

# Ecological solidarity: reconnecting people to the biosphere

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# General context



# The evolution of the environmental issues and their management in the EU

- Europeanisation
- “Territorialisation” of environmental policies
  - Regulation that supports
    - decentralization processes;
    - local development projects and dynamics;
    - political and social dialogue;
  - Incitation to negotiate approach with local stakeholders
  - Transparency of information (Aarhus convention)



- Urgency Paradigme
- « We must protect the environment ! »  
(Lascoumes, 1994)
- Evidence... uncertainty
- Confusions
  - Wilderness, natures
  - Social mutations
  - Domestic vs wild
  - Knowledge



# Ecological issues and conservation policies...

- The alarmist line
  - Signs of forthcoming collapse ;
  - Extrapolation of scientific knowledge;
  - The willingness to intervene with political decision to integrate uncertainty;
- Restriction of the possibilities of future choices;
- Permanence of an emergency state or denunciation of the stagnation
- New decision-making process

## Conservation issues

### From fencing nature to networking nature

- Conserving a functional nature
  - Common species and habitats shape the world
- Conserving outside protected areas
  - No protected area is an island
- Conserving at large scales
  - Big problem big governance
  - Local action and global thinking

# The issue at stake now!

- Globalization of space
- Globalization of action
- Globalization of consequences
- Globalization of Age
  
- Fight between Natura as Machine vs as Web or Celebration
- The outcome
  - A new cosmology
    - Transcending anthropocentrism and cultures (Callicot, Descola)
    - Sense of place and sense of Age (from anesthesia to aesthesis)
  
  - A new neo-liberal control of nature
  - Risk to move from blind flying to an obsessive control of nature (mean vs end) a form of totalitarianism



**RIO+20**

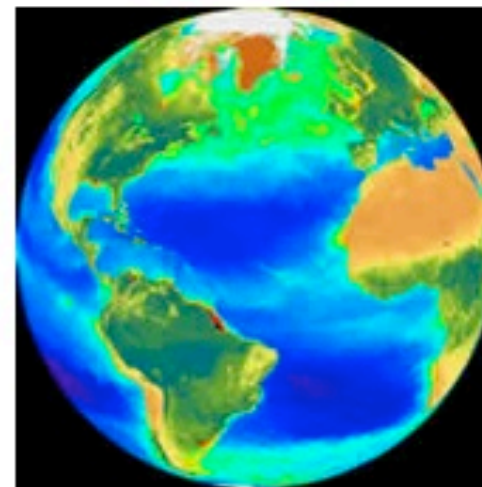
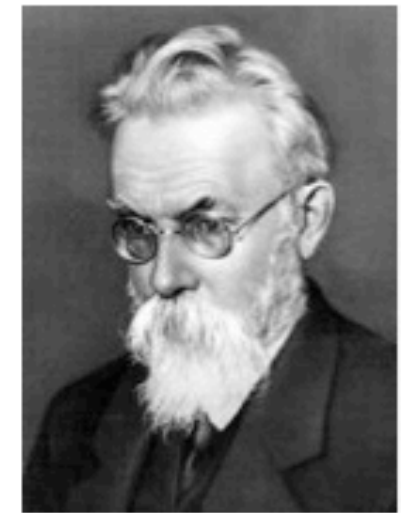
United Nations Conference  
on Sustainable Development



Edouard Suess (1831-1914)

Vladimir Vernadsky (1863-1945)

- the biosphere can be defined as all living beings (humans included) and the dynamic relations that exist among them and between them and the constituent abiotic elements of the planet.
- Le passage de la notion d'interdépendance entre les composantes de cette biosphère à la notion de solidarité permet de souligner la communauté de destin entre l'homme, la société et son environnement.



# Ecological solidarity

- we define ecological solidarity as the reciprocal interdependence of living organisms amongst each other and with spatial and temporal variation in their physical environment. It has two main elements, one factual associated with the dynamics of ecological processes and biodiversity in space and time, the other, normative, based on recognition that human beings are an integral part of ecosystem function

(Mathevet et al. 2010)

- This concept integrates both issues related to (1) the ecological connectivity and coherence of the components of any landscape and (2) the need to adopt social and ecologically responsible policy for biodiversity conservation

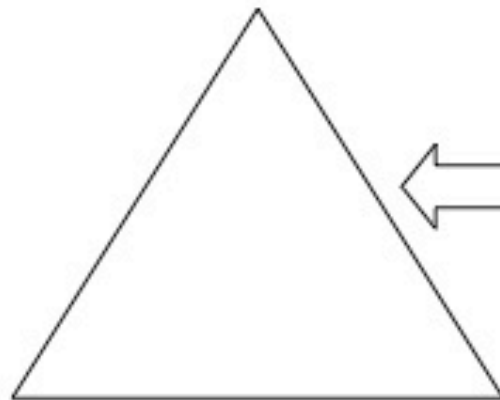
(Thompson et al. 2011)

