

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND

LAND MANAGEMENT

LECTURE BY DR LEONE VAN der MAESEN

LECTURER: ...(tape starts here)... a rather interesting story to tell you about the sustainability, and developing a methodology for assessing the sustainability, of a native forest, and using the karri forest as a case study. Leone is no stranger to universities and to crowds so I'll leave the rest of the time in her capable hands.

DR VAN der MAESEN: Thank you. As far as I'm concerned, I am really very privileged to be here. I'm really delighted because I have been doing some thinking, "How long was it ago that I attended to teach? Australian College in Claremont?" So because my story is so extremely complicated I'll try to run you through a little bit of my life before we come to the official sort of situation that I'm going to explain to you. I suggest that we do it in two sections; that I tell you a little bit of the history of this project and a bit about myself and then I sort of have a rest. You can sort of ask me questions and then you'll probably have your break. Then we talk more about the theory about the whole situation.

I came to this country as a very poor migrant. I was more or less dropped at Fremantle Harbour in 1947. Actually I had no cash, no money, no assistance whatsoever. I lived in the jarrah forest in Kalamunda and all my time - I was sort of having time off - I spent in the karri forest. So immediately when you have a talk, when people say "Well, what do you know?" and "How do you understand all this?", it is about that background.

I came here as a mental nurse actually and it has become very useful. I am a trained psychiatric nurse and, I tell you, as you hear my story then you will understand that it has been one of the most useful actual professions for doing the work I'm doing now because now I understand what some people can do and what some men can do in the menopause. I hope you understand that I am not going to mention any names. I'm going to tell you the story without mentioning names because, as you know, we are living here in a society that, as soon as a name from a man becomes known, or a woman becomes known, he will be either sacked or he will be deported to another place. So I've got to be extremely careful about what I'm saying.

Number 1: I was originally a mental nurse and then I entered university to do psychology here in WA, psychology and anthropology. I must say that has been extremely useful, especially the psychology part. Then one day I was sitting in one of the rooms, to have something to eat, and I was wondering why the Swan River was always flooding. That's probably before you were born, but the Swan River actually did a lot of flooding at that time and I was wondering about it.

So I met Dr Gentilli⁷ and I said "Why is that?" and he said "Well, stop doing what you do. Just become a geographer because that's the only way to find the answer". So I swapped the whole works, as I had then a double degree, I must say. So I did then geology, geomorphology and climatology. In the meantime I started also to - - I did that part time because I had to make a living as well and I taught at Methodist Ladies College. I was extremely lucky there because I was sort of close to the Swan River and the Bureau of Meteorology gave me all the instruments to start my first measurements. I needed to measure actually the Swan River, the oscillations in the Swan River basin and I had sort of instruments pointed there, and from my classroom, they gave me a big thing so I could look. Every day I could measure the river flowing up and down. So that was actually my start in actually, you might say, geology, geomorphology, etcetera.

I then was given a scholarship because - - I felt even the geology and geomorphology was just not sufficient. I felt that every time I came up with problems in the soil, water movement in the soil - - so I was offered a scholarship in the Dutch University of Utrecht and I studied soil science. So that was really a good thing. Then I wanted to do a PhD. Then they said "Right, Leone. We have got a very difficult job to do and, as you have all those other subjects, we might ask you to go there". Then I was sent to Ireland, County Donegal. That was a very sensitive situation.

So that comes now a little bit back to whatever ecology you do, or environmental science. The question was then from the Irish Government "Should Donegal be developed? Should a lot of money go into the County Donegal to make it sort of probably industrial area or whatever?" So then you get what we call an integrated survey because you actually need to do soil science, you need to do climatology, you have to do the geology, the geomorphology and then you have to also look into the agricultural situation.

So you get more or less what we call "an integrated survey". You actually have to know so much in the field. It was not sort of like nowadays what we do with our students; that is, somebody permanently holding your hands. No. It was "Get into the field". It was either sink or swim. You just had to use your own creativity and make do with what you had; nothing sort of computerised. Now our students go into the field with little computers and when the computer breaks down they sigh and say "Oh, I can't do this. I can't do anything because my computer broke down" and that sort of thing. So I really had to do it the hard way.

Then after 5 years I did all that. Then I had to tell the Irish Government "Just leave it alone. Don't do anything

to it". Of course then situations become pretty dangerous because they would rather have a knife in your back than you saying that, because you always have these people with a hell of a lot of money that can see all the dollars going and now, because some silly bitch says "No. Don't touch it - -" So that was the very first thing. Then they said "Leone, now, you've done a good job here", because I wanted to go back to Australia. I just wanted to return and sort of carry on with my life here.

Then they said "Leone, we've got a very difficult job to do" and I said "Well, what is it?" "Somebody has got to go to the Budapest Soil Science Bureau. There are a lot of salinity problems there and they need some help; not only that, they need somebody to be able to also speak English". So I had to learn - - in Europe it was quite simple. They sent you somewhere and they say "Well, you've got to learn the language first". So I had to learn Hungarian. In the meantime I had to do French, German, English, Dutch and then I had now to study Hungarian. Then I worked there a couple of years. I survived that because that was in the time of the Soviet people and they were not terribly kind to me.

After I had done that I thought I had done enough for my life but, no, they said "We've got a very difficult job in Argentina and we don't know who to send there". Sort of, I said "Well, what is this, because I want to go back to Australia". They said "Well, could you hang on a little bit longer because we have got nobody to send". So I said "Well, what have I got to do?" They said "Same old thing. You have to learn Spanish first". So then I had to learn Spanish. In the meantime I had to work in six languages, so you can just imagine that by now I sort of don't know in one minute - - just think; in one day I might have to speak to somebody in German, somebody in French, somebody in English and somebody in Spanish and that has to sort of - - very handy for big congresses. Anyway, so then that was really the limit. I nearly said "the bloody limit", but it was really - - because you have no idea how people in Argentina work, absolutely no idea.

I had to go with these Argentinian blokes and I was to teach them how to draw, how to make profiles, how to make ...(indistinct)... profiles, how to analyse soils. Then I had to go and examine the pollution in along the Argentinian sea front because, as you know, it's the area of the swimming whales and there was a hell of a lot of pollution, especially by very rich oil firms. So that was a very risky job and the good thing about me, they think that, "Oh, that silly old bitch, she's harmless", so I keep on being harmless, but in the meantime, I have my film. I've got a fairly small film thing that I have that in my shoulder bag and I manage now - - I'm getting very clever at it so on my hip - - super 8 film, so I get all the evidence and then - - so I worked there for a couple

of years. Then I came back and I said, "That is hopefully enough" and they said, "We've got a very difficult situation in Chile". I said, "Okay", and that was, of course, the problems with the Japanese because, as you know, the Japanese managed to have the Mitsubishi concerns, safe houses, and one of the sections is Murrabeeni^{e2}, and Murrabeenie is sort of doing all the wood chipping, getting logging all the - - logging and sort of pushing off poor old little Indian people living there and sort of, I had to deal with that for a couple of years and then I came back and I said, "And now I'll go back to Australia".

They said, "We've got a very difficult situation in Manaus in Brazil and I told them, "Well, I'm not going to learn Portuguese. I've had enough". So they said, "Oh, well, just do the best you can. Just keep on speaking Spanish and pretend - - just keep on speaking Spanish and then they will probably understand you". Now, that was a very short assignment because I arrived there in Manaus, they said, "Well, I'm very sorry, you are an Australian whatever". I said, "Yes". "Then, you go straight to prison". So, they locked me up in a little cell with all cockroaches. That was very unpleasant and I had to stay there for 3 days and then they export me on my plane and I ended up in Canada. I had nothing to do in Canada but anyway I ended up there and then I arrived back in Holland.

Then, they told me, "Your time is coming because there is an extremely difficult situation in WA and you are the only person we know of that can handle it". So, now you have a little bit of an idea why I was floating around everywhere. So, and now we come back at 1992. In 1992 two things happened simultaneously. As you know there is a big or large number of Dutch people in WA and I can tell you why. I was sort of - - very young I was in the underground because we had then already the Germans so I had to fight the Germans. I think I was 12 then I had already high explosive plastic on my stomach because a train had to be blown up. Anyway, so a lot of the underground people came to WA straight after the second world war.

