

# GreenFacts



## **GreenFacts Scientific Board report**

*Progress made in the preparation of  
GreenFacts Studies  
and involvement of the Scientific Board  
during 2005 and early 2006*

*Communicating Scientific Facts on Health and the Environment*



## *Introduction*

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This period in the history of GreenFacts has been highly productive and one in which the Organization can be proud. The current success has been due to the energy of the GreenFacts staff and diligent participation of many of the Scientific Board members. Indeed, even the production of this report has been dependent upon the GreenFacts staff, to whom I am extremely grateful.

It is to be hoped that the success of the current period can be maintained in the future. One should anticipate variations in the rate of output and, in my opinion, it is not reasonable to look for continued growth. This could bring dangers to an endeavour that, for success, must put quality as its priority over quantity. Our initial projects mainly involved toxicology, but this emphasis has been changing and projects involving other disciplines have become increasingly important. This diversity obviously broadens the attraction of GreenFacts and quite possibly introduces its readership to topics about which they may have but a sketchy understanding.

Douglas McGregor  
President of the Scientific Board

## *The GreenFacts Staff and Trainees.*

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### **Staff.**

In 2005, GreenFacts staff members directly working on the studies, their translation, and their online implementation included:

- **Stephanie Mantell** (Publication Manager)
- **Denis Richir** (Editor & Translator)
- **Cédric Stevins** (Webmaster)
- **Annika Åkerfelt** (Science Editor) from February to July 2005
- **Patrick Van Hove** (Science Editor) from February 2005

During the period there have also been some changes in staff; some leaving while others came and some changing roles. Even staff members who have left have, from time to time, continued to serve the organisation.

Annika Åkerfelt was hired to replace Nicolas Honorato who had left in December 2004 to work in the mining sector (Nicolas is now working as a civil servant in Brazil and occasionally translating GreenFacts studies into Spanish). In June 2005, Xavier Ortegat who is Member of the GreenFacts Board stopped working on fund raising. This is why, in August 2005, Annika Åkerfelt changed roles within GreenFacts to strengthen the Fund-Raising team and become Public Relations Manager.

Patrick Van Hove was hired first for a few months to complete the necessary in-house work on the Ecosystem Change study. When that was completed, he stayed on to replace Annika Åkerfelt when her role changed. During 2006, he has also helped with the design of the website.

Denis Richir had been working for GreenFacts as part of an internship since September 2004 both on the translation and editing of studies. Since March 2005 he has been a full-time employee.

In April 2006, Sandra Nebe was hired as Communications Officer to promote GreenFacts and its studies through the website and press releases. Though she does not work on the studies themselves, she works closely with the Editorial team and relieves the team of some of its burden by taking over promotional activities related to the studies. Her targeted efforts are intended to increase the readership of GreenFacts studies among journalists.

Within the IT team, Daniel Carrico, a trainee, will remain in 2006 for another two months as an intern and 6 months as an employee, to enable GreenFacts to switch to a more automated way of implementing GreenFacts studies online and of managing its growing multilingual website.

### **Trainees.**

During 2005, the work of the staff was supplemented by trainees: Rachel Thomas (3 months of editorial work), Nerea Larrañaga (3 months of Spanish translations), Sander Jansen (3 months of website usability testing), Daniel Carrico (2 months of online implementation).

During 2006, other trainees engaged are: Elisa Luño (6 months of IT work for the automated online implementation of studies), Aude Landrieu (3 months of French translations) and José García (4 months of French translations). It is likely that other trainees will be engaged during the second half of 2006.

## *The GreenFacts Scientific Board*

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In 2005, we released eleven GreenFacts Studies summarizing scientific consensus reports on a wide variety of environmental and health issues:

There are currently 21 Scientific Board Members (see Appendix for details). Of these, 6 were welcomed during 2005 and 2006: Prof. André Berger, Prof. Guy Brasseur, Prof. Vito Foà , Prof Erminio Giavini, Dr Harold A. Mooney, Prof. Dr Karl Ernst von Mühlendahl.

The majority of these Members have had the opportunity to work on GreenFacts projects and have taken those opportunities. Thus, Scientific Board Members who have been active in GreenFacts projects have numbered 16 since 2003, 11 of whom have been active during 2005 and the early months of 2006. Generally, those Members who have not been active are in this position only because they are either recent Members who have not had an opportunity to become involved or their expertise has not yet been required, because of the nature of the projects. Some Members are more passive than the majority.

