Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Concepts of Nature as Communicative Devices: The Case of Dutch Nature Policy"

Keulartz, Jozef, Henny van der Windt, and Jacques Swart

Keulartz, Jozef, Henny van der Windt, and Jacques Swart. "Concepts of Nature as Communicative Devices: The Case of Dutch Nature Policy." *Environmental Values* 13, no. 1 (2004): 81–99. doi:10.3197/096327104772444785 .

The recent widespread shift in governance from the state to the market and to civil society, in combination with the simultaneous shift from the national level to supra-national and sub-national levels has led to a significant increase in the numbers of public and private players in nature policy. This in turn has increased the need for a common vocabulary to articulate and communicate views and values concerning nature among various actors acting on different administrative levels. In this article, we will examine the role of concepts of nature as communicative devices in public debates and political decision-making. We try to show that the now dominant functionalist approach to concepts of nature, due to its focus on interests, threatens to narrow public and political communications to purely strategic negotiations. Instead of this functionalist approach we put forward a structuralist approach, which focuses not on interests but on values.

— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 2004 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF:
https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_13no.1_keulartz_van_der_windt__swart.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV1304.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Concepts of Nature as Communicative Devices: The Case of Dutch Nature Policy"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5901
Print date: 10 November 2026 01:41:27

- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327104772444785
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV1304.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Concepts of Nature as Communicative Devices: The Case of Dutch Nature Policy"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5901
Print date: 10 November 2026 01:41:27