So, they said to me, "There is an extremely difficult situation" and the Dutch people in WA, they kept on sending letters, "It is an extremely - - they are wrecking the forest down here. Could somebody come up and sort this out?". So, I said, "All right. We'll see what we can do", but I wasn't terribly ...(indistinct)... yet but then the next thing happened in July 1992, there was the world convention on bi-diversity in Rio de Janeiro. The Dutch Government and the Australian Government, they quite happily signed that convention and then the Dutch Government knew because it is a small country and a lot of students there and they signed it so everybody says,

"Right, if you sign something you'd better do something about it".

The next thing was that the Dutch Government made them know that they were not going to buy any tropical timber any more or at least they said, "Well, give us some time so that no tropical timber is going to be in Holland any more but you can - -", you always have to some kind of - - they said, "Well, let us make a policy. In 1995 no tropical timber", because they signed that convention so you can't just sign things and just not do anything about it.

The next thing was that for some reason, I don't know quite how it worked but anyway, Bunnings and that was probably because in Bunnings was a Mr Kelderman and Mr Kelderman was in the same situation I am. He was born in Holland and he lived in WA. So, they heard about not any tropical timber any more so then they decided, if they can't buy any tropical timber, they can buy karri. Then they organised the West Australians, they organised a sort of a seminar with the Dutch importer, Mr Reid², and in Holland, they have a sensible sort of organisation that if an important policy has to be made, you have to have half half. It means, in a seminar like that, you have to have all the members of the ministry and at the same time you have to have the NGO's.

Now, during that seminar and I'm talking about July 1992, there were present Friends of the Earth International, IUCN, that is, the International Union of Nature Conservation, of course, Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund and some smaller environmental organisations. I mean this, I really say that ...(indistinct)... Dr Syd Shea was going to do the talking and there was a Mr Pearce who was the Minister for the Environment so actually Dr Syd Shea came to sell timber. He talked about the ecological - - he didn't mention the word, probably, ecological, but at least we have got so much karri that you can buy that without damaging the environment.

He was having colour slides so they all looked at it and had a lot of glossy magazines and he handed it out and then after that day's seminar, everybody who was there said, "The man is lying". Now, after ...(indistinct)... established that fact, it is very simple to say somebody is lying because then the next thing is happening and that is what, of course, your future will probably be. You've got a problem and the problem is, in fact, that karri forest management, is it sustainable or is it not sustainable? Now, that is actually a matter of definitions and in the second half after you've passed the shock of the first half, then we are going to really talk about that and you, as future ecologists or whatever you are going to be, that then we are really going to have a good look at that problem. So now I'm just going to give

you the history.

So, it is established that somebody may or may not be lying, may be speaking the truth or may not be speaking the truth and now you get who is the person who is going to find out? So, then they all look at me usually and they said, "Now, Leone, you always wanted to go back to Australia. Here's your possibility". Then the next thing happens, a matter of finance. Now, if you do an investigation, where does the money come from? Now, at the University of Utrecht, I usually have to make the budget and then you know how much an investigation like that costs. Has anybody an idea here?

Now, you know the problem? An investigation has to take place. What would be the budget? Nobody ever thought "You'd better start thinking about that because it's quite crucial". Yes?

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: You don't know. No. Now you address me. You address me. "I know a problem", and you swim; you swim. There's nobody to hold your hand. You've got to make a budget. Nobody had any idea. Well, I can tell you from big experience that would cost about \$1 million. So then you think "Who is going to pay that \$1 million? Somebody has got to pay". Well, think; who is paying a thing like that? Where does the money come from?

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: Who pays?

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)... government.

DR VAN der MAESEN: Oh, yeah. What government? Now, you just keep on thinking. I am going to really appeal to you all the time like that. Now, the Dutch Government - - a government is who? The taxpayers; the taxpayers. Are they going to pay because some government is worrying about where he is going to get his raw material from - - so can you just imagine what the timber industry is going to say? Our taxation money goes to the import. Am I going to pay? No. But you know it's going to be at least \$1 million. So I said - the next thing - "I've got a little bit of money stored away" and "because nobody can pay me". If I do the investigation, nobody can pay me.

So just keep on thinking. I'm an Australian. The Dutch Government wants to know something. Can I be paid by anybody? Of course I can't be paid. I can't be paid by the Dutch Government because the Australians would say "Aha, she's paid by the Dutch Government", etcetera, etcetera; CALM. The Australian Government? No, because they want to get rid of their karri because they want to

get rid of any sort of logging material they can. So they are not going to pay me. The Dutch Government is not going to pay me.

So I said "Okay. It's better that you don't pay me", because do you know what they call science in Holland now - - a scientist who accepts money to find out something like that, that scientist is really forced to keep his mouth shut and not tell the truth. We have a word for that. "Scientific prostitute" we call that. So I said to the Dutch Government "I don't want to be a scientific prostitute, so I'll do it for nothing. The only thing you have got to pay for me now is my ticket, return ticket to WA". Then we agreed on that one.

The second thing that we agreed is that I didn't want any interference from anybody whatsoever. I was going to be in WA. I was going to do the whole investigation myself because they are my forests, just like they are your forests, and nobody is going to keep me out of the forest because they are mine, my property; state forest, remember. State forest; your property. Nobody is going to keep me out.

So I then went to WA and I had a friend - thank God - from the WA University and I made a plan to investigate the whole area. After a month, then you get really the hard work because all your qualities that you have - - you look at the water. You look at the rivers. You look at actually the soils. You make some profiles. You look at the geomorphology. You look at the geology. You look at the trees, etcetera, etcetera. That is the very first really - - sort of an inventory. You make an inventory in what you're supposed to be researching; your very important, your very first, inventory. But also talk with as many people as possible. That is, speak to the man on the corner shop, speak to anybody in the restaurant, speak to any logger, speak to anybody in the timber industry, and that actually is what I did. So I spent two full months simply on that.

The next thing happened; that I came back to Perth and then I had a fax saying "Now please contact Dr Syd Shea²", so I did. So I phoned him up and I said "Dr Syd Shea, I have a problem. I've got 23 questions from the Dutch Government and I'm looking for an answer". After I had properly said who I was - I said "I'm West Australian"; I said "I'm from the University of WA, now from the University of Utrecht, and I'm interested - - and I'm investigating a problem here" - he did his lolly, I can tell you. It was wild².

If the telephone could've exploded, then it would have done now. So I let him carry on and then I said "Now when you calm down, we probably can have a normal conversation", but he wasn't going to calm down at all and

he was going to - - first he said "You're working for a foreign government" and I said "No, because I'm not paid at all". Then he said "You've got no right to go into the forest". I said "I beg your pardon. They are my forests". "You have no right to do this and the other" and I said "Well, I'm a free agent so I do whatever I please", etcetera. It was an extremely unpleasant happening.

So I said "I am prepared to meet you anywhere, in the pub or whatever, because I - -" I thought, in Australia, if a man doesn't want to talk to you, if you mention the word "pub" it sometimes works. Anyway. However, that didn't work. He said "As a matter of fact, I don't want to talk to you whatsoever because", he said, "the deal is made anyway; \$6 million each year, 4000 cubic metres. The deal is made. So what you do is not important". I said "And I would like to ask you the 23 questions". I said "Okay. I am staying at the - -" The YMCA or whatever you call it now in Fremantle; they have all the rooms there. I said "Well, I'm staying there. Now, this is my telephone number. If you change your mind, and if you calm down, can we have a normal conversation about this?" I said "Phone me up tomorrow", and he didn't; no phone call.

In the meantime - - in the meantime - - and that's the funny bits. There sometimes are funny bits, or at least I didn't think it was funny at the time but you'll find out - - extremely funny. So the next day - - let's say, it was on a Wednesday. I'll never forget. The next day I had meetings with university people all day so I was a bit cheesed off and I went to bed at 12 o'clock. I don't know whether you have seen those little rooms. You know, they are just little rooms. You sort of have a bed, or a bed here. Behind that was a huge mirror for some reason. That's going to be fatal, the mirror. Anyway, a mirror was behind me. I was sort of in bed. You know, these rooms, you didn't lock them because it was sort of a female area, you know, where you have a female area and a male area upstairs. A lot of girls were staying there, a lot of students, a matter of fact, so we never locked our doors.

