

EVENT

Workshop
Biodiversity
EU

The Economics of Biodiversity Loss

The workshop on the Review of the Economics of the Global Loss of Biological Diversity was organised by Ecologic on behalf of the European Commission's DG Environment and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). It brought together more than 80 experts in economics and ecology from more than 20 countries and several supranational institutions in order to explore approaches for estimating the economic significance of the loss of biodiversity and related ecosystem services.

This workshop was part of the preliminary stage of a Review on the economic significance of the global loss of biological diversity, initiated as part of the Potsdam initiative. The objective of this workshop were:

- to discuss the state of the art in assessing the economic costs associated with biodiversity loss,
- to bring together relevant actors from different backgrounds in the discussion and organise an exchange between policy needs and available methods and assessments, and
- to develop recommendations for the Review.

The two-day workshop consisted of panel discussions as well as three parallel break-out sessions with altogether 9 working groups. Within the working groups, specific thematic questions will be addressed. These issues have either come up from the synthesis of the call for evidence or are of general relevance in the field of economic evaluation and policy consultancy. To ensure an open and productive discussion, each working group started with opening remarks by the session leader initiating and guiding the discussion.

Building on evidence provided by scientific research through a [call for evidence](#) [1] [pdf, 30kB, English] by the European Commission, this workshop developed recommendations on the way forward for

the Review. The Review will be conducted in two phases, with a preparatory phase running up to the Ninth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-9) in May 2008, and a more substantial phase until 2009, under the responsibility of the appointed Review leader, Pavan Sukhdev.

The [conclusions of the workshop](#) [2] [pdf, 750 kB, English] were incorporated into a discussion paper. This paper concludes that while methods have been developed and used widely for some environmental values (especially market values as well as recreation and amenity), there are still several gaps in the literature. Notable among these are the valuation of loss of species other than headline species, marine ecosystems, cultural and spiritual values, and the dynamic aspects of all ecosystems and values.

Furthermore, it became evident that the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#) [3] is now recognised as a key reference for assessing the economics of biodiversity loss and is referred to in many papers, but its applications is incompletely dealt with in the scientific evidence reviewed.

The final report [Phase I \[scoping\]. Economic analysis and synthesis](#) [4] [pdf, 1.1 MB, English] can be downloaded from the Europa website.

5 March 2008 to 6 March 2008

Brussels

Ecologic Related Articles

- The Cost of Policy Inaction (COPI) on Biodiversity
- The Cost of Policy Inaction (COPI) on Biodiversity
- The Economics of Biodiversity Loss

Further Links

- European Commission: The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-9)

Funding

European Commission, Directorate-General Environment (DG Environment)
Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU),
Germany

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Ecologic Institute, Germany

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Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy

GHK (GHK), United Kingdom
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Date

5 March 2008 to 6 March 2008

Location

Brussels, Belgium

Language

English

Number of Participants

90

Project

The Economics of Biodiversity Loss

Project ID

1750-25

Keywords

Biodiversity, ecosystem services, environmental economics, integration, sustainable development, Europe, World

Source URL (modified on 08/22/2018 - 09:00): <https://www.ecologic.eu/8935>

Links

- [1] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/pdf/call_for_evidence.pdf
- [2] http://ecologic.eu/about-ecologic-eventseco-loss-biodiv/documents/proceedings-ws-economics_loss_biodiv.pdf
- [3] <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/>
- [4] <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/pdf/scoping.pdf>