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1. Green Economics

The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity: Launch of Phase II

The work on TEEB Phase II will examine in greater detail how we can improve our economic models and policies to secure the flow of ecosystem services, in a transparent and fair way. This will not only protect biodiversity, but will also improve the well-being of our present generation and the generations to come. Main objectives of Phase II of the TEEB study are rethinking of today's subsidies for tomorrow's policies, creating new markets and policy instruments, sharing the benefits of conservation more equitably and accounting fully in economic terms for the costs and benefits of ecosystem services.

The project is structured around one scientific background report providing methodology and assessing economic tools. In addition to that several handbooks targeted towards specific groups of potential users of evaluation tools for biodiversity and ecosystem services. This includes political decision makers on different levels, private sector enterprises and the average citizen. The reports will be compiled in a phased approach and published consecutively between autumn 2009 and autumn 2010. The final results will be presented at CBD COP - 10 in October 2010.

More information on the TEEB project: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/index2.asp?id=teeb>

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Launch Meeting of the Green Economy Initiative, Geneva, Switzerland, 1-2 December 2008

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with other UN sister organisations are launching a global initiative on Green Economy. The objective is to motivate governments and businesses to significantly increase investment in the environment as a new engine for economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction in the 21st century. This two-year initiative will result in a report that includes reviews, projections, and policy recommendations regarding the development of major green sectors such as renewable energy technologies, environmental infrastructure, building and construction, transport and sustainable agriculture at global, regional, and country levels. But an immediate effort is to propose a Global Green New Deal (GGND) that will focus on environmental investment as a central element in national and international responses to the prevailing financial and economic crisis.

In this regard, on 2nd December 2008 in Geneva, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) invited leading researchers, business leaders, and representatives of international organizations to help shape the Green Economy Initiative (GEI).

More information on this event: [GEI 1-2 Dec Meeting report](#)

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/index2.asp?id=event&subid=pevent>

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Global Green New Deal Report, New York, United States, 1-3 February 2009

Last month, UNEP/ETB invited a group of eminent scholars, economists, and colleagues from the UN system and key partners to peer review our work on the Global Green New Deal. Over forty participants turned up for the two-day review meeting. This review follows earlier efforts involving 'virtual' reviews that also reached out to a broad range of experts and institutions. Professor Edward Barbier of the University of Wyoming produced a draft report that was used to stimulate discussion and help define the main elements and components of the GGND. Participants at the meeting provided concrete suggestions and comments to be included in the revised version of the report that will be available on <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/index2.asp?id=ger&subid=gnd>

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UNEP Side-Event at the UNEP Governing Council on the Green Economy Initiative - Countries Perspectives, Nairobi, Kenya, 17 February 2009

This side event included a brief introduction to the UNEP Green Economy Initiative. In addition, there was 2-3 short presentations on country experiences and perspectives related to the concept of building a green economy. Participants were expected to discuss