Anyway, I go to bed. A quarter to three that night I wake up and I saw that man standing in my room and going through my papers and I thought "Bloody hell, what I'm going to do now?" You know, the whole thing is so funny. If you see that in a movie, you always say "Impossible. I would've heard it. I would've done something". No; not heard it. I only wake up and look at the man. So I'm thinking "Now be quiet, be quiet. Don't get nervous. Just do the right thing". So I took a deep breath and then I poured out every possible swear word, every possible swear word I had got to know in my 20 years of being a migrant, and I can assure you that is a lot.

So he turned, very quietly he said "Oh, I beg your pardon. I'm in the wrong room". I said "Get the fuck...(indistinct)..." and he marched out of that room and I thought "Bloody hell, I've got to do something", you know. Then I jumped out of bed and I wanted to go into the passage and then I realised I had no knickers on. I said "Oh, I can't do that. I can't do that". I thought that was awful. I went back into my room and then I sort of put all the chairs in front of it - - it was absolutely useless after all that. Never mind.

So the next morning I went straight to the man that was sitting there and I said "... (indistinct)... because I have seen exactly what he looks like". I knew this because I thought, you know, in a detective movie you always say "Now, what shoes had he on?" and "What socks did he have on?" and "How - -" you know, I knew exactly. He said "No man of that description lives in that house". I said "Fair enough" but I didn't know what to do so I went back to the university, told the whole story to Professor Conagher and of course he said "God, everybody would've been scared stiff seeing you racing around like that". I said "Yes", but I said "It just happened".

So the next thing was he said "Go back, straight to the police and tell the police what happened". I did that. I went back to the police because he said "Make sure you get that on black and white because it might be very useful". I did. But you know how men are. They sort of look at you and they say "You wish it was true" or something like that. He was sort of looking at me as if ... (indistinct)... "That woman has definitely lost her marbles", so I could see he didn't take me very seriously, but anyway, he gave me the slip of paper.

But then came my luck because I walked back to the YMCA and, you'll never guess, I went into the general area - you know, where you sort of can cook - and then one of the women came to me and she said "Now, Leone, you know the rules of this house. You have sinned against the rules of this house". I said "Why? What did I do?" She said "You know no man after 10 o'clock". I said "And did I have a man after 10 o'clock?" "Yes", she said, "Don't be so innocent. You know what you did". "Right", I said, "Come with me to the police station and then you can give a proper statement". So that was my luck.

The policeman, he sort of said "Well, we have got to do something about that. Come back tomorrow. We think you'd better see the police commissioner". I did the next morning and he said to me "Now, what are you doing here at the moment?" I said "Well, what has that got to do with it?" He said "Probably more than you think". I said "And what is it?" He said "That is a detective of - -" You guess. So a detective of Syd Shea.

So I thought, well, I work now in the Soviet Union. I work under ...(indistinct)... in Germany. I work in Argentina. I work - - really work in Uruguay. I have ended up, I must admit, in Brazil. But this was really quite new to me. I thought it was quite remarkable. So there was nothing I could do. I could only get the hell out of the country because in the meantime I had quite a lot of colour slides made and I had quite a lot of notes. Thank God, I had that under somebody's bed, somewhere else, so actually could've only seen some notes of the day - - in other words, if you do a investigation which is quite sensitive, make sure that you never run that risk. Always have your notes somewhere else. Always have your films or whatever you've taken somewhere else because - - I don't know. Wherever you're going to come - - but people are not going to be happy with you if you are speaking the truth or finding out the truth. The next time - - so I had to get out of the country.

It didn't stay like that. I mean, if that would've been, then "Ha, ha, ha" and you would find that very amusing later on. The next thing happened: I arrived back in Holland. I arrived back in Holland and they asked me to give a big oral presentation on that what I had sort of done in the 2 months. It wasn't a great deal but, still, they wanted to have an oral presentation. So same procedure; oral presentation, people from the government and people from the NGO.

Before I even opened my mouth the chairman said "I have a very bad message for you" and I said "And that is?" "Dr Syd Shea has filed an official complaint with the Dutch Government and from now on you are ostracised". Now, I never heard of that one before. I never heard of any scientist being ostracised so I thought that was quite new. Then he said "We are not allowed to speak to you officially and we always should talk to somebody else first. So from the bureau of international chairmen, I have to talk to him and he would talk to people in the Dutch Government", which is absolutely an outrageous situation, but by that time I had just about ...(indistinct)... things could be possible and that didn't end.

Now comes the good part; that Mr Kelderman from Bunnings obviously heard of the incident. He tried to phone - - or he phoned up a representative from the Dutch Government saying - - and that was actually the next interesting part; "Sorry, sorry. I believe that Dr Van der Maesen was treated very badly by Dr Syd Shea and we would like to apologise. He is a bit excitable", or something like. "Could we smooth it over? Could we talk about it?" So that man from the Dutch Government said "I can't see any sense in that. Sorry it happened. Forget about it. We don't want to see you". So that was a good thing.

That is, of course there are still some loyal people, some loyal people, because if I see now - - and I just put that between now - - if I see what had happened to that girl ... (indistinct) ... then I think in Holland there would've been a bloody riot about that but, still, we come back to that later on. I don't know whether you know what happened to the girl who dared to publish something here in this country. Anyway, everybody was loyal and that - - we went on.

The next thing was that I had to find the solution to the problem, so now we thought "We are going to send an official Dutch party, an official one". So my colleague, Dr Hans Resabosh², said "Well, I'm prepared to do it if they pay me \$10,000 for 1 month. I take my friend, a biologist. Ten thousand dollars for the month". The idea was that I prepared all the maps, all my data, all my literature. I had to do it all. He only had to pick up his case and come to WA. That was all. That was the agreement. So I wasn't paid. He got the money. Anyway, I was prepared at that stage to do just anything to get at the truth, because that's actually - - as a scientist, you do. You try to find out what is true. I arranged everything.

So now we have to ask Dr Syd Shea's permission because they were Dutch - - had no right to go in the Australian forest. That was the protocol. So we did all that. We asked permission and Dr Syd Shea said "No, unless - -" He made the condition; "if there is going to be a forester from another university and if there is going to be a political man". Right; so four men, costing \$10,000 for a month, plus their airfare, plus first class hotels, everything covered, and, here, me sitting in a tent, driving around in an old vehicle, having hardly any food, and me jogging along like that, and they did it properly. That was the demand. Right. We had no way of doing anything about it so I prepared it all.

Now, in the meantime - - and I must say that it's the best thing that has been found out or actually invented since the washing machine; that is, E-mail. Behind my computer in university, I could completely organise and co-ordinate. From behind my computer, I could do that. So I had all my people lined up here and I was going to exactly say - - record what was going to happen. They had a GPS with them. As you know, GPS, General - - this is what we call "geographical positioner". That's a little instrument that goes straight onto the satellites. So we said "Have that with you so you never can be bull-shitted about where you are. You have that straight with the satellites. You also know your position". That was one.

Secondly, I had the hotels organised, I had the tourist bureau organised, the car was hired, and that's what they were going to do. What happened? They arrived. They

were at the airport. Tourist bureau was sent away and CALM took over. They were put on the plane, nothing from looking in the - - you know, around in the hire car. No; in the plane, completely organised like that. Everybody was planned. They were only going to see the people that they have lined up. They were going to use the literature they had lined up. They only saw people from the environmental movement, under a lot of stress, but they managed to see Chamarette and Margaret Dee and then lecturers from the conservation council and Mr Jim Frith?. That was all, completely, 10 days. So they came back, and what could they report? They could ...(indistinct)... more or less an excerpt of all the CALM's publications, nothing. So we were exactly at square one. Nobody could say anything sensible, these four people, costing that much.

The only thing I got out of it - - I'm going to show you that later on. The only thing I got out of it was that I said "Okay. Satellite images. I want all the satellite images from NASA". I want to monitor behind my computer exactly what is happening in the forest. That is what I got. ...(indistinct)... is one of 1988 and one from 1992. Now, I'm going to show that later on when we go to the theoretical part. It meant that I had to come back again because nobody dared to touch the stuff any more; nobody was going to be interested. It cost a hell of a lot of money and exactly they had absolutely nothing out of it. So I said, "Okay. What we are going to do now is, I have a little bit of money stowed away. I can live in a tent. I'll go back to the bush and then I'm going to use ...(indistinct)... images and then I'm going to the soil, I'm going to do all the water measurements, I'm going to then actually start measuring in the forest".

