

## **African Society for Ecological Economics / La Société Africaine d'Economie Ecologique (ASEE): A Post-Montreal Progress Note**

The Steering Committee of the ASEE is pleased to announce the following progress since the ISEE-Montreal Conference held in July 2004:

### ***1. Announcing ASEE and membership drive***

ASEE has now launched her own website: <http://www.ecoecoafrika.org/>. Press notes announcing ASEE were also featured in the British Ecological Society Bulletin and in African Farming Magazine in 2004. The ASEE steering committee and ASEE membership has continued to reach out to and invite relevant individuals and institutions in Africa to join the new society. Anyone interested in learning more about ASEE and/or making an application to join the society is invited to visit the ASEE web-site at the address noted above, where they will find the terms and conditions for ASEE membership as well as details on ASEE history, activities and future plans.

Over 60 individuals are now registered as full active members of ASEE and this is comprised of 10 full Professors, 22 PhD degree holders, and 36 others including postgraduate students and employees of relevant NGOs or government ministries. ASEE membership covers all five regions of the continent and 18 separate African countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon/Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo/République démocratique du Kongo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Maroc, Nigeria, Sénégal, South Africa, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, and also includes Africans in Diaspora.

### ***2. Review of constitution and plans for legal incorporation in Africa***

The ASEE Steering Committee has now revised the ASEE constitution based on comments received from ISEE. As part of this revision, we have introduced a membership structure that will hopefully address some of the issues raised in Montreal regarding Africans in Diaspora as well as non-Africans working in Africa. The revised constitution can be found on the ASEE website. Africans normally resident in OECD countries are required to register as active members

of the appropriate regional societies where they reside in order to enjoy the benefits of ASEE membership.

The ASEE Steering Committee has agreed to incorporate ASEE in Kenya, a decision based on experiences of existing African networks and e-mail discussions among committee members. Kenya was specifically favoured because of its hospitable existing legal framework and a 5-member sub-committee has been set up to take this work forward.

### ***3. Conferences and training***

The ASEE Steering Committee has agreed to hold the first ASEE biennial regional society conference in Cameroon (tentative date - December 2005). This decision followed e-mail discussions and considerations for member's preferences, logistics and costs. Cameroon was specifically favoured because it is a bi-lingual country. By holding the first ASEE regional society conference in Cameroon the ASEE is demonstrating its firm commitment to operate as a pan-African, bi-lingual society, where the interest of the Anglophone and Francophone members will be met. In addition to the standard conference structure plenary and parallel sessions, training and capacity building sessions will also be a major component of the Cameroon conference. A 5-member committee has been set up to take this forward.

### ***4. Information Dissemination***

The ASEE Secretariat now sends out monthly circulars summarising the e-meetings, matters arising and decisions reached by the ASEE Steering Committee. An ASEE Newsletter is being planned to take off soon with 2 bi-lingual editors both from North Africa – allowing the ASEE Newsletter to be produced in English and French. The committee has also agreed to produce all ASEE documents: the constitution and other relevant documents in English and French. This bi-lingual policy is believed to be of importance to ensure that the views of the Anglophone and Francophone Africans are duly represented.

To know more about ASEE please visit our website: <http://www.ecoecoafrika.org/>  
To contact ASEE, please e-mail the Secretariat at [secretariat@ecoecoafrika.org](mailto:secretariat@ecoecoafrika.org),  
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