The active Members were the following, some, you will notice, having been involved in several projects:

1. Prof Paul Galand: speaker at GreenFacts roundtable (2004)
2. Prof Pedro Buc Calderon: editor (Aspartame)
3. Prof. Corrado Galli: peer-review coordination (Aspartame, Mercury, GM-crops, phthalates), comments
4. Dr Richard Helmer: peer-review coordinator (Fluoride, Water disinfectants), comments
5. Dr Ludo Holsbeek: editor (Dioxins), peer review coordinator (Ecosystem change, Fisheries, PCBs), comments
6. Prof. Colin Janssen: peer-reviewer (Endocrine disruptors), peer-review coordinator (Boron), comments
7. Dr Claude Lambré: peer-review coordinator (Tobacco, Respiratory diseases), pre-reviewer (Air pollution), comments
8. Prof. Dominique Lison: editor (Cadmium=aborted study), peer-review coordinator (Arsenic)
9. Dr. Douglas McGregor: peer-review coordinator (Dioxins, Diet), final approval for web-site publication, comments
10. Dr Harold A. Mooney: peer-reviewer (Ecosystem change), peer-review coordinator (Biodiversity)
11. Prof. Wim Paschier: peer-review coordinator (Alcohol), comments
12. Prof Jim Parry: peer-review coordinator (Endocrine disruptors), comments
13. Dr Elmer J. Rauckman: comments
14. Prof Hubert Thierens: peer-review coordinator (power lines)
15. Prof. Luc Verschaeve: peer-review coordinator (Air Pollution, Static Fields, Chernobyl), comments
16. Prof. Dr Karl Ernst von Mühlendahl: peer-reviewer (Respiratory diseases), trial translation into German (Mercury level 1).

In addition to these Scientific Board Members, it should be pointed out that a number of other people have worked hard and made essential contributions to GreenFacts projects. These include notably:

1. Dr. Sue Barlow, editor (Endocrine Disruptors, Arsenic, Phthalates, Alcohol), peer-reviewer (Aspartame), represented GreenFacts at a SCALE meeting organised by the European Commission in 2004, suggested several source documents
- 2, Dr. Linda Birnbaum peer-reviewer (Dioxins).

Sue Barlow has refused invitations to join the Scientific Board because she sees her role as an external editor as a potential conflict of interest.

## Projects published and planned for publication in the current period.

	2005												2006			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
Tobacco	fr				es		ES									
Ecosystem Change		fr	W		ES/FR											
Fluorides				W	ES/FR											
Air Pollution (x3)							W									
Fisheries								W				ES				
Respiratory Diseases									W							
GMOs										W				ES/FR		
Phthalates (x2)									W							
Alcohol																W
Static fields										d			W			
Chernobyl												*				fr/es

In 2005, 11 studies were released Tobacco, Ecosystem Change, Fluorides, Fisheries, Respiratory Diseases, GM Crops, three studies on Air Pollution (Nitrogen Oxides, Ozone and Particulate Matters), and two on Phthalates (DIDP & DINP, and DBP).

The objective for 2005 had been to publish ten studies with our own funds and five more with external funds. The target for internally funded studies was achieved, but, although GreenFacts worked more closely with other institutions in 2005, the targeted funding from them for additional studies was not achieved.

In early 2006, three studies have been published: alcohol, static fields, and Chernobyl, one of which (static fields) did receive financial support from the WHO.

## Projects planned for the current period.

At least 12 studies should be released in 2006. These include:

- **Released:** Alcohol, Static Fields, Chernobyl,
- **In progress:** PCBs, Biodiversity, Diet, Arctic Climate Change, Ozone depleting substances, European Environment, Forests,
- **Planned:** Carbon Sequestration, Psychoactive drugs.

## Projects in process;

Work is in progress on 7 studies:

1. The **PCBs** study is based on “CICAD 55: Polychlorinated biphenyls: human health aspects” by WHO-IPCS (2003)  
[www.inchem.org/documents/cicads/cicads/cicad55.htm](http://www.inchem.org/documents/cicads/cicads/cicad55.htm)  
 The peer-review is coordinated by: Ludo Holsbeek
2. The **Biodiversity** study is based on “Ecosystems & Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis” by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)  
[www.millenniumassessment.org/proxy/document.354.aspx](http://www.millenniumassessment.org/proxy/document.354.aspx)  
 The peer-review is coordinated by: Hal Mooney
3. The **Diet and Nutrition** study based on “Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases” by the WHO&FAO (2003)  
<http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/trs916/en/index.html>  
 (no peer-review coordinator yet)
4. The **Arctic Climate Change** study is based on “Impacts of a Warming Arctic” by ACIA (2004)  
[www.acia.uaf.edu/pages/overview.html](http://www.acia.uaf.edu/pages/overview.html)  
 The peer-review is coordinated by: Ludo Holsbeek
5. The study on **Ozone depleting substances** is based on “Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons” by the IPCC (2005)  
[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch) (no peer-review coordinator yet)
6. The study on the **European Environment** is based on “The European Environment: State and Outlook 2005” by the EEA (2005)  
[http://reports.eea.eu.int/state\\_of\\_environment\\_report\\_2005\\_1/en](http://reports.eea.eu.int/state_of_environment_report_2005_1/en)  
 (no peer-review coordinator yet)
7. The study on **Forests** is based on the “Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005: Progress towards sustainable forest management” by the FAO (2005) [www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?siteId=101&sitetreeId=16807&langId=1&geoId=0](http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/forestry2/index.jsp?siteId=101&sitetreeId=16807&langId=1&geoId=0)