I made a new set of terms of reference. I had it approved of by the University of WA and then I had to come back. I did another 2 months of field work; another 2 months. The next point was that then you put - - I made a preliminary report then you have to make, and that is also a thing that is extremely important. I had to make 50 copies because in Holland you have to have it refereed by a minimum of 7 people and of course, preferably somebody in WA University, somebody from the CSIRO and then all the various people because now I had a network of 35 people who were working and now it really becomes a multi/disciplinary - - actually research and I was more or less the coordinator and all the information came in, either in the field, or later on, by E-mail. So, E-mail is not controlled so everybody on E-mail can give me that information and nobody could touch it. That was the good thing about that.

The next thing was then, I had my work reviewed. 1995 I had my first final report. It did not say that the Dutch Government had enough information yet. They had not

enough information but still, now we had a report, at least. One report was translated in Dutch and it was sufficient to say to all the city councils in Holland because it was a Dutch report going to all the city councils, to all the people involved buying timber, "Don't touch the karri". That's at least one thing that came. Then, of course, you have to go to the UK, you've got to go to all the other consumers and then last year, 1995, we worked more on that, but then I went to see all the Federal people. I am going to show you all on overhead sheets how we did that. Then you get all the Federal people. I talked to all the ministers; I talked to the ministers here and at least, then you can go into the open and know what happened.

Now, to round it up, we are not ready yet, but I think you've had enough for the time being and I think I suggest a break. What about it? Good.

SPEAKER: 10 minutes.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

UPON RESUMPTION:

DR VAN der MAESEN: Take the light off now because now we are going to do - - who is doing my slides?

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: Somebody has got to do slides because I think it is an absolute nerve racking situation. I hate doing slides.

Now, before I go on, I suggest that there are some people who have some questions, that I give you 5 minutes question time. Then, I will do the other section and now I am going to be really a bit more theoretical and then I would say, we are going to lead question time again. I would like to get as many questions as possible so I am going to see if we can fit it in with the time because I feel it should not come from me, it should come from within yourself and that's very important. The first person who wanted to ask a question - - you?

SPEAKER: Yes. Can you tell us who you were employed by when you were tripping around the world doing all your ...(indistinct)... ?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Okay. This is very risky, then you have to say how old you are. Anyway, I always keep that a big secret but still. It is like that at my last job was at a teachers' training college in Holland. Actually I've been floating around and then you can say, "Well, how did you pay that?". When a researcher wants to do research, you've got a teaching section and you've got a research

section so you are paid the whole year around and they assume that you are in the field at least for 2 months.

Now, in a European university, you've got to make at least, or you have to publish at least two articles for a magazine or a journal. Now, that means that in your holiday -- let's say you have 2 months' holiday, you are expected to spend 2 months' holidays in the field and then you are expected to do all your desk study and, of course, your work, in the rest of the year. So, a researcher is expected to work 12 months and your days are usually going from 8 o'clock in the morning until about 1 or 2 o'clock at night. That's actually what it comes to. Right.

Then the situation was, when I was 55, then there was actually a big problem in teaching because there were no jobs. The situation was that in Holland, people have no more than 2 children. Now, if you sort of start to calculate that, then we have less and less and less children to go to school so schools are all getting closed down. Most schools closed down and you have less kindergartens, less schools, so our university population is now also decreasing because now it is sort of the cohort, as you call it, they come out to the university and we're going to get less students and less students.

So, in other words, I was in the situation, they offered me the following: they said, "Now, if you resign from teaching, we can give 2 young people a job. If you are prepared to go down in your salary one third, if you are prepared to go back, a big sum of your income, if you are prepared to give it up, you give 2 young people a job and then you can go in full time research at the university and you can have a university place". So, I was really a bit upset about it because I loved teaching. I would love the work with all of you and you know, sort of, I felt that that was really a lot to give up but then I did it, but I made my conditions.

I said, "Right. I will give my teaching job up, but then I want to go completely in the -- you know, do the work with helping young students to write up their PhD's or to write up their thesis. I want to help groups of people and that's what I did. So now, that's how I got the money so I could -- I didn't do the teaching. So, I'm actually at the university two full days a week and then the rest is research. Is that answering your question? Yes? So then I have that income. It's a big offer to make and a lot of people wouldn't do it but I also -- more people who are now, sort of, married couples that are working at our university and now they say, "Okay", they take both a job so the woman works half on the job and the man works half at the job and that's what they're doing now so that they feel it's better for young students to sit at home than do nothing and sort of share it now because there are just no jobs to go around any more. That's just a simple

fact. Does that answer your question? Another one.

SPEAKER: What is your advice to somebody such as myself who doesn't want to have to wait 10 or 20 years before they are a professor or a lecturer or somewhere where they are seen - - where they are actually listened to?

DR VAN der MAESEN: The thing is, what a lot of people do in Europe is, we have with the United Nations, they ask for people to go to developing countries. That's one thing. So quite a few students can work in developing countries and then, well, if they do okay then they more or less come back and then they can get a teaching job but I must honestly tell you the situation is for my young students or for anybody's students, probably, it is pretty grim. Actually, the situation is pretty grim so I can honestly tell you it's bad.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: Oh, that is a minimum.

SPEAKER: - - - ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes. Well it is, but what a lot of people do also is well, a lot of my students go on the dole because the dole for an ex student is a lot higher than somebody who has no degree so, the PhD students, they go on the dole and they get \$1000 per month. Then, they sign up with an environmental group, let's say Greenpeace or Friends of the Earth International or they go World Wildlife for nature. They go up and work in an environmental group and that means, again, they have to go anywhere at all in certain things but it is a fact of life and I have really no answer to that one but I always say, if students come to me with a problem and I say, "Now, get work experience. Start working with a sound environmental movement".

It's a matter of fact, Australians, every time now we have more Australians, for instance, in Amsterdam. Greenpeace's head office is in Amsterdam. Now we have a brilliant young WA person, Bill Hare², and he is doing an extremely good job at the moment but he is paid by Greenpeace. Sometimes Greenpeace can pay small money but then at least, you get work experience. You need your work experience and then, probably, yes, become a teacher but I have no answer to that one but I can see that that is the best solution. Is there anybody else who would like to have - - because then I will go on - - yes?

SPEAKER: You talked about the amount of - - the deal that ...(indistinct)... had going with the Dutch Government for \$6 million a year for the 4000 - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: Four thousand cubic metres and then

not only that but then if the Dutch Government would buy it, then the Common Market - - they had a deal with the Common Market, then for 50 million a year and I don't know how many cubic metres that was because British Rail is still buying karri for sleepers. As a matter of fact, it is even worse now because like I say, Singapore, they buy - - so call for sleepers and then they get it extremely cheap, extremely cheap, and then they make furniture out of it and I think that is absolutely outrageous and of course, I am going to show you more so hang on to that question and we can discuss it afterwards because I think it is a very important question. Is there anybody else who wants to know what I do in my private life or whatever?

SPEAKER: One more question. ...(indistinct)... Japanese ...(indistinct)... remaining virgin' ...(indistinct)... What were you in Chile?

DR VAN der MAESEN: What were I doing in Chile?

SPEAKER: No, what year?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Well, it was actually before - - I think I was there in 1990.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: I think 1989, 1990 I was there. It was just a ...(indistinct)... you can check up if I'm lying, it was just - - Pinochet² was still there, but Pinochet was then on his way out.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes. It was just that sort of thing so I could still see the good things about Shea - - about - - you see, I get up and I go to bed with that man, it's absolutely incredible. Oh, I mean - - no, that was awful, wasn't it. I thought you were going to ask me about my private life. Now you know. Anybody else?

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: I think that's an extremely good question, a very good question because every time they come up with the same thing. Every time - - why don't you write it up? I always feel, who do I hurt in the long run? What do I achieve? I think what you say to somebody is different and if you explain something about a person it is different than just make him the bad - - now it looks and I mean, it's good that you say - - he looks now a bit of a bad guy but in fact, God knows who drives him. Who is the structure beneath him that pushes him. Now, I can't answer that question.

I think sometimes you get - - sort of - - I am not likely to say it because it sounds - - no, I am not going to - - I mean, always you have got to analyse the situation and I'm coming to that one now. You've got to analyse accurately the situation. I am only telling you now a history of events which are all recorded but I hate writing it up because then I think, "Well, I don't want him to - - I don't want to get him a nervous breakdown because of me". I hate writing things down. I could write it in a very funny way but, I mean - - because actually, I really kill myself laughing some of the times, you know, really, absolutely because I think, "How stupid can you get?", but I mean - - you know, I think it's a bit nasty, sometimes. I don't want to - - right.

