



Fondazione
Eni
Enrico Mattei



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

The Economics of the Global Loss of Biodiversity

Introduction to the workshop, structure and dynamics

Prepared by Paulo A.L.D. Nunes

Brussels, 4 March 2008



Two day workshop

Day 1

Morning

3 parallel sessions (A)

Afternoon

3 parallel sessions (B)

Report to the Plenary

Discussion

Day 1: Parallel Session A (11:00 – 12.30)

A1: Setting the scene: from biodiversity to human welfare - what do we know and what are the priorities for future research in ecological science?

An assessment of the economic significance of biodiversity loss requires an understanding of how changes in biodiversity affect the provision of ecosystem goods and services.

This session should also explore the links between biodiversity and human welfare, addressing for various types of benefits

What the state of ecological knowledge is, where the main research gaps are, and what the priorities for future work.

Day 1: Parallel Session A (11:00 – 12.30)

A2: What types of biodiversity values could be prioritized in an economic assessment?

What is the economic importance of various types of benefits derived from biodiversity (whether they are likely to make a large difference in a quantitative assessment)? What are typical ranges of unit values from available estimates?

Given the potential and limits of economic valuation tools to assess the importance of biodiversity to people, what are the main types of values on which work could be focused in the timeframe of the

Day 1: Parallel Session A (11:00 – 12.30)

A3: Integrated socio-economic scenarios of environmental change to highlight and compare alternative, future development trajectories.

Scenarios are necessary for predicting future trends of biodiversity loss and changes in ecosystem services.

They are used to predict the effects of socio-economic trends on pressures on ecosystem functions (state), and the ability of ecosystems to sustain the above goods and services (impacts).

The possible feedbacks of changes in impacts on policies (drivers) will also be explored.

Day 1: Parallel Session B (14:00 – 15.30)

B1: Measuring benefits from ecosystem services in monetary terms
– using market and non-market based methods

This session should include an evaluation of economic techniques for assessing the importance of biodiversity to people. What is common practice and what are promising developments?

This session will also explore the potential use of quantitative socio-economic models in combination with case study based approaches to evaluate the welfare changes associated with different scenarios. What are the methodological challenges ahead in making an efficient, policy relevant evaluation of ecosystem goods and services?

Day 1: Parallel Session B (14:00 – 15.30)

B2: Measuring benefits from ecosystem services – integrating monetary and non-monetary estimates

In practice it is often the case that only part of the goods and services provided by ecosystems can be assessed in monetary terms, while for some other services only measures in physical terms can be made.

This session should evaluate the economic and non-economic techniques for assessing the importance of biodiversity benefits and how to combine information in physical terms with monetary estimates

Day 1: Parallel Session B (14:00 – 15.30)

B3: The aggregation challenge: how to go from small changes and individual case studies to the big picture

How to use values from case studies for large scale assessments?

An efficient use of the benefit transfer tool is a great challenge for natural scientists and economists so as to deliver value estimates of policy relevance.

What are the informational and methodological needs to deliver such estimates?

Morning

Case studies
3 parallel sessions (C)

Afternoon

Report to the Plenary
Discussion

Round table session

Roadmaps for way forward: research agenda

Plenary session

Policy, synthesis and way forward to Bonn and beyond

Case study sessions (09:00 – 10:30)

Case studies

- *Ecosystem accounting applied to wetlands by EEA*
(Jean-Louis Weber)
- *Forest study by IUCN*
(Katrina Mullan)
- *Marine Bill valuation study made for DEFRA*
(Salman Hussain)

Day 2: Parallel Session C (11:00 – 12.30)

C1: The costs of actions necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

What are the main drivers of biodiversity loss? What information do we have concerning the type of actions and their associated costs – including opportunity costs - which will be necessary to prevent the loss of ecosystem goods and services? What are the most promising attempts/examples for market creation?

Day 2: Parallel Session C (11:00 – 12.30)

C2: Trade-offs across EGS

This session should explore how to make best use of the experience of the MA with particular attention on the mapping of the relationship between the production of ecosystem services and the beneficiaries.

How can we deal with trade-offs across ecosystem goods and services, taking into account distributional effects?

Day 2: Parallel Session C (11:00 – 12.30)

C3: Policy needs and science challenges

What are the different challenges for economic valuation so as to meet efficiently the questions raised by policy makers at different levels? Which kind of figures/analyses is appropriate with a view of incorporation in scenarios and policy design?

Day 2: Afternoon plenary sessions

15:00 Round table session

Roadmaps for way forward: research agenda

Prof. Markandya (University of Bath), Dr Martín-López (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid), Prof. Stale Navrud (University of Norway)

16:15 Plenary session

Policy, synthesis and way forward to Bonn and beyond

– what are the lessons from this workshop?

Dr Pavan Sukhdev

- Parallel sessions:
 - Moderator
 - Each session leader will be given a personal assistant
- Front desk

**Wish you all good
work.**



Campo S. Maria Formosa
30122 Venezia - Italy

tel +39 | 041 | 27 11 400
fax +39 | 041 | 27 11 461
web <http://www.feem.it>