

Money and Nature!

Money for those who don't want to work – shouldn't it happen? – But this, in future, would mean that people who are willing to work would not be allowed to do so . . .

A contribution to show the relationship between work, money, consumption and natural resources.

Dear friends of a humane and sustainable planet earth !

Most of our views and opinions on money and work are shaped by the economic culture throughout all society. **Some common references are:**

We need money for living. Only those who work to earn money should get money. Those who don't work depend on others or on savings. Money is transferred from workers to non-workers (called - generational contract). In this system a certain number of workers is necessary to supply the non-working groups or people in need.

What would happen if work and money suddenly became less and less available and came into conflict with the environment as well? Would an unconditional basic income be a solution? You probably immediately think that a basic income must be earned before it is distributed. But what would happen if the money fell from the sky? It would simply be distributed to everyone free of charge. This would mean a basic income without work and workers. But wouldn't everything fall apart without work? – Who bakes bread, makes food, makes clothes or builds houses? And what about our environment? It is common sense to think that a simple distribution of money wouldn't work!

It is necessary to work – with or without money. On the other hand it is basically not about money! It's also not about distribution of work and/or exchange of trade either. Both are often used arguments that money is necessary. No, it is about our substantial prosperity, our life. It is in our best interest to preserve the environment in order to keep the world going. Money alone cannot make this happen.

This then brings us to the “resource economy”.

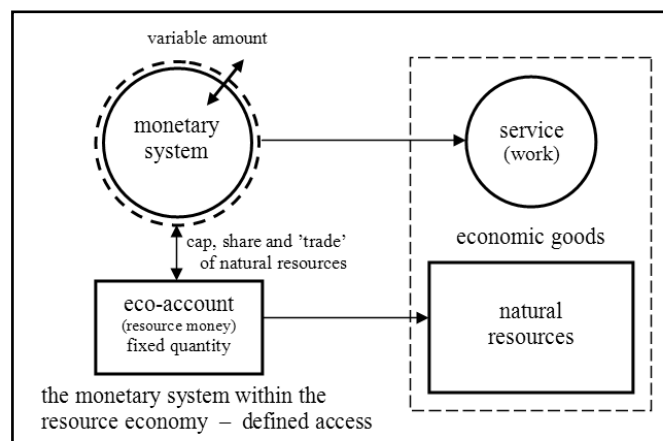
What does this mean? It means distribution of rights to use renewable natural resources instead of distributing money. And it would mean giving every human being equal access to natural resources necessary for their work without creating new jobs by force. The “resource economy” brings us back to reality. Only through a meaningful activity can we create sustainable prosperity! Only through the intelligent use of natural resources this is possible. We need them as we need air to breathe! Thus, natural rights must definitely be distributed equally to all people within the administrative unit such as state, province or region they belong to.

Natural rights would help to create the same life opportunities for everybody independently of their nationality or birthplace. In that way bread can be baked. But what would happen if somebody couldn't or wouldn't bake or work?

Here the socio-ecological aspect comes into play. Social justice means that those who work more deserve more material prosperity than those who don't. However, because natural resources are already limited, this new system of natural distribution rights must also provide the outline to prevent the extensive damage of nature on a large scale. Therefore, someone who wants to work more in order to achieve a better living standard (such as improved housing, more equipment, travel and entertainment) which by its nature drives the demand for more natural resources,

would only do it by obtaining more natural rights from others. Consequently, as in conventional economics, larger production leads to higher consumption and vice versa. But the equal distribution of natural rights would

bring into balance the consumption or production with the natural resources (see the figure to the left). However, in the case of someone acquiring more natural rights than others they would have to be compensated in cash or through other services. This way a chance of improving living standards would be possible for everybody. The need of a



“will to work” and the need to "receive money for those who don't want to work", stick together.