What I'll do now, is I will explain the situation as if you were my Dutch students so if you say, "Ah ha, that's funny" - - I am going to explain it bit by bit as if you are a group of Dutch people. You see, because actually this is always the fun, I think, whether you are in England, whether you are in Holland or whether I'm here, you all look exactly the same. It doesn't make any difference; any difference. The only thing is usually at the back they play poker somewhere or you suddenly look and then they are playing cards or - - you know, that is the - - I think you are extremely well behaved. I would like to pay you my compliments.

I must tell you one more joke and then I will go and be serious. When I started lecturing, but mind you, it is a long time ago, my professor said, "Now, you are going to lecture" and I said, "Oh, my God I am so nervous" and I tell you, this is a small group for me. We have 500 students. I thought, "I'm going to do that", so it was a lecture room that I had to enter in the back. So, all my students were all sitting there, you know, and then, I didn't speak Dutch and it was even more complicated because I could hardly speak Dutch at that time. So, I thought, "How am I going to do that?". So I was standing in front of that door, you know, and I don't - - I don't dare - - I was standing there and then this professor came and gave me a push and I just about rolled all down so I ended up half on the floor and that was my entrance at my first lecture so you can imagine, that was really awful and then one day, I was also terribly nervous I had my jumper back to front or I don't know anything so I had an assistant standing there and he was sort of saying - - and I thought, "Oh, well, I can't take it off any more". Now we are going to be serious. Anyway, is that back to front? Yes. Well, from now on, everything is going wrong.

I always start my lectures like that because I think everybody has to really look at that and that's what the Indians say and I think for a WA University students this is a very interesting thing so I hope whenever you write

your essay you start like that and that would be a very good thing. Right. Have you seen it all? Now you know the spirit of the lecture, number one.

Number two is - - I think I'm doing this chronically, aren't I? I'd better not do that tomorrow. Right. When you have an environmental problem to study and when you really have to teach your students how to see it, we always say, "Now, everybody has to come up with a global model, because that is actually what you are doing". So, we show people actually that however you work in the environment, everything has a relationship and we say - - don't you think this is appropriate? Anyway, if that - - you say, the need ...(indistinct)... and it is the functions of the natural environment and then the characteristics of your natural environment, and then you get the environmental requirements and then - - this is the Dutch ...(indistinct)... so don't worry. I mean, they are ...(indistinct)... effects, and this is the natural environment again in society. So when we explain environmental problems we are always trying to show people the relationship between all these factors.

The next thing is that - - yes. I don't know. I must do something about it. It must be the - -are we right? Yes. Another thing is what you have to realise as students is that when we talk about an environmental problem, as you talk about the environmental problem in the timber industry, these are now the official figures that we have been. So I think that you should have a good look at that and then you will understand why this problem has become a very large worldwide problem.

The next thing is that if you have to deal with a problem like that - - fine. If you deal with a problem like that your very first worry should be "What is my definition of sustainability?" because in ecology, or whatever your angle is of entrance, you need to know exactly what your definition is because if you go into the field and you have to write anything up you need to know what are you talking about. If you have to write an essay you've got to say "Now, what is the point?" and if we say "This is the definition" - - and I say here actually my work has been concentrated or focused on the products that ...(indistinct)... undesirable effect of the physical and social environment. So I hang up my whole research on those two points.

Therefore, we say - - yeah. I think we must put them down differently. Right. Now you have to say "If I do a study like that, who are all the organisations that you are going to be involved with?" because it is just not one organisation. If you do anything in Europe, if you do anything in Holland, then you know that these are the people that you have to answer to. Any sort of meeting, they're all coming together. You will have meetings with

these people and you've got to really talk with all of them. That is to give you an idea how complex the whole affair is.

Now you get an idea of how many people are actually in Australia when I do my investigation. No. Right. So the people that were involved in Australia or the people that were prepared to co-operate, these were - - that is of course a problem of the Federal Government. It is a problem of actually the state government, and I have to deal with them. It is the people that you hope that co-operate. I might say of all this list there were at least one, two or more people that were helping me or advising me. So in other words, it is not just me doing it by myself - that's absolutely nonsense - because you can never expect to be an expert at everything. You've got to have some kind of an idea how extremely complex this whole thing is.

Another thing is that you've got to understand - - God, it's going to be - - we've got to do something about that. Anyway, if you see that, you see also how many organisations have to do with sustainability. So you get the timber industry, etcetera, etcetera. You can see that it is - - again, what can the local people do? What is the trade unions? What are the economical influence; the employment and the tourism? You see, so it is not just one thing. It is a very complex thing.

Now we come back - - right. Now are what we call the parameters that you have to deal with. In other words, from the physical environment you've got to know the geology from your area. You've got to know your geomorphology from the area. You've got to know the climate. You've got to have all your climatic factors. you have to know all your soils in the area that you're studying. You have to know a lot about the hydrology. And in my situation, if you talk about anything to do with forests, as I have to do, you need to study the hydrology. I must admit the flora and the fauna, while you try to get literature on - - of course I knew quite a bit about it but I must confess, you know, I never - - I did a lot in my life but I never did any vegetation or whatever as the subject. However, you've got to have the ability to work and co-operate with other people.

Now you get really your - - all the things - - oh, my God. It is really - - how stupid this is. Right. Now, I feel that it is also very important that you know your aims. If you go into the field, you must really know what you are about to be doing. Too many people that I work with in the field, they sometimes haven't got a clue what they're doing. Now, I completely realise a lot of people enrol in courses because they have no other job to do anyway, or in Holland ...(indistinct)... it is sort of a thing, "My father and mother pushed me" or "I didn't want

to be here" or "I wanted to be actually doing another subject and I thought, well, this might be a good possibility" and I feel - - and personally I'm very, very much sure about that. You haven't got a hope if you are not well motivated. We are lucky. We are very lucky that we catch them out the very first year because the very first year I really go into the field with them and then they have to do their ...(indistinct)...

Now, I tell you, to stand there in the middle of cow shit and then they have to look at that and it smells and I let them ...(indistinct)... I hate that. My God. Anyway, by that time, I tell you, they've already - - then they stand there and complain about it and then I say "Right. You stand there and you drill a hole" and then they don't like it. Then I think "Well, no. You had better become a lawyer because it's a much better job for you". I am pretty tough on that one. Right. Now, you can see how all the things that you have to be able to handle - - you've got to be able to do it. Otherwise, you are never going to be any good, especially not on an international level, if you can't do it.

Ah, this is the very first time. I don't know why I'm so stupid because it's just - - it is just in front of me ...(indistinct)... right. In other words, this is what you end up trying - - your results. I'm going to leave that here because I come back to that later on. So now I'm going to - - now we're going to really do it properly. Right. The very first thing is if you study a subject like in forestry you've got to be aware of what scale are you thinking. As a matter of fact, if we talk about West Australian forest, you know that only 1 per cent of this large continent is covered with forest and that would really make you worried, if I were you. Then, you have to have a good notion of what your field work area is because too many of my students - - you say, "Well, where have you been?", and they give you any sort of a strange area but you've got to say, "Well my - - ", you really confine it and then I can say, "Right, I was about between Pemberton and Walpole. That was my study area because I've concentrated then on the karri". The very first thing is, and I think it is probably the toughest of them all, because you are talking about forestry, you've got to make your own map.

Now, personally, I know it is extremely easy to do it by computer but I don't like it personally, because if you study a subject like forestry and especially the karri, you will have to start as a geomorphologist and look at it because you know the karri is always at a certain place being dolerite intrusions, being exactly on the river. It is always on the river slope so you need to know the hydrology of the area and I make my students draw it by hand. I am a very old fashioned bitch, they say sometimes. Right. Once you have designed your map, then

you start to make your map of the distribution of your study area because it was not jarrah, it was not karri, but it was the distribution of karri forest.

Now, if I talk about karri forest I tell you there are no real karri forests in WA any more. You always talk about karri marri[?] or karri jarrah. I call this, approximately karri occurrence and you can see it's all done by hand; a pretty primitive area away. Now I would like to have a colour slide of - - my first colour slide. Now, are we in the dark a bit? Right. Now, one of the very first things if you have a study project like that, you've got to think, "What was now my aim?". I have to prove something. I have to prove that the karri forests in WA are extremely - - actually, very depleted. I have to prove that there's only 7 per cent left of the karri forest in reserve.

