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# AMRC Newsletter

*Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Malaspina University College, Nanaimo, BC, Canada*

## AMRC Sponsors Biosphere Conversation

The first of the Biosphere Conversation Series at the Clayoquot Field Station April 13-15 brought together a range of people, representing traditional knowledge, the arts, philosophy, science, ecology and politics, in four free-ranging discussions of the ways in which ecological value is understood and interpreted.

This exploration of the first principles governing widely-separated positions on the environment resulted in a deeper understanding (if not total agreement) on the main springs of conflict in the political handling of ecological issues in British Columbia.

Preliminary to any attempt to settle such conflicts is the ability of stakeholders to speak a shared language, so that the ways in which they value the

surroundings which provide them with both a dwelling and a living can be compared. Even among those who share ecological agendas, it soon became apparent that the grounds on which they base their political convictions are diverse, ranging from spiritual to scientific, from conservative to radical. Attention was paid to ways of rendering these diverse formulations clear, and to exploring the overlaps between them.

The second session, in early Fall, will look specifically at the levers of political action which might be used to bring greater mutual respect to debates about the environment, and to promote ecological concern in the complex context of contemporary life.

## News from the Centre

\* *A Translation of Alexandro Malaspina's Meditación sobre lo Bello en la Naturaleza*, by John Black and Oscar Clemotte-Silvero, has been published by Edwin Mellen Press. ISBN: 0-7734-5404-7 or 978-0-7734-5404-0; Pages: 264; Year: 2007.

\* The first recipient of the Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Award, for the BA student in Liberal Studies who has demonstrated the greatest commitment to interdisciplinary study, is Lorill Ireland, until recently a Research Assistant in the AMRC.

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