

AVEC

Integrated Assessment of Vulnerable Ecosystems under Global Change

Peyresq, Provence
Sep 14-27, 2003



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



Saxony, Germany, August 2002

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Burgundy, France, August 2003

Global Change (GC)

- Change in
 - human society (population, economy, culture)
 - climate
- For ecosystems, GC expresses itself mostly in
 - changing CO₂, temperature, water availability, extreme events
 - changing land use

Integrated Assessment

considers...

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

...using a **consistent** methodology

What is AVEC?

A "Concerted Action", sponsored by the European Union...

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

...Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development

Denis Peter,
European
Commission



Position in EU FP5

Key Action 2: Global Change, Climate and Biodiversity

2.2 To foster better understanding of terrestrial (including freshwater) and marine ecosystems and their interactions

2.2.1 Ecosystem vulnerability, in support of the Conventions of Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity

How AVEC works

- Theme-oriented workshops
- Training workshop
- Commissioned papers
- Conference
- Networking (steering committee)



AVEC Workshops

- Vulnerability of services provided by drought-prone ecosystems (2003)
- Vulnerability of services provided by ecosystems subjected to land abandonment (2004)
- Joint conference with Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2004)

How we will work in Peyresq

- Keynote lectures (23 speakers)
- Working groups (6)
- Poster sessions
- Field trip

Keynote lectures

- Are **not** intended to provide one coherent picture of vulnerability
- Will (hopefully) be thought-provocative
- Provide material for group work

Working groups

- clarify open questions from keynote lectures
- consider lectures with respect to selected world regions
- explore different views on vulnerability, based on participant and tutor experience

Poster sessions

- Explore participants' ongoing work with respect to vulnerability



Field trip

- Looks at ecosystem service vulnerability to 20th century land use change in Haute-Provence