourism. Also included will be several short essays on the subject by experts in various areas of the field. This draft version of the document, jointly produced by TIES and the Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development (CESD) was released at the World Parks Congress in Durban. This draft version of the publication is being placed on the TIES and the Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development website for comments and additions. Comments will be solicited until November 1.

Download (2 MB) at http://www.ecotourism.org/pdf/Rights_Responsibilities.pdf

Tourism Queensland: Protecting the Great Barrier Reef's Tourism Future Forum

Download at: <http://www.tq.com.au/ecotourism/docs/reefforum072003.pdf>

Certifying the uncertifiable. FSC certification of tree plantations in Thailand and Brazil

Publisher: World Rainforest Movement, Uruguay. Free for Non Governmental Organizations and Indigenous Peoples Organizations, others pay USD 10 (shipment included). For details please contact WRM International Secretariat at: bookswrm@wrm.org.uy

The book examines the spread of large-scale tree monocultures (plantations) and their certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). It provides detailed information gathered from two case studies: one in Brazil and one in Thailand and concludes that FSC certification of plantations is closing the door to community-based forest management while the certification process is characterized by inadequate information, transparency and basic sociopolitical and environmental research.



Other Publications

Public/Private Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism By Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism

The objective of this report is to provide a framework for the sustainable development of the travel and tourism industry in the APEC region, through public/private partnerships, and to deliver a sustainability strategy for tourism destinations.

Details: https://www.pata.org/pub_details.cfm?pubcatid=250&pubcattopic=7&pageid=6.

Nature Tourism, Conservation, and Development in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa

by Bruce A. Aylward (Editor), et al (Paperback - July 2003)

[More Information](#)

Australia: An Ecotraveler's Guide

by Hannah Robinson (Paperback - August 2003)

[More Information](#)

The Competitive Destination: A sustainable tourism perspective

by J R Brent Ritchie, University of Calgary, Canada and G I Crouch, LaTrobe University, Australia, (Hardback, July 2003, 304 Pages)

[More Information](#)

Working with Communities – A Guide for Tourism Operators

By Tourism Queensland. The guide contains ideas for working cooperatively to achieve mutual benefits and social sustainability. It outlines a seven-step process to assist in establishing values, vision, goals and objectives; targeting relevant community groups; developing an action plan; and monitoring and promoting success in working with communities. Twelve best practice case studies from successful Queensland tourism businesses highlight the benefits of working with communities and provide practical examples to put the guidelines into practice. For more information contact the Sustainable Tourism Department via email sustainable@tq.com.au

If you wish us to review your ecotourism related publication here for free please send a copy to us [by post](#) or by email if it is an electronic one.

ECO JOBS & PROJECTS 

*Full listings available to our Ec lodge & Supporter Members
at <http://ecoclub.com/jobs/>
and <http://ecoclub.com/finance/>*



VACANCIES (<http://ecoclub.com/jobs/vacancies.html>)

Refuge Manager-ALASKA
Park Ranger-ALASKA
2 Tenure Track Positions-CANADA
Tenure Track, Parks and Tourism-CANADA
Project Director Sustainable Tourism- COSTA RICA
Internships-ECUADOR
Field Projects Manager-ECUADOR

Lecturer in Tourism and Hospitality-FIJI
 Volunteer Ecotourism Site Development Capacity Building –GHANA
 Volunteer Eco-Tourism Site Management-GHANA
 Finance and Contract Administrator Sustainable tourism-GUATEMALA
 Project Support Officer (Endogenous Tourism)-INDIA
 Tourism Promotion and Marketing Officer-PAPUA N.G.
 Regional Interns-SWITZERLAND
 Water and Wetlands Communications Officer-THAILAND
 Director of Communications-UK
 Lecturers/Senior Lecturers in Tourism Management-UK
 Birding Centre Manager-USA
 Marine Conservation Internship-USA
 Parks and Recreation Intern-USA
 Director of Tourism and Economic Activities-USA



PROJECTS (<http://ecoclub.com/finance/forum.html>)

Investor needed to develop guesthouse - NEPAL
 Invitation to register interest to built and operate an eco-resort - AUSTRALIA
 Looking for eco-investors – SOUTH PACIFIC
 Development of New Ecolodges in 3 Nature Reserves - SOUTH AFRICA
 October 22, RFP Tourism Marketing Services-USA
 October 31, Call for proposal-LIFE 2003-2004 –EU
 November 11, Call for Proposal Cross Border Initiatives-EU
 November 14, Procurement Guidelines/Capacity Building-CZECH REPUBLIC



