The Economics of the Global Loss of Biological Diversity
5-6 March 2008, Brussels, Belgium

Program: DAY 1

9:30	• Opening by BMU (Elsa Nickel, deputy Director General) and the European Commission (Ladislav Miko, Director, DG Environment) • Background and purpose of the study and of the workshop (Peter Carl, Director General, European Commission, DG Environment) • Brief overview of on-going reports • Participants background and expectations • Introduction to the workshop, structure and dynamics • Discussion
10:30	*Coffee*
11:00-12:30	A1: Setting the scene: from biodiversity to human welfare - what do we know about the links and what are the priorities for future research in ecological science? (Kerry Turner, Director, CSERGE) *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. Some of these links are well understood, many others much less so. This session should 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 in the timeframe of the Review could be.* A2: What types of biodiversity benefits should be prioritised in an economic assessment? (Pushpam Kumar, Professor, University of Liverpool) *The different types of benefits derived from biodiversity (e.g., food, water, recreation, non-use values) vary in their economic importance. What is the relative importance of these benefits and in particular which are likely to make a large difference to the quantitative assessment of the economics of biodiversity loss? What are typical ranges of 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 benefits on which work could be focused in the timeframe of the Review and what could be priorities for future research?*

	A3: Integrated socio-economic scenarios of environmental change to highlight and compare alternative, future development trajectories. (Ben ten Brink, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency) *Scenarios are necessary for exploring future trends of biodiversity loss and changes in ecosystem services. They are used to analyse 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.*
12:30	*Lunch break*
14:00	B1: Measuring benefits from ecosystem services in monetary terms – using market and non-market based methods (Alistair McVittie, Scottish Agricultural College) *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?* B2: Measuring benefits from ecosystem services – integrating monetary and non-monetary estimates (Patrick ten Brink, Head of Office, IEEP) *In practice it is often the case that only part of the services provided by ecosystems can be assessed in monetary terms, while for some other services only measures in biophysical terms are available. This session should evaluate the economic and non-economic techniques for assessing the importance of biodiversity benefits and how to combine information in biophysical terms with monetary estimates.* B3: The aggregation challenge: how to go from small changes and individual case studies to the big picture (Stale Navrud, Associate Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences) *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. The difficulties include not only how to transfer values which are site-specific but also how to take into account the cumulative effects of small changes in ecosystems when estimating the consequences of large changes, and how economic values can vary accordingly. What are the informational and methodological needs to deliver such estimates*?
15:30	*Coffee break*
16:00-18:00	• Report to the Plenary A1 to A3, B1 to B3 • Discussion

DAY 2

9:00	Costs of biodiversity loss - contributions / case studies: • Ecosystem accounting applied to wetland case studies by EEA (Jean-Louis Weber, Project Leader, EEA) • Forest study by IUCN (Katrina Mullan, University of Cambridge) • Marine Bill valuation study made for DEFRA (Salman Hussain, Scottish Agricultural College) • Discussion
10:30	*Coffee break*
11:00- 12:30	C1: The costs of actions necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Joshua Bishop, IUCN) *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?* C2: Trade-offs across EGS (Anantha Duraiappah, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP) *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?* C3: Policy needs and science challenges (Anil Markandya, Professor, FEEM) 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?
12:30	*Lunch break*
14:00	• Report to the Plenary C1 to C3 • Discussion
15:00	• Roadmaps for way forward: research agenda • Round table discussion
15:45	*Coffee break*

16:15	• Policy, synthesis and way forward to Bonn and beyond • What are the lessons learned from the workshop? (Pavan Sukhdev, Green Indian States Trust)
16:45-17:00	• EC: Closure and thank you (Ladislav Miko, Director, DG Environment)

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