In this first of at least three editions planned for 2006, the focus is on environmental law:

Professor Verschuuren of Tilburg University attributes the high moral value of the principles of environmental law to the ideal of sustainable development.

Advocate Paschke and Professor Glazewski of Cape Town offers strong arguments against allowing retrospective environmental authorisation as militating against the purposes of environmental assessment.

Professor Feris of the University of Pretoria investigates the South African legal regime regarding risk management and liability concerning genetically modified organisms, finding it to be inadequate.

Mr Paterson of the University of Cape Town critically analyses South African attempts to produce a coherent legislative framework for the regulation of alien invasive plants in accordance with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Dr Kotze of Potchefstroom argues the necessity of integrating environmental governance efforts for the purposes of rendering environmental governance sustainable, and

Ms Du Plessis of Potchefstroom demonstrates, with reference to the case of the Khomani San community in the Kalahari, that land reform can impact strongly on the environment and sustainable development.

This focus issue was edited by Professor Werner Scholtz.

François Venter

Editor