Solidarity  
Ecological debt  
Natural contract



Integration to society's space  
Ethic of responsibility  
Adaptation

Ecocentrism



Biocentrism

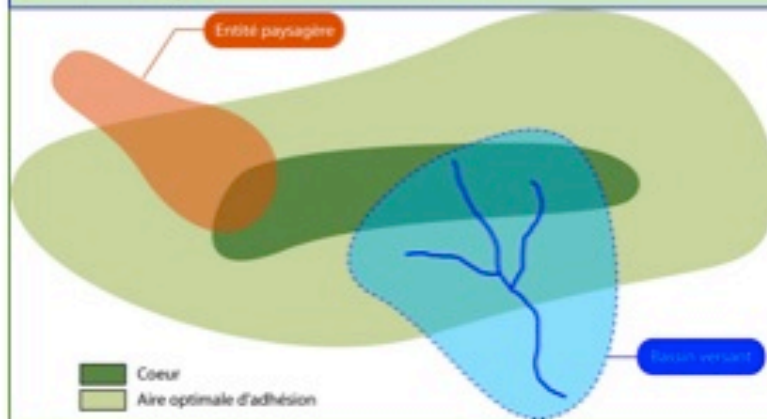
Anthropocentrism

Pragmatic  
compromise

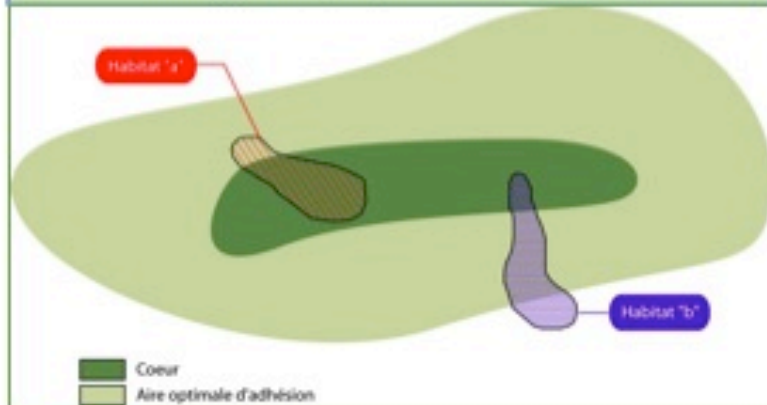


# Typology of ecological solidarities

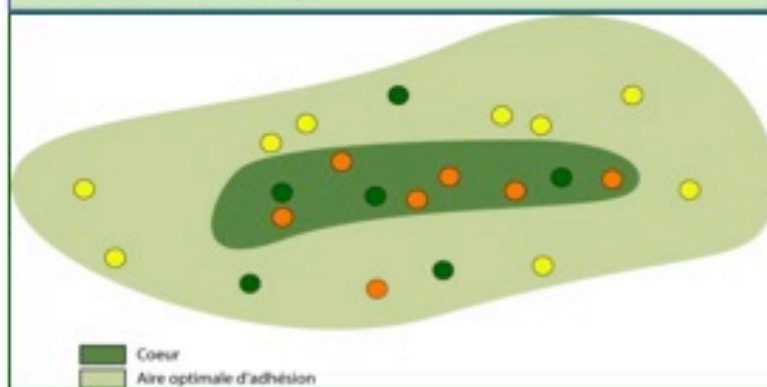
## 1. Landscape units and watersheds



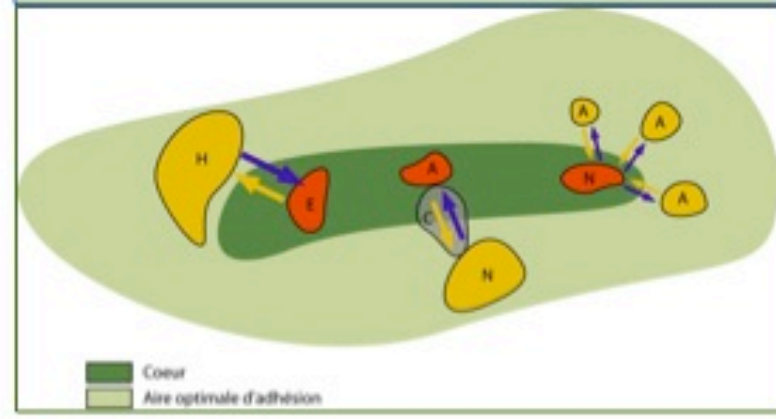
## 2. Minimum dynamic area



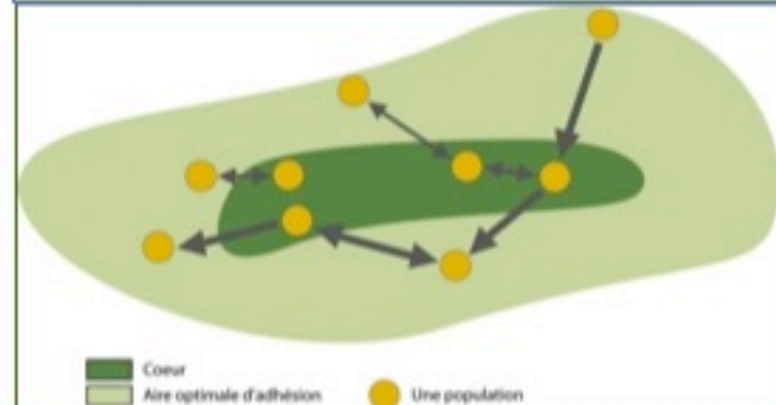
## 3. Complementarity



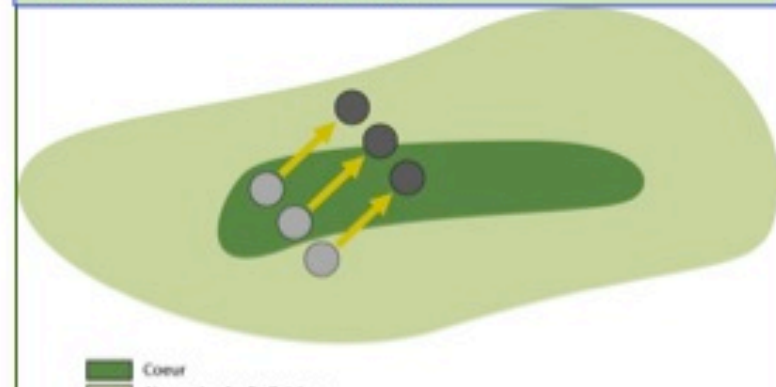
## 4. Mouvement of individuals



## 5. Meta-population dynamics



## 6. Species distribution change



- *Our schematic typology is based on three key features:*
  - (i) the sense of community of life (ownerships) that leads an actor to support non-human beings or another person. The actor or social group believes that he shares certain values and objectives with all or some of the community members;*
  - (ii) the voluntary obligation (stewardship and care) to support non-human beings or another person. The actor or social group believes they are more able to achieve these objectives more than the others;*
  - (iii) obligations (rights and social rules) to support others and collaborate with nature.*

## Sociological principles of ecological solidarities

Sociological Process	Principles			Examples of conservation tool or instruments
	Ownership	Stewardship	Obligation	
Deep solidarity	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Educational programs and hands-on experiences to teach the public about environmental issues and values.</li> <li>✓ Increasing the capacity of the audience to engage in conservation</li> <li>✓ Supply information to consumers about the biodiversity impacts of purchasing decisions.</li> <li>✓ Incentives targeted directly to persons who might donate their money to conservation efforts.</li> </ul>
Opportune solidarity	-	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Efforts to persuade land owners or users to endorse conservation goals and efforts to build their conservation capacity</li> <li>✓ Collective engagement of all key stakeholders and willingness to compromise</li> </ul>