AWARDS (<http://ecoclub.com/finance/forum.html>)

November 21, 2004 World Legacy Awards
 November 28, Ecotourism Award-CANADA
 November 30, Call for Nominations Tourism Best Practices-USA
 December 5, Sustainable Development Tourism Prize-FRANCE

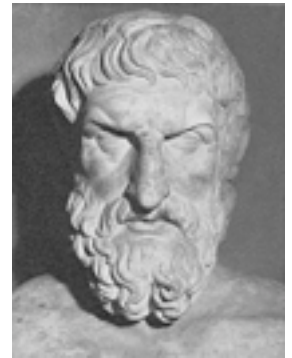


GRANTS (<http://ecoclub.com/finance/forum.html>)

October 24, Community Grants-AUSTRALIA
 October 31, Grant for Worldwide Tourism Research-UK
 January 15, MHC Small Grants-USA
 January 16, Travel Events Grants-USA
 U.S. and Egyptian Bank Create Major 'Green Loan' Fund, incl ECOTOURISM

EPICURUS (341-270 BC)

In the same way that the half-ignorant speak of “luxury ecolodges”, others associate Epicurus and Epicureanism with “gourmet” food, excess, exclusivity and pampering, confusing him with the crude hedonism of the Cyrenaics. Nothing can be further than the truth, as Epicurus championed moderation, communality, asceticism, reason, freedom from obsession, freedom of choice, indifference to wealth, fame and public offices, and preference to friendship and true knowledge of one’s self. Epicurus school, “the garden” (of his small house), a combination of a philosophical (eco? vegetarian?) community & school, was inclusive, accepting women and slaves as students. He was also the philosopher about whom a certain Karl Marx wrote his doctoral thesis.



Epicurus criticised of ignorance, irrational fear, religious divinity, and political authoritarianism in their name. He insisted upon the possibility for human freedom. He argued that man and nature, not “gods” is the “measure of all things” and was one of the first to view society and justice in terms of a practical “social contract”.

Epicurus was born in the Aegean island of Samos. He taught in several towns in Asia Minor, and in Lesbos, before going to Athens c.306 B.C. There he purchased the famous garden, the equivalent of Plato’s Academy or Aristotle’s Lyceum. He lived on the warmest terms with his followers who came from all over Greece. The Epicurean school remained active until the 4th century AD, with communities of Epicureans flourishing for 6 centuries after his death, unlike other philosophy schools. Although his writings were voluminous, over 300 manuscripts, only fragments remain through other authors, possibly because to the new Christian Church his theories appeared more subversive than those of other philosophers. Epicurus simply defined philosophy as the art of creating happiness, naming pleasure as the highest and only good. For Epicurus pleasure was not vulgar indulgence but just the opposite: *ataraxia* [serenity], and the alleviation of pain, or human suffering as we would say today. He emphasised the superiority of intellectual pleasures over bodily pleasures and proposed a code of social conduct, which advocated honesty, prudence, and justice in dealing with others, not because these virtues were good in themselves, as the Platonics believed, but because they would save the individual from society’s retribution. The Epicurean system deemphasized the traditional power of religious forces on human life and emphasised the human ability for rational choice and action. Among other things, Epicurus anticipated the modern doctrine of natural selection. He argued that natural forces give rise to organisms of different types and that only the types able to support and propagate themselves have survived. He suggested that even the atoms are free and move on occasion quite spontaneously; this principle is known today as the uncertainty principle of quantum mechanics.

The Epicurean philosophy is fully compatible with the principles of ecotourism as it advocates, knowledge, community spirit, rational choice, moderation, tranquility, friendship, respect for rules and the community, and pro-activeness.

Sources & Further Reading:

<http://www.utm.edu/departments/artsci/ppr/fieser/110/unit5/epicurea.htm>

<http://www.epicurus.net/index.html>

<http://www.atomic-swerve.net/tpg/intro.html>

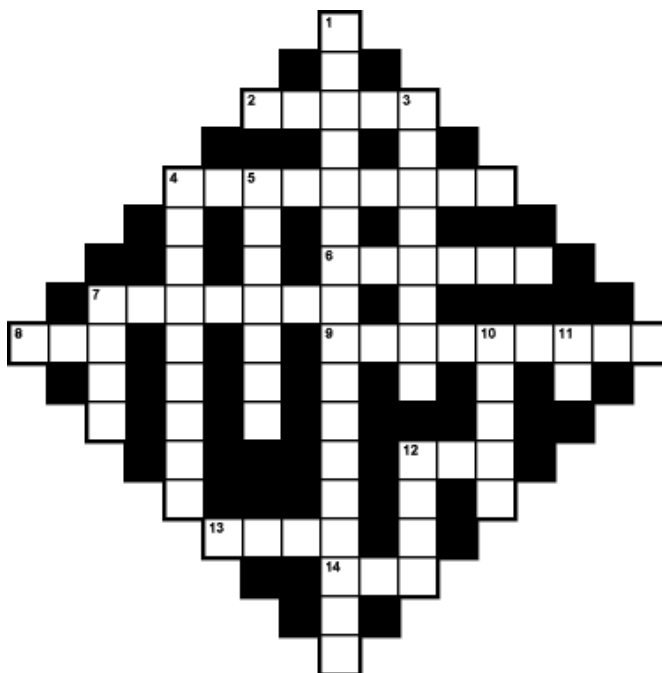
<http://classics.mit.edu/Epicurus/princdoc.html>

<http://www.nd.edu/Departments/Maritain/etext/jmoral04.htm>

- **Land for Sale in Tinos Island, Greece**
Details at: <http://ecoclub.com/classifieds/forum.html>

Order your Classified Ad at <http://ecoclub.com/orderADV7.html>

October 2003: BIRDS



Email the solution (in text form: 1=, 2= etc.) to: a@ecoclub.com
 The first correct answer will win a surprise gift from the [ECOCLUB.com Shop](http://ecoclub.com/Shop)

Across

- 2 Nepalese Bird of Evergreen forests above 1200 m. (5)
- 4 Sole member of the family *Oxyruncidae* (9)
- 6 *Calidris Alpina* (6)
- 7 Small short-billed auk abundant in arctic regions (7)
- 8 *Gymnomyza samoensis* and name of famous Leader (3)
- 9 Native to central Siberia winters in China, notable for its long, swanlike beak. (4,5)
- 12 Greek Isle, and extremely playful New Zealand alpine parrot (3)
- 13 One of most familiar and widespread birds in Britain (4)
- 14 World's Second largest bird (3)

Down

- 1 Sub-antarctic Parrot, endemic to Antipodes Island. (9,8)
- 3 Small Hawaiian honeycreeper (8)
- 4 New Zealand Bird also known as Wax Eye (9)
- 5 Hawaiian critically endangered bird (7)
- 7 Extinct since 1680 (4)
- 10 Rose Breasted Cockatoos Of Australia (5)
- 11 Open University (2)
- 12 Secretive bird that prowls the forest floor in New Caledonia (4)

ECOCLUB is published every month and also appears on-line at <http://ecoclub.com/news> To subscribe to the Print Edition, please see <http://ecoclub.com/join5.html>

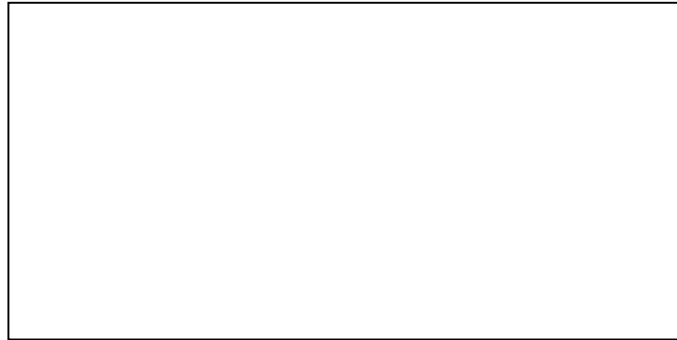
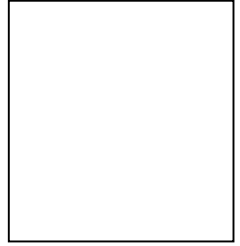
We welcome article contributions from readers. Article Guidelines, can be found at <http://ecoclub.com/news/information.html>

Disclaimer: Any views expressed in this newspaper belong to their respective authors and are not necessarily those of ECOCLUB S.A. Although we try to check all facts, we accept no liability for inaccuracies - which means please do not take any travel or other decisions based only on what you read here... Use of this newspaper is covered by the Terms & Conditions of the ECOCLUB.com Website as stated at <http://ecoclub.com/terms.html> and by your uncommon sense and good humour.

Copyright © 1999-2003 ECOCLUB S.A. All rights reserved.



ECOCLUB S.A., PO BOX 65232, PSIHICO,
ATHENS, 154 10 - GREECE



printed on non-chlorinated paper