Incentives For Countryside Management: The Case Of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Martin Charles Whitby

What is the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme? The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme was introduced in 1987 to offer incentives to encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices which would safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value. The scheme has now closed to new applicants. Defra introduced a new Environmental Stewardship Scheme on 3 March 2005 which supersedes (with enhancements) the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship Schemes. There are 22 ESAs in England, covering some 10% of agricultural land. Attribution statement: © N Environmental sustainability is a key issue for human societies throughout the 21st century’s world. All countries need to secure sufficient quality in the short and the long term of natural resources, ecosystems, and the diversity of plant and animal species, including the human living environment. Since 1987, the term ‘sustainable development’ has been used to denote economic, social, and environmental dimensions of our future survival (WCED, 1987; see Robinson, 2004, for a conceptual review). In this issue, we focus on environmental sustainability and its relation to human quality of life.