And so we come back to the question of the subtitle of this paper in form of an answer:

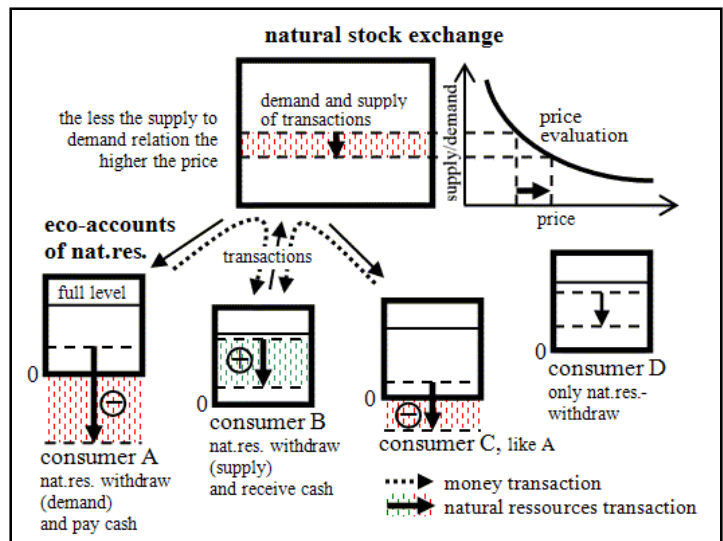
"Money, even for those who don't want to work, has to happen in order that people who are willing to work will be allowed to do so in future !!"

How can this vision become reality?

As previously described the necessary step would be to create an official stock exchange for transacting natural rights with money and vice versa. How then could this issue be seen as the single solution of the problem of social distribution and ecological sustainability?

Fair allocation of natural rights would not only satisfy peoples' basic needs, but also give everybody a chance of improving their living standard. Thus, the resource economy would guarantee not only a basic income in a traditional sense, but it would distribute all the wealth of nature's renewable riches, except for conservation areas. This scheme implies either the need to reduce material consumption or to optimize the ecologically sustainable lifestyle. The resource economy and the traditional system of basic income would then coexist and complement each other in order to optimise the results to stabilize the change of system.

Natural consumption of all products and services of an individual has to be defined according to their basic natural value which can be measured in ecological footprints based on global hectares used. The producers will generally transmit or pass on all these values to the consumers in order to avoid paying the difference themselves. The payment will require a cash account of natural rights (eco-account). If it doesn't exist or it's empty, the consumption of natural rights will have to be paid with money. Any transaction would be made in cash or by credit card. The necessary natural rights would always be withdrawn from an individual or common account. The stock exchange of natural rights would evaluate their prices by the method of demand and supply (see the figure to the right).



Returning to the initial concepts as to people's daily lives: The recent history shows that money is not the essence of human existence. The resource economy would give all individuals freedom to live their lives using money and consuming material goods within the common limited access to the use of natural resources. This would allow the fostering of new positive aspects of human existence. This social binding enhanced by means of the resource economy would not rely on a generation contract system, but on a consumer contract system between the smaller and larger consumers. Currently there is a one-sided real estate market which also depends on natural resources, but only for property maintenance and land use itself. The resource economy would create another way of active money transfer between the consumers. It would balance out the inequalities within the consumption system and in this way would lead to creation of a social solidarity chain. This is not a new social concept. However, the new element of the outline of a resource economy is to bring together the social aspects and the preservation of natural living conditions.

Finally, if you are still asking yourselves another frequently posed question: "If people received a basic income wouldn't they lounge in a hammock all day?" – The answer is: with the resource economy it could be possible if, **at first**, work were only to be treated as a current employment, and **second**, if people didn't want to turn their lifestyle towards sustainability with intelligent careful use of natural resources. In this way, people would have a choice to either work to sustain their lifestyle and strive for more consumption through buying natural rights, or not to work and devote their time to other activities being satisfied with a low living standard where they would only receive basic income through selling a portion of their natural rights to over-consumers. This situation would, of course, undergo periodical changes.

The resource economy thus offers a very flexible working approach, to experience a new individual freedom of life in which the framework for the preservation of natural resources would be provided for both the consumers and the producers. Lastly, fairer allocation of economic resources would also lead to a change towards a more democratic political system and a shift towards a more communal society.