Calculated solidarity	X	X	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Technical assistance;</li> <li>✓ Awards, which signal community conservation efforts;</li> <li>✓ Stewardship awards, and certification program of lands and products meeting environmental management standards</li> </ul>
Driven solidarity	X	-	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Regulatory prohibitions and requirements</li> <li>✓ Educational program and ethical approach</li> </ul>
Self-interested solidarity	-	X	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Direct incentives for private conservation action (payments for positive conservation actions or taxes imposed on actions that negatively affect the environment).</li> <li>✓ Tax credits or forgiveness of debts or rewarding person with relaxation of other regulatory standards;</li> <li>✓ Market creation and improvement (mitigation requirements; trading of carbon credits, markets for the esthetic value of biodiversity such as ecotourism)</li> </ul>
Imposed solidarity	-	-	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Government or NGO acquisition of land or resource rights</li> <li>✓ Regulatory prohibitions and requirements</li> </ul>
Radical solidarity	X	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Education and culture</li> </ul>
Altruistic solidarity	-	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Education and culture</li> </ul>

The transition towards the ecological solidarity

- Recognizing both ecological and social functional interdependences;
- Explicating these interdependences to fight against inequalities and environmental injustices ;
- Knowing the limits of the biosphere to confine our behaviors;
- Enlarging the community and the sense of belonging;
- Change the social model to change the economic model: integrating the ecological solidarities

- The ecological solidarity:
  - Interdependences between spaces;
  - Supporting the consequences of this interdependency:
    - Being solidary for the access to biodiversity;
    - Being solidary with the other living forms;
- The ecological solidarity as the basics of the integrated management of landscapes
- Territorialising the biodiversity





## Conclusion

- Recognizing the relationships between facts/values/actions;
- Looking for the plurality of attachment values related to ecological solidarity;
- Performing a reconnection between ecological processes, practices, cultural references and public policies





références