

er will be central to forthcoming debates and conflicts over sustainable development. These include environment and security, the role of cities, tourism, corporate accountability, water, fishing, energy and consumption and production. Finally, Felix Dodds provides an invaluable analysis of possible reforms that would increase the capacity of international institutions to promote transitions towards sustainable development. Given the wide range of authors, the style of the chapters and depth of analysis (and insight) varies. However, each chapter aims to provide an accessible overview of the issues at stake, future objectives and suggested reforms.

This book is not primarily aimed at academics. Rather it is an attempt to set the political agenda in the run up to Johannesburg. However, it is an incredibly useful resource for teaching and research, both in terms of the range of valuable information and the visions for sustainable development laid out within its pages. Compared to much academic literature, a spirit of unapologetic realism can be found in most of the chapters. Even so, one wonders whether the ideas within the book will be anywhere near as influential as its authors hope.

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**Climate Policy and Development: Flexible Instruments and Developing Countries** edited by Axel Michaelowa and Michael Dutschke. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2000. Pp.xvi + 264; index. £59.95 (hardback). ISBN 1 84064 331 5

Flexible mechanisms, including emissions trading (ET), joint implementation ('activities implemented jointly' or AIJ) and the clean development mechanisms (CDM), are increasingly prominent in climate change policy negotiations and have spawned a whole new set of acronyms. They have been widely hailed as the important means by which industrialised countries will meet their targets under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and by which North-South co-operation will be brought about. The mechanisms have been hotly debated particularly at recent Conferences of the Parties to the (climate) Convention which have shown that critical issues still threaten the successful implementation of the Kyoto targets. Offering eight chapters written by climate change specialists, this edited book brings to light these controversies with special focus on the definition and implementation of flexible instruments.

The central concern of Michaelowa's introductory chapter is the need for an institutional framework capable of verifying emissions trading and policing fictitious ET permits. The framework should also facilitate the defining, monitoring, evaluation, verification and certification guidelines for AIJ and CDM projects. Michaelowa examines which type of projects can be developed using these instruments, and the opportunities for reconciling private companies, local authorities and NGO demands. Sandra Greiner's chapter identifies four major stakeholders groups in the climate debate (delegates of investing countries, delegates of host countries, environmental and development NGOs and business associations) and describes their contradictory perspectives on the flexible instruments. Applying public choice theory, she asserts that including such a variety of instruments in the Protocol was a consequence of stakeholders' conflicting agendas rather than a strategy for efficient abatement programmes.

The two subsequent chapters and the editors' final chapter discuss economic, institutional and managerial aspects of flexible mechanisms. Each chapter investigates different approaches to baseline calculations and the structure for implementing various mechanisms. Generally speaking, these chapters offer powerful insights indicating suitable directions for clean development mechanisms, but the drawback is that they analyse the same topics separately, making the reading rather repetitive in places.

The central part of the book turns to the analysis of ongoing pilot projects. Regina Betz reviews the implementation of CDM renewable energy oriented projects in Indonesia. She argues that there is a need to identify which key criteria are missing in the implementation and evaluation of such projects at the local level. Michael Dutschke focuses on Costa Rica's AIJ pilot phase initiative and reveals how the high number and public profile of Costa Rican projects have often masked the lack of finance and investors, disparities in the establishment of baselines, and problems of financial additionality.

From a development perspective, the editors' final comments on positive and negative externalities of flexible instruments' projects are important. For example, they believe that projects might bring local capacity building, improvement of distribution, reduction of local pollutants and protection of biodiversity among other benefits. However, they recognise that projects might also bring negative impacts such as displacement of people, loss of arable land or unemployment in the local context. The effect of these positive and negative externalities is highly dependent on the local political and social situation and, the editors conclude, 'the question of how to weight them will be crucial for the success of these projects' (p.227).

The book optimistically assesses the role for flexible instruments in offsetting carbon emissions and contributing to sustainable development in developing countries. Some chapters also highlight the importance of developed countries' ability to undertake meaningful domestic actions despite political resistance of particular lobbying groups (see pp.207, 210). Overall, the book is technical but engaging. It has the potential to help those scholars with little background in climate change policy deal with its complex politics. It is likely to be of interest to researchers in environmental sciences and climate change, and those policy makers and practitioners responsible for studying, designing and implementing AIJ and CDM projects.

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**War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring** by Edmund Russell. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Pp.xvii + 315; index. £35 (hardback); £12.95 (paperback). ISBN 0 521 79003 4 and 79937 6

Thinking about war and nature usually takes place within separate spheres. In general, we distinguish between war and peace, military and civilian life, the abnormal and the normal. *War and Nature* challenges this separation. In a highly original study Edmund Russell reveals how war and domination of nature co-evolved: war expanded the scale on which people controlled nature, the control over nature expanded the scale of war.

Russell unfolds his argument by exploring the relationship between chemical warfare and pest control in the twentieth century. Drawing on a wealth of primary