	2006											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PCBs	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Grey (w)	Red (fr/es?)							
MA Biodiversity		Yellow	Orange	Grey (fr/es)	Red (w)							
Diet and Nutrition	Yellow		Orange	Grey	Red (fr/es?)							
Arctic Climate Change	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Red (fr/es?)							
IPCC Ozone	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey							
EEA	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey							
Forests		*	Yellow	Grey	Grey							

For some of these studies, such as Diet and PCBs, publication may be delayed further, even after the peer review is completed, in order to provide a more uniform publication rate.

Finally, work has been started on an **Avian Influenza** document and Claude Lambré has volunteered as peer-review coordinator, but work is currently on hold due to editorial problems with the source document and copyright issues with the WHO.

 **Conclusion**

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The President of the Scientific Board is most grateful to the GreenFacts staff and the Scientific Board for the essential role each has played in producing interesting and worthy documents that can be understood by non-specialists.

April 2006

**GreenFacts asbl / vzw**

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## *Members of the Scientific Board*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Date nomination</b>
<b>Dr Douglas B. McGregor</b>	Independent Consultant in Carcinogenicity Former researcher for the IARC	22/10/03
<b>Prof. Corrado L. Galli</b>	University of Milan, Professor of Toxicology, Director of the Laboratory of Toxicology in the Faculty of Pharmacy	20/11/03
<b>Prof. André Berger</b>	Catholic University of Louvain, Institut d'Astronomie et de Géophysique G. Lemaître, Professor of Climatology and Meteorology	16/02/06
<b>Prof. Guy Brasseur</b>	National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Associate Director in charge of the Earth and Sun Systems Laboratory (ESSL)	16/02/06
<b>Prof. Pedro Buc Calderon</b>	Catholic University of Louvain Pharmacokinetic, Metabolism, Nutrition and Toxicology Unit	22/10/03
<b>Prof. Vito Foà</b>	University of Milan, Professor of Occupational Medicine, Director of the School of Specialization in Occupational Medicine	19/09/05
<b>Prof. Paul Galand</b>	Free University of Brussels, Laboratory of cytology and experimental cancerology	2002
<b>Prof Erminio Giavini</b>	University of Milan, Head of Dept of Biology. Director of the Milan University Research Center on Risk Characterization (MURCOR)	04/11/05
<b>Dr Richard Helmer</b>	Former Director of the Department of Protection of the Human Environment at WHO, Switzerland	02/02/04
<b>Dr Ludo Holsbeek</b>	Free University Brussels (VUB), Laboratory for Ecotoxicology and Polar Ecology.	26/06/03
<b>Dr Colin Janssen</b>	University of Ghent, Head of the Environmental Toxicology Research Group, Professor of Ecotoxicology.	02/02/04
<b>Prof. Ali Esat Karakaya</b>	Gazi University, Ankara-Turkey, Head of the Department of Toxicology, Professor of Toxicology	24/06/04
<b>Dr Claude Lambré</b>	INSERM (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale), France, Scientific Advisor to the Director General - Health	24/06/04
<b>Prof. Dominique Lison</b>	Catholic University of Louvain, Industrial Toxicology and Occupational Medicine Unit	2002
<b>Dr Harold A. Mooney</b>	Stanford University, Professor of Environmental Biology	16/02/06
<b>Prof. Jim Parry</b>	University of Swansea, Laboratory for Mutagenesis	2002
<b>Prof. Wim Passchier</b>	University of Maastricht, Department of Health Risk Analysis and Toxicology, Special Professor of Risk Analysis	22/04/04
<b>Dr Elmer J. Rauckman</b>	Consultant in Toxicology and Regulatory Affairs, USA	24/06/04
<b>Prof. Hubert Thierens</b>	University of Ghent, Laboratory for Radio-Biology.	26/06/03
<b>Prof. Luc Verschaeve</b>	VITO (Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek) Environmental Toxicology	26/06/03
<b>Prof. Dr Karl Ernst von Mühlendahl</b>	Manager / Director, Kinderumwelt gGmbH (Academy's Center for Documentation and Information on Environmental Questions), Osnabrück	16/02/06

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