Now, you know the Commonwealth has now decided that they want 15 per cent - - 15 per cent of the pre-European karri forest to be in conversation. I had to prove what was actually left in conservation. The thing is that if you get a map from somebody else and that's why I did it all myself - - if you get a map made by another organisation and they don't want to give you the truth, they will present you with any sort of figure. Now, you, as the young scientist, have to make sure that you are calculating your own figures, never wait until somebody else does it. Right.

So, this has come straight from NASA so nobody can muck around with it so that you know it's honest but - - I'm a silly bitch. When I go, you can say - - when I'm gone you can say, "My God - -" - - okay. Firstly, you have to get a real good feeling of what is there. You've got to analysing satellite images and then you have to make overlays and then you have to do something with it. Now, we're going to take it that you don't work very much with that so, this is a lake. As you can see, it is blue, and what is black - - so, this is the whole coast, this is Leeuwin, this is also ...(indistinct)... inlet and that is sort of that big point there and I hope you can see where you are now.

Now, if you try to analyse this, you know then, number one, that all the white is just permanent finished and this is from 1992 so I have not invented the thing and I have it to prove to you - - I have that on my computer and you can see my computer. I made this slide for your benefit on my computer so you can see what I am mucking about with the forest here. You see? Right. Then the next thing is that all that light colour, that light orange colour here, here, here and here, all that has been completely cut off. I mean, it has been logged over, completely logged and now you will find in those areas, little bits of regeneration.

Now, if you look at that from here to there, all that is heath vegetation or coastal vegetation. So, in other words, this is the Shannon Basin and now I am going to show you the next one because you have now a picture of the coastline. Right. Unfortunately ...(indistinct)... would be better but again - - now I do it in sections. So, I have a look exactly what it is. Here is all sand. This is all sand and perhaps the next one is a bit better, is it? Right. Now, this is then the map I take with me into the field because again, it is not sufficient to have a map like that and just not ground proof it. So what you do is, you enlarge it and then you take it into the field with you. This is extremely important because now you get the process of ground proofing because it is very difficult to really distinguish between one tree and the other if you sort of look at it, so you've got to go into the field where you can see - - yes, that's much better. Thank you, very much.

Now, here you can see again - - here you can see the road. Right? All this is permanently occupied. There might be farms or whatever. This is the whole coastal area and here it is all permanent but now you get a real good view of all that is already gone. So this has all been logged. All that light colour is all logged, completely gone. So, and then, of course, you can make a division of it. The next one? Right. Now, sometimes you have to cheat because you cannot always get the right sort of satellite images. So what I do is, I've got a very good camera and somebody has this on display so it is not supposed to be in my possession so I take my special camera and I photograph it and you can see what an amazing thing you can do because this was pretty lucky because very conveniently, the person where it hangs has sort of made a sign on it so I knew immediately where it was.

It was Bridgetown. It is Greenbushes. Now, as you see, all that has numbers, 1, 4, 2, 2, and 2. Now, all those were already marked to be logged so now all that is gone. So, goodbye Mr Chips. Then, you can see that all that pink is already gone. So if you look at an area like Greenbushes, then you know that they are now fighting for their last trees, hopefully that they are allowed to be staying. The next one.

Now you get the cheating that is happening, in fact, all the time. Now, if people don't want you to know how much is in conservation, they hope that you are a little bit stupid and that they can tell you anything but what the main thing is, you people have to be extremely critical. You've got to think all the time. Never believe all that bullshit. You say, "I am a student. I want to know the truth", and that is what I hope to achieve today. Anyway, so if you want to give a figure of how much is still in conversation, you produce a map like this because what do you say, then, especially to politicians who believe

anything anyway, they said, "Right. Look at it. It is standing there". I am not making this up. This is an official CALM map, made for politicians probably. So, what do they say? Old growth, they say. All this area - - all this area is still in reserve. That's a hell of a lot of area, if you add it up and then the next one, you get the following and then you are in a bit of a shock. I have hung this up because I want you to have a very good look at this one because they you say, "That and that is similar". Now, what is actually in conservation .This map is of course not available because then you might find out the truth and that is the last thing we want to do. So in other words, here is the map and that shows what is still in conservation and all these little dark isolated fragmented things, areas - - that is all that is supposed stay where it is. All the rest is either logged or is going to be logged and this is - - and that was my situation that I had to do. I had to calculate exactly how many hectare of karri was in conservation and there were 29,500, and that was all. I calculated that from an official CALM map and I looked at here. We have it all projected and I calculated it and I'm going to show you.

The next one: Right. Now, I was talking about some of the things you have to do in the field. You are talking about the karri forest so you've to look at here. So what I did in the field, and that's what you could show on my slide - - this is the typical karri soil. I took all the samples with me and had them analysed, or I analysed them in a special laboratory in Europe. I also took - - everywhere I took water samples. We analysed the water samples because then we could see what was actually in the field before and after logging.

Next one: Right. Now, this is my assistant in the field. As you can see, this is a typical coastal soil and that typical coastal soil is in this area, all around here, and you can see then that there is absolutely no possibility, no hope, of there being a karri forest. Now, you must be an absolute nut if you don't see that.

Right; next one: We can stop here with the colour slides - - I mean, with that. And I'll go now with the other ones.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: Uh?

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)... forest?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Well, I didn't - - I'll tell you. Can you hang onto that question because Boronup² is actually a very special situation. Boronup² is karri that was - - it was an area that was completely logged and then was sort

of regenerated but we are not quite sure because it has - - it's not here? Okay. Sorry. It has a complete different soil so - - it's hanging ...(indistinct)... oh, my gosh. I'm getting quite good at it now. Right. Now you see the two very things that I have in my hands. That was actually the most crucial evidence. I had this map and then I produced that one. Now - - and you can see what is the essential thing of my research.

It meant that all these little isolated areas that were still in karri are calculated, as you can see, and you know that 15 per cent was the benchmark of the karri and now I calculated it was only 7 per cent. So in other words, they've got to stop logging altogether because already ...(indistinct)... and this was actually my result. This is the map I had to produce. I did it all on A2 so - - I mean, everybody could calculate that afterwards. That is then exactly what I did with my ...(indistinct)... because the idea is then that you keep on sort of going backwards and forwards and then see how you can - - make these overlays because you do them with vegetation, etcetera, etcetera.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)... was that in conversation reserves or outside of - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: No, no, no, no. Then of course this was the official one, and that was another thing; that you have to sort of keep going backwards and forwards because - - now I'm going to show you - - you have then your soil map and - - I must apologise that it's not exactly on the same scale. That was in a bit in a hurry because it didn't quite work, but the point is here you prove in this way - - that is your soil map. You prove then that those soils from all you have done - - analysed your soils and then you can see - - this is the conservation. They say here that it is all - - all of that is karri forest and you have then proved that it is just nothing. That is of course the very essential part.

The next thing: What is then very important; that you then go into an aeroplane because what you do is - - and all your mapping you've done and all your satellite images - - you've got to get yourself into a little Cessna and then you go over your area. That was sort of the trick because that was better. You could then see exactly which area it was, so you had the map and then you take a video - - and I videoed that whole area. That is of course very good for analysis purposes. And then - -

So here were the actual results of the study. If you have your results you then get what are now the problems, the ecological problems, in the karri forest. I mean, you can't say that you can sort of shake it out of your head. You really have to research it and it is a hell of a long time before you come to that conclusion. You've got to

look at the social impact because nothing stays in itself. You've got to see how all things, as I showed you, that ecological model - - that all things have a connection together. We can never see these things separate.

Am I going too fast? Okay. Then if you've done that study you then come to the main conclusion, what you were about to be doing. Of course that is - - then you - - if you've done that, you have an actual bomb, straight away on a bomb - - because then they say "Right" - - because now the situation was that the Dutch Government had to make a decision. They had to make a decision whether to buy or not to buy the karri. It needed to be - - all this work is, you might as well say, day and night work eventually and that is what they based their decision on. The decision was of course, after all that - - there are number of things you've got to remember. You've got two things. Every time what you hear in this course - - I don't know, but there's one thing you've got to remember. If you talk about ecological sustainability you've got to make a decision between ecological sustainability and sustainable yields. For you, this is going to be your main point, that you remember that, that there is a big difference between that - - and that was the final conclusion, that there should be a moratorium on all logging from now on and that we now, with the IUCN, try to prove that the karri forest - - the remaining karri forest, the small fragmented area, that they are still there - - that it's got to be in world heritage commission - - should be in the heritage.

