



CALL TO PAPERS

Hunting, rural areas, territories and sustainable development: Tools for analysis, stakes and prospects

The French Society of Rural Economics (SFER) proposes to hold a two-day symposium on "**Hunting, rural areas, territories and sustainable development: Tools for analysis, stakes and prospects**". The objective will be to:

- to draw up an inventory of the research and studies undertaken by social and human sciences (anthropology, law, geography, history, economics, sciences political, sciences of management, sociology...) in this field and particularly as these have benefitted from advances made in the biological sciences;
- to evaluate concrete situations in diverse territorial contexts with a view to supporting horizontal exchanges between the actors concerned. This evaluation will take into account the concerns for the sustainable development of hunting within the context of sustainable development as a whole of regional and rural areas;
- to support exchanges between researchers and local actors in order to explore and assess different approaches not only in public policy management, but also in research.

As the relationship between urban and rural areas changes with the growing importance of sustainable development, new stakes related to hunting practices are emerging. However, information, elements of analysis, and answers provided by researchers and experts are varied, even contradictory. It is therefore important to draw up an assessment of the issues at hand.

Local actors who wish to share innovative experiments and specialists in the various social and biological sciences are invited to submit papers on the following topics:

- *supply of hunting*: analyse access to hunting grounds, including the legal stakes (especially hunting rights as opposed to land ownership), social (possible existence of constraints or conventions), and economic issues (for example, valorization of hunting game);
- *demand for hunting*: the diversity of hunters and their practices, both traditional and more recent ones, ; what kind of wild game is hunted and their role in the natural environment, the cleavages and relationships between hunters as well as between hunters and non hunters;
- *the economic importance of hunting*: hunting products, their valorization, the creation and development of tourist products related to hunting, and, more generally, the role of hunting in the sustainable development of territories;
- *the role of hunters as managers of wild fauna and their contribution to conservation*: farmers, foresters, nature guards, communities and institutions dedicated to the preservation of nature, etc. At a more general level, the

implementation of multi-actor mechanisms (at the local level, in forums) to pursue sustainable development could be analysed.

- *the relationship between hunting and territory*: what are the stakes involved in the management, representation, and appropriation of symbols in areas where hunting has an important role;
- *conflicts in the use of territories, and values created by hunting*: the way in which the stakes generated by hunting are assessed (objective management, evaluating the animal population, estimating and compensating for damage caused by wild game, methods used to determine hunting plans) are determining factors in conflicts that will influence, for example, whether the conflicts will be moderated or amplified;
- the legal, economic, sociological status of wild game between private property, *res nullius*, and public good versus common goods;
- *the nature and evolution of regulations* (national and European levels), their impact on management, and the status of the wild animals that inhabit the territory to which these regulations apply.
- *policies having direct or indirect effects on hunting*: they are partly founded on scientific knowledge whose construction and legitimacy constitute points to be understood and analysed. The role of agro-environmental measures could, for example, be more particularly mentioned.

The list of topics suggested is given as an indication only. Other approaches considering the links between hunting and sustainable development can be proposed. The public for this symposium is broad: researchers, administrative actors (hunters, but also those in agriculture, environment, etc), representatives of hunters, environmentalists, local communities, etc. Contributions can take various forms (scientific papers, reports on experiments, state of the art, surveys, student monographs or exploratory works, etc). These will be discussed in a variety of sessions (plenary meetings, workshops, round tables, posters, possibly audio-visual documents). A special volume of *Economie Rurale* devoted to papers presented at this symposium is currently envisaged.

One page summaries in French or English should be submitted no later than 5 May 2008 (to be sent by e-mail to dezert@engref.fr). If the proposal is accepted by the scientific committee, the complete text should be sent by November 2008. The symposium is scheduled for January-February 2009. English communication is possible.