

AVEC

Integrated Assessment of Vulnerable Ecosystems under Global Change

Peyresq, Provence
Sep 14-27, 2003



...my closing remarks
and observations...

What is AVEC?

A "Concerted Action", sponsored by the European Union (FP5, 600k)...

...under the "Specific Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration", on

...Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development



AVEC SC: Dagmar, Uta, Volkmar, Wolfgang, Christian, Gerhard, Bob & Rik



Denis Peter,
European
Commission

AVEC looks at...

- ...services provided by European ecosystems (agriculture, forestry, freshwater, recreation, biodiversity, carbon sequestration etc...),
- ...climate and land use change,
- ...vulnerability of human society to changes in ecosystem service provision

Integrated Assessment

considers...

- multiple **forcings** (climate, land use, pollution, etc.)
- multiple **impacts** (yield, biodiversity, transport, etc.)

...using a **consistent** methodology

Poster sessions

- Showed participants' ongoing work with respect to vulnerability



Keynote lectures

- Did **not** provide one coherent picture of vulnerability
- Were thought-provocative
- Provided (some) material for group work

Lectures

- Monique Lejoly
- Jean "de Peyresq"
- Wolfgang Cramer
- Dagmar Schröter
- Robert Nicholls
- Anne de la Vega-Leinert
- Pierre Frapa
- Tim Carter
- Gordon Sillence
- Rik Leemans
- Mark Rounsevell
- Christian Körner
- Fabien Quetier
- Harald Bugmann
- Jacqui de Chazal
- Klemens Ekschmitt
- Zbigniew Kundzewicz
- Sara Vassolo
- Mike Ahern
- Otto Schäfer-Guignier
- Stephen Sitch
- Pete Smith
- Rik Leemans (again)
- Gary Yohe
- Monika Zurek
- Marc Metzger
- Carlo Jaeger
- Everybody
- Wolfgang Cramer (again)

Field trip

- Looked at ecosystem (service) vulnerability to land use change in Haute-Provence



Working groups

- clarified open questions from keynote lectures ? *I think so.*
- considered lectures with respect to selected world regions ? *Certainly.*
- explored different views on vulnerability, based on participant and tutor experience ? *Wow, lot's of it...*

A few observations...

- Different selection of stakeholders for different scenarios
- Aggregation across sectors is easier at the local scale, but always problematic
- Selection of stakeholders influences the outcome of the assessment (all groups)
- Numbers **may** help the assessment and **may** convey messages (but not always)
- Does vulnerability assessment always find high vulnerability?
- Powerpoint presentations don't always work as expected

A new vulnerability theory?

- Providence, ethics & solidarity
- Who is vulnerable...
...and to what?
- Quantitative vulnerability assessment (VA)...
...based on what data and how good are the data?

A few notes on process:

- A good audience can do miracles for lecturers!
- Groups seem to have spent more time assessing socio-political / economic aspects than ecosystems or climate
- Five to six people can get a lot done in two weeks

Where do we all go from here?

- The science process:
 - perhaps we know the gaps in our knowledge better than before?
(tutors, lecturers and students alike)
 - inter- and transdisciplinarity are self-evident necessities, and often exciting
 - conceptual development works best when a clear problem is on the table
- Politics and citizenship:
 - sustainable development goals can transcend our work without the actual use of the term
 - advocacy for sustainability **may** work without doomsday scenarios – if based on a credible systems analysis

Vulnerability
assessment...

...may end up
being a
balancing act...

...and requires
dedication!



Manon, September 20, 2003

Heureux
Anniversaire

Andya

Le Nature
Douce
30-0