they can look up the appendices that give acronyms, glossaries and toxicological information for selected chemicals. Environmental toxicology, like so much of science, serves up a constant diet of acronym soup. The three pages of Appendix A help make some of it digestible. But not all. The author starts to refer to hazardous waste management facilities as TSDFs on Page 7. The acronym is never explained. My best-guess is Toxic Safe Disposal Facilities.

During the time that I was Science Adviser to what was then the EPA in Canberra, I wrote (Beer and Ziolkowski, 1995) that

“the topic of risk can be likened to an onion. It is composed of many layers, each subsuming the underneath layers. It is fascinating, however, to find that it is a topic in which each single layer of the onion believes itself to be the whole onion.”

I am concerned at the increasing tendency for environmental toxicologists to appropriate the word risk assessment as a catch-phrase to describe their activities. Risk assessment is not synonymous with environmental toxicology. An environmental manager who fails to note the sub-title of this book and looks for guidance on risk assessment in areas outside of chemical contamination will be disappointed. The use of risk assessment to examine climate change, natural hazards, forest policy, endangered species, or urban and rural development, to name just a few, lie outside the author’s scope.

The topic of chemical contamination is especially relevant in the US because, as mentioned on Page 53, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) set up a Superfund. The Superfund exists to cover the liability of owners and operators for the cost of removal or remedial action and damages following the release or threat of release of hazardous waste. This legislation proved lucrative for the legal fraternity because many of those potentially liable for payments under the act opted for litigation rather than payment. This was also a boon for consultants who could then offer their expertise to the lawyers, and this book would be useful for students who fancy themselves in this regard.

The USEPA is a leader in the development of risk assessment as a tool with which to quantify environmental decision-making. As a result the author cursorily passes over the international dimension of managing chemicals in the environment. As Kellow (1999) points out, the national dimension and the international dimension on this issue lead to diametrically opposed management policies.

Given that this review is being written for Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment, I looked up each of these words in the index. There was a whole page of index entries for the word ‘environmental’, which ranged from environmental assessment to environmental restoration programs. Neither ‘agriculture’ nor ‘ecosystem’ rates a mention. There are, however, numerous entries under ‘ecological’. The main thrust of the book is human health risk assessment, so that it is pleasing to find about 20 pages devoted to ecological risk assessment, albeit as posed by chemical contamination.

**References**


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**Checklist for Sustainable Landscape Management**


The full title, “Checklist for Sustainable Landscape Management, Final report of the concerted EU action AIR3-CT93-1210: The Landscape and Nature Production Capacity of Organic/Sustainable Types of Agriculture”, provides a good background not only on
the scope of this book, but also introduces something on the style of the book. The book is a detailed report on the findings of an interdisciplinary study team. The approach has been a “concerted action”, and the approach of the team has been comprehensive, complex and intensive. The book following a report format has Chapter 1 providing an introduction and Chapter 2 providing the methodology of the study. Here the style is intensive and a little overbearing and, although there is much excellent information, many readers will be tempted to scan through these pages. Indeed the intensity of the reporting style used throughout the book often detracts from its readability. The strength of this book is the depth of really useful information given in the result sections (Chapter 3), where checklists for sustainable landscape management are comprehensively described. Here valuable information for scientists, planners and students is found: the information is provided as a concentrated resource rather than as a text with a consistent flow. Finally, Chapter 4 gives an assessment of organic agriculture within this full definition of sustainable agriculture.

The background for the book is the changes in land-use, resulting in changes in landscape and the subsequent demands and responsibilities of society and its institutions. This background is one of the main issues for agricultural landscape integrity early in this new century. The central thesis is that humanity depends on living nature to survive and now nature also depends on humanity for its survival as well. Hence the requirement for understanding in detail the abiotic and biotic environment and ecology of a landscape, and, importantly, the sociological, economic and psychological factors that are also part of a landscape. Again it is important to comment on the detail provided here; for example, qualities such as “recuperative and inspiring sensory qualities like smells, sounds and visual elements, under absence of notoriously intrusive and stressing impressions” are well covered. The checklist has a multitude of targets.

The authors describe the ‘product’ of the book as providing a comprehensive set of general standards and analytical tools of reference. This product is certainly provided. It will be frustrating for some readers that the book is difficult to read, but I am sure that it will be used and appreciated as a valuable resource for policy planning and implementation.

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Against the Grain: Agri-Environmental Reform in the United States and the European Union

To appreciate this book one must have an interest and preferably some knowledge of agricultural policy. Policy decisions of the past have frequently had unintended consequences, particularly in terms of environmental degradation. More recently, there have been policy changes to reverse this trend. The central argument of the book is that in order to appreciate the significance of the policy reforms of the 1980s and 1990s and predict where they are going, it is necessary to understand why they occurred and how they were accomplished. In the introduction to the book the author sets the scene and gives an outline of each of the chapters of the book.

When governments began to intervene seriously in the incomes of farmers they assumed prosperous family farmers make best environmental stewards. Chapter 1 follows the results of this assumption, particularly in the US, and the rise of environmentalists who contended that it was not so. However, it was not until budgetary pressures joined environmental concern that reform began to take place. Chapter 2 explains that the onset of agri-environmental reform took place at the same time in many countries, more due to these budgetary pressures than environmental ones.

The middle chapters of the book compare the experiences of the US, UK and European Union in development of agri-environmental policy. Differences in political culture, policy traditions and institutional procedures have caused differences in the rate of progress and direction of policy in the different countries. The US has been characterised by some