SPEAKER: They were the four final conclusions made by the Dutch Government - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes.

SPEAKER: - - on the basis of - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes, yes.

SPEAKER: So the Dutch Government is telling us that we should ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: No, no, no, no, no. Oh, no, no, no. I think that's a very good thing that you bring that up - - -t10/bb Van der Maesen

DR VAN der MAESEN: - - - that you bring that up. No government can tell another government what to do. So, that is point one. Point two is that you've got a buyer and you've got a consumer. Why and what was here the issue? You've got to go over that all the time. What was the issue, to buy or not to buy the karri? That was the question I said. So, you've got a buyer and a consumer and if a buyer says, "I'm not going to buy it", that has

nothing to do with one government telling the other government what to do. Did I make myself clear on that?

SPEAKER: It's just that I ...(indistinct)... the Dutch Government had a right to ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: No, you can't. They have no right as a government to tell another government what to do, not at all. You can only say that you don't buy it because my whole question was, I had to research to buy or not to buy and then I'm not going to say what anybody else should be doing. That's not my point. Actually, that is not the issue or let us say, that is not in my brief. You know? I mean, it's the same thing that you should say, "Right, I want to buy a pair of shoes", and then you look at the pair of shoes and then you say, "Where was the pair of shoes made?", and then if I say, "Oh, they're made in China", you can say, "Right. Were there any children involved in that, any under-aged children?", and they say, "Yes, we all have children who work under 14 years of age", and then you say, "Then I don't buy this pair of shoes" because you've got a moral right to say, "I don't buy that" and that's very important.

I would like to have the next slide.

SPEAKER: Just a quick question. Can the Dutch Government do that under the ...(indistinct)... agreements?

DR VAN der MAESEN: You mean to say can a Dutch Government say, "We don't buy something?"

SPEAKER: Based on those principles?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Right. Good question. The Dutch Government will never say that because they are scared beyond words for a certain man so they know the decision was actually made in October 1995. From October until today, they haven't formulated a letter saying what their actual intentions are, so scared they are; absolutely scared. They cannot manage to formulate one way or the other. You've no idea. Some people have remote control from one country to the other. I don't know.

This is not very clear so can we have the next one? Right. Now, I always show and I as I said, I treat you like my own students - - I try to make people understand the beauty of those trees but I know you are not allowed to be emotional but I must say, this is for me, something very special. Yes. Next one. Here - - because you see, I always feel you've got to let people - - you've got to show to people what we're actually talking about.

I don't have to show you but then, of course, I saw that big log. Ah, now we get to the number one problem. Also was a look at all the thesis they can get, mainly and

often, caused by logging. That is, of course, that whole area had dieback. The next one. Now this is how that beautiful forest of yours and mine is looking now and that is in the giblet forest. Next one. That is another beautiful picture of the giblet forest like the previous one and that is still a beautiful picture of what it looks like now. The next one.

Here is me - - right. One of the tasks that I was given also last year was actually to measure all the re-growth trees but you can ask me questions like that because they wanted to know how long it took and what was actually - - when can you expect one of these little trees to be like that? So that was another question that was very technical. The next one, you can see me standing in the bush. Now, that is also a beautiful picture of a re-growth forest and that is apparently forest management. This is forest management. Next one.

This is re-growth forest management and that is, forest management. This is, I have been told by the foresters - - this is the situation if you keep on and keep on burning your trees. They call it prescribed burning. Next one. This is - - you wouldn't believe it. That is made this year and that is your national park because now we are in a situation that national parks are going to be burned and it is called Dingo Flat. This is the tingle forest. Next one.

That is good forest management, Dingo Flat, all tingle. That is also good forest management, burning off, national park. That is excellent forest management, Dingo Flat, forest this year; absolutely wonderful. This is your national park, mind you. Keep in mind this is your national park all taken this year and here you see, this is all the old tingle forest. This is how it looks; good forest management. Even better tingle forest and that is Mt Clare. This is burning Mt Claire. This is even better and that is your giblet forest.

Now we come to the topper of my story. One of the things that is extremely well organised is that your karri forest is high grade beautiful timber and tree that you have seen is chipped in the diamond chip mill and they feel that that is a good way to manage your valuable tree. We've worked out that one tree is - - I don't know, it cost \$9000 or whatever but here it is in the diamond chip mill. Next one. That is what your beautiful ...(indistinct)... karri forest looks like in those big heaps. The next one. That is where it ends up in Bunbury to go as chips to Japan and that is the end of that one.

Right. Now, this is a long research from 1992 to 1996 and I would like to see if I get some good questions or you might even say, "Are there alternatives?", or whatever. Now, it's up to you, bright young students. I am a very

optimistic person and I believe, I really believe, if there is now a group of young intelligent well-read students who would now say, "Enough is enough. Let us stalk now", one of the possibilities is I've been, of course, in New Zealand. Mind you, they already logged the bloody lot so I don't know what, if any - - but anyway, we are now finally at the situation that Greenpeace, they have very good chaps there, they are talking actually with the government and with the timber industry. I think, number one should be now a group of young people who are prepared to form some kind of a commission and really say, "Right, enough is enough", but now we are going to talk how we can save that last bit.

Now the only way how you can get that is to sit around the table with the timber industry and with the people in charge and say, "Right. How can we now stop what is going on and really sit around the table and talk". This is my honest opinion that there should be a possibility there.

SPEAKER: How can you deal with people in that area when they still believe that logging is ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: No, look, always give the other person a chance to explain himself. Now, there are two sort of sciences. There is a forestry science and there is probably an ecological science or it may be an environmental study science or a geomorphological science; I don't care what you call it, but there are two kinds of philosophies and the forestry people are trained to cut the trees and put something new there. The environmental people or, let us say, the geomorphologists, they really look at the thing and they say, "Right, is this a possibility or can it go in another way or can we find an alternative?".

You've got to get the forestry people to say or to - - and make them understand that how can you prove that when you cut down a karri tree from 300 years old - - how can you prove - - put a new one there or, I don't care, 10, how can you prove it will survive in 100 years' time? I have been standing there in the field with intelligent young foresters from CALM and I get them like that and I get them away from their office and I stand there with them in the field and I say, "Look. Now, this is what I see. Now you tell me: how can you prove that it will survive? Did you ever take a real study beforehand? What did you do beforehand, before you cut this damn lot down?". Nothing.

They say they do a pre-survey. They have done nothing of the kind. I say, "Have you done the water? Did you measure your hydrology?". No. "Have you examined the soil?". No. So, if they keep on saying, "No", isn't it up to you to say, "Well, is this the right way to go about it?" and then you make them understand that they are on

the wrong track. This is the only way to deal with people like that. I believe that everybody can believe in something. If you tell me that that is white or if you tell me that is black, I say, "Fair enough. You believe that is black". Now, I've tried to explain to you that it is white. Just never give up. Keep on saying, "Where is your evidence? Have you got scientific evidence in what you say?", and they will say, "No".

SPEAKER: You say you have been working on this for quite a few years?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes, since 1992, to be exact.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)... Do you really believe that sitting down and talking to these people is going to save that, in what's left in that time?

DR VAN der MAESEN: The funny thing is, this is not what I made.

SPEAKER: No. I'm saying, there is only so little left.

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes.

SPEAKER: You saying sit down and talk ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: This is their map. This is a very honest map. This is the CALM map.

SPEAKER: So there is going to be less left there - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: 1949. I sit with the people of the EPA. I have had a whole talk for 4 hours with the EPA. They said, "Where did this map come from? Where did this map come from?". I said, "It is a CALM map". "Well, that's not accessible to us". I said, "No, you've got to pay \$300 to get it. So you pay the \$300". This is a real map so I mean, they say, "Well, how is it possible?" and that's what you kids have got to do. You've got to keep on saying, "Well, this is the map". You can take a photocopy of that. You can make a colour photocopy of that. I'll leave it behind here - - not here but it's going to stay in one place and everybody can take a photocopy and then you say, "Right. This is the map".

