University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Ecological and Environmental Anthropology (University of Georgia)

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

1-1-2007

A Message from the Editors

The Editors

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmeea

Part of the Environmental Sciences Commons

Editors, The, "A Message from the Editors" (2007). *Ecological and Environmental Anthropology (University of Georgia)*. Paper 15.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmeea/15

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ecological and Environmental Anthropology (University of Georgia) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Letters

A Message from the Editors

During the last fifty years, there have been rising concerns about human impacts on the environment: biodiversity loss, overexploitation of species, habitat degradation, global warming, pollution, poverty, and the increasing gap in global development. The outcomes of these environmental problems and impacts on the human condition are uncertain. Previously, theoretical literature integrating environment and development issues had been scarce. However, in recent decades, new approaches in human dimensions research have emerged which seek to understand the major causes of change in the environment, and how these causes vary over time, across space, and between social groups and economic sectors.[1] Environmental problems have entered the realm of urgency and are gaining attention in public policy, prime-time media, and everyday conversations.

The articles and book reviews in this issue underscore the crucial role that the field of anthropology can play in helping to identify the causes and the roots of environmental problems and global insecurities, and the impact of those insecurities on the human condition. Interdisciplinary perspectives offered by the growing fields of ecological and environmental anthropology and constructive social science can offer rich, practical insights into biodiversity conservation and natural resource management from a more people-centered perspective. Ecological and environmental anthropology and similar fields dedicated to the study of human-environment relations can offer possible solutions to environmental problems by informing public policy of alternative knowledge systems and by drawing attention to the impacts of policy and macro-level processes on local lives, human health, and regional economies.

As anthropology finds itself enriched by new trajectories of thought and practice, including the emerging and rapidly growing field of environmental anthropology, it is inevitable that new theoretical, methodological, and epistemological concerns are raised. Understanding the human condition in the context of today's expedited globalization process is not possible without addressing broader social, political, environmental, and economic questions about how the world works. More interdisciplinary work and integrative methodological approaches which incorporate a combination of quantitative or spatial analysis with ethnographic and other qualitative methods can provide valuable insight to complex social and environmental problems.

We at *Ecological and Environmental Anthropology* hope to promote socially sound forms of conservation and natural resource management through more efficient dissemination of knowledge and research, as presented in this open-access, online format. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Warm Regards,

The Editors

[1] National Research Council. 1999. *Human Dimensions of Global Change: Research Pathways for the Next Decade*. 1-40 pp.