

BOOK REVIEWS

1. Professor Marlen Arnold, Technical University of Munich, Freising, Germany, 3 *Ökologisches Wirtschaften* (“Ecological Management”), 55, 2009

The author, Edward Christie, introduces his readers to a challenging thematic in which he effectively brings together a legal and scientific perspective for the solution of environmental conflicts, thereby providing a bridge between the two approaches.

In the book the author addresses jurists, scientists, the legislator, engineers and planners and introduces different juristic principles and embeds these into scientific conceptions, thereby introducing his readers from different disciplines to a new interdisciplinary approach.

This bridge building exercise results in a new interdisciplinary basis from which environmental problems can be solved collaboratively. **It is in this interdisciplinary context that the author offers far-reaching alternatives, examples and solutions for conflict negotiations, which he describes successfully and correctly.**

The book advocates a juristic and scientific perspective and discusses global environmental problems to which contemporary society is exposed. Additionally, the author critically reflects on these problems and offers bridges and alternative solutions for environmental conflicts.

The reader also is presented with numerous scientific concepts, perspectives and juristic positions and how environmental conflict solutions in a context of tension and power can be achieved.

In sum the political and juristic positions in Australia, Great Britain and the USA are dominant in the book and so are the options offered for environmental conflict solutions. However, the book equally offers numerous concrete options for environmental conflict solutions which can be effectively applied across other countries and cultures.

**2. Sanmeet Kaur, Lecturer in Law, City University, London
LL.B (Queen Mary College, London and Universiteit Leiden) LL.M (UCL)
19 *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law*, 366, 2010**

“Edward Christie adopts an inter-disciplinary approach in this book to evaluating conflict-resolution models in the management and resolution of environmental conflicts. He considers the interplay between lawyers, scientists and policy makers in three jurisdictions, namely Australia, the UK and the USA.

He employs a comparative approach to examining how environmental conflicts arise and are managed.... this comparative approach is a major strength of the book...

In this book, Christie systematically analyses the characteristics of environmental conflicts and how the disciplines of law, science and policy making can and do converge to resolve such conflicts.

This book is a valuable resource for academics and professional involved in environmental law, environmental science, and policy making as well as those involved in dispute resolution”.

3. Karin Johnsrud, 37 International Journal of Legal Information, 254, 2009

“Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation is a well-written book that provides the reader with a clear understanding of the issues that generally arise in environmental conflicts, how those issues are addressed through litigation and the administrative decision-making process, and how using ADR can produce more equitable and long-lasting solutions.

With a background in ecology, environmental law, and mediation, Edward Christie is knowledgeable about the subject of the book and has the expertise needed to tie the distinct areas together”.

4. Patricia Hania BAS, LL.M-ADR, M.E.S, PhD, Candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University Toronto, Canada, 11 Environmental Law Review, 318, 2009

“[Christie]... combines science and law into a problem-solving method that is based on ADR principles to ensure that the scope of the book presents a cross-disciplinary viewpoint where neither wholly legal nor wholly scientific perspectives dominate.

[The] book is directed at a diverse audience, including the 'lawyer, scientist, engineer, planner ... as well as indigenous peoples” who can bring 'traditional indigenous knowledge' to the negotiating table.

Moreover, given that the book is written in highly accessible language, it is possible that a layperson such as a member of a local community group might consider consulting this book when creating a strategy to engage effectively in an environmental conflict.

...five [of the book] chapters [sustainability; EIA; risk, precaution and the environment: biotechnology – GMOs; hazardous chemicals and public health; and biodiversity and threatened species] provide a wealth of information to understand the critical issues pertaining to the subject matter and to evaluate, as well as select, the most appropriate dispute resolution process - that is, litigation or negotiation, which are both tied to the disputant's source of power.

In sum, Christie offers a pragmatic, solution oriented book on ADR... interwoven with a discussion of the relevant environmental law principles and scientific concepts (for example, the precautionary principle and the concepts of critical habitat and habitat change, to name a few, and the scientific perspective of causation, which differs from the legal perspective).

Although Christie focuses on disputes in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, many of the issues he raises are generic to disputes in other jurisdictions, such as Canada.

5. 12 *New Zealand Journal of Environmental Law*, 339, 2008

“*Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts: Power and Negotiation* addresses the growth of environmental law, principles and concepts, matters of public interest and participation, and the approaches available in finding consensual agreement which may integrate law, science, and alternative dispute resolution.

The book provides information and guidance on a cross-disciplinary approach using ADR processes, and will appeal to not only professionals but also indigenous communities and environmental groups.

It adopts an international perspective in the information provided”.

5. Frances Kabat, 16 *Buffalo Environmental Law Journal*, 135, 2008-2009

“Edward Christie’s *Finding Solutions for Environmental Conflicts* does more than just analyze the processes through which environmental conflicts can be resolved. The text takes its readers through the basic principles of the environmental decision-making process and explains how litigation, in addition to alternative dispute resolution techniques such as negotiation, can be used to address environmental problems.

What makes Christie’s text unique is that it helps readers to understand the legal system of not only the United States, but of the United Kingdom and Australia as well, providing readers with a broad sense of the interactions of law and environmental decision-making processes in other common law nations...

This perspective helps readers understand the truly global nature of environmental conflict and the different strategies that can be employed to resolve these conflicts”.