I tell you, it was absolutely a dead scream because I was with this young guy. I mean, the girl that I am doing the study with, she said, "Oh gosh, you fell in love with that guy". I said, "Yes. I think he's gorgeous", but nevertheless, he really was. We were in the field together. He was standing there. You have got to get these guys away from their office, quite away from them and I said, "Right. We are going to stand here", and I had this on this car. I said, "Do you see this? This is your map. This is a satellite image, 1992". He said,

"That can't be true". I said, "Can't be true? You didn't think that I was going to do this ...(indistinct)... ". He said, "That's not true. That can't be - -". I said, "... (indistinct)... 1992".

He had no idea at all. Then I said, "Do you read any literature? Do you read, you know, very good ecology, the ecology book from CALM from ...(indistinct)... Johnson?", because I kept on saying a couple of things. He said, "That can't be true". I said, "Yes. 12 per cent of all your new nice little trees, they're all going to be disappearing. They're going to sick because there's 12 per cent". "12 per cent can't be true". I said, "CALM publication number so and so, published in 19 - -".

I said, "Do you ever read some literature on the subject?". "No", he said, "I have no time". I said, "So all you do is you go in the field and cut the bloody lot and then go home with your family". So, they haven't got a clue. So now, you are going to be the real good trained people and you know what you're doing and you just show them the facts of life. That's all you can do. Yes?

SPEAKER: You talked about the definition of sustain yield, before - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: Sustainability or - -

SPEAKER: Sustained yield. In the ...(indistinct)... commission final report on forestry, they couldn't identify one area in Australia, one forest that had actually managed on a sustained yield basis and all the submissions from CALM and that, they put that down to a definitional problem that they all defined it differently. So, how do you overcome that problem when CALM says, "Well, our definition of it is this and we're working within that definition". What sort of definition would you - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: Yes. I showed it to you in the overhead sheet. There are two things; two different concepts. It is the definition of ecological sustainability. Then you say, "What is the inherent or inherent values", or, "What is the damage you do to the ecology when you cut the tree?". Now, that's one thing. That is an ecological sustainability but you also have a sustainable yield. Now, what a sustainable yield is, that is you cut down a tree and you take exactly his cellulose content, isn't it because a tree has cellulose content, and you plant 10 or 20 new trees there and they grow up and there is also cellulose content and that is - - they are talking about fibre and if they talk about fibre, I say, "Yes, it is ...(indistinct)... fibre". They are working on a sustainable yield program. That's good. It's right. That's true, but I'm not talking about it.

I'm talking, not about the individual little trees that are standing there, I'm talking about the tree and its whole biomass. I talk about the tree with its hollows. I talk about the tree and ...(indistinct)... I talk about a forest structure and in your forest structure, you've got to take the whole situation. You just take what is there living. You talk about all the little animals, all the little insects, all the -- God knows what is hanging there. Right? So, that is ecological sustainability. I am not talking about -- and I had to make that extremely clear and I think there's going to be a new generation of well trained people. They are going to ask in the field the same old questions as I ask and that's what you've got to have, a whole new group of young people. You are well trained.

LECTURER: It grieves me to have to stop you but we have to move on. Is there anything else?

DR VAN der MAESEN: I feel that they ought to ask questions but you deal with this probably better than I do.

LECTURER: Well, are there other questions? I am aware of the fact that there are people who have to go to a lab. In fact, they are 20 minutes into their lab now. Well, maybe another 5 minutes.

DR VAN der MAESEN: Anyway, before I go and you go, I wish you all the luck. I hope I've given you enough inspiration now not to let this go too far. That's all I can say. Right. Another question.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)... What can we do?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Number one, always learn your facts of life. Be as well educated as possible.

SPEAKER: As we educate ourselves, do we write letters? Should be approach different departments? Should we approach CALM and say, "We've been told this"?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Well, I think that would be a bit difficult because they will say, "Who is that silly bitch", so I don't think that is sensible. I think the best way to do this, is to read the newspapers and I think, be well informed and then say with a group of people now -- firstly, I think everybody should stand behind that girl, Susan Ryan. I think you should get a file on it and you should follow it because now I think this is a typical case of suppression and I think if young women -- if I would be here, I would be there on the door step; I would be doing something, because I don't think you can tolerate that because now it's her, tomorrow it's you. That's number one, absolutely. I think it's just dreadful what's happening and secondly, I think that you

then, a group of people, young people like you, you should have meetings on it and think what you can do as a combined group - never mention one name - as a combined group, as students of this university, try to see if you can really form a pressure group. That's what I think you should be doing but then have the right sort of answer. Really study. Whatever you say, make sure you say it the right way. Yes?

SPEAKER: Don't you think that rather than forming another pressure group that you should be using existing pressure groups like the Wilderness Society or like ... (indistinct) ... or like the Conservation Council, because they've already got ... (indistinct) ... really need volunteer help.

DR VAN der MAESEN: Well, I'm not allowed to say this, but I mean it. That's what I think because to give you a good answer, what this conservation group is lacking, people in the forest doing little research jobs. I tell them that a million times. I say, "Get one guy to sit there in his tent and just measure water. Get another guy or girl to -" that's what we do in our university. They say, "Right. Now, this is going to be my research topic. I want to know this little - -". Don't try to do the bloody lot like I do because it's too complicated. Just divide it up and say, "Right. Now I am interested in that particular problem. I'm going to do that". In the end, you get a whole research group of people.

That's what I think and they have all they need; all the help they get. They lack - - they really lack scientists like me sitting there and doing it. They really lack that but I mean, it has cost me personally already \$10,000. I spent it. I had my savings. My last savings have gone into this and I have spent - - it has cost me \$10,000 so far. I mean, that is really grim but I mean, for me, it's worth it because I honestly think before I kick the bucket I want to say, "Now, at least this thing I've done". Really and truly I mean it but I wish I would have a young group of people who say, "Right. Now, I'm going to find out what I can do", but then in a practical manner, measure, measure and measure, in the field, all your holidays. That's what I think but I hope you take notice of that. Yes?

SPEAKER: Have you any idea how much the karri is still on sale and is the WA Government still attempting to attract an international market for it?

DR VAN der MAESEN: The WA Government is going to sell as much as they can. Does that answer your question? So that will be, of course, now looking at what is happening now. There is a lot going out to Singapore. There is a lot going out still to the UK but we need to block the market. I mean, you need to block the market if they

don't buy it. I personally believe that also the availability of the karri is running really at a loss. I don't think they have much left, but then, of course, my biggest worry is - - actually, my biggest worry is still the chipping, what's happening. All these beautiful trees are chipped. 85 per cent of the karri forest is chipped. Now, I think if you have a carpenter who can do good work - - added value, they call - - if there's a carpenter who could make a beautiful, whatever, table from it, I wouldn't have a problem with that. I have a problem with a beautiful karri tree that ends up there in Japan as wood chips and I think it is your forest. I think it is a disgrace that there hasn't been a public outcry about that.

SPEAKER: We're the ones who are using - -

DR VAN der MAESEN: No. Well, good luck on you.

SPEAKER: ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: What is your market? What, the ...(indistinct)... - - -

SPEAKER: We're the ones who are consuming ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: You consume - - which table?

SPEAKER: No, the ...(indistinct)... We're the ones who consume the ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: That's a damn disgrace. You shouldn't be using white paper. You have all recycled paper. Nobody, not one - - there's not one excuse for you to use one bit of white paper; nobody, never. Refuse all the white paper. You should have recycled paper.

SPEAKER: If you refused all the white paper ...(indistinct)... All this stuff, is that recycled paper?

DR VAN der MAESEN: An absolute disgrace. No, this is number one. That's where you start. Refuse all the white paper. Don't let them use any more white paper. Number one; no students of yours will use white paper any more.

SPEAKER: Do you still use white paper?

DR VAN der MAESEN: Me? If there is any other paper available; no.

SPEAKER: All those hand-outs we picked up at half time, they're all ...(indistinct)...

DR VAN der MAESEN: All my overhead sheets I did by

accident back to front.

SPEAKER: That recycling ...(indistinct)... we did last year, I mean, all the stuff that's recycling, a lot of it is white paper but how many of us waste white paper when we do copies of ...(indistinct)...

LECTURER: Okay. Before you go, we have to do two things. We have to wish Leone well for the next couple of days because she's got some things coming up and we have to thank Leone for giving us a very valuable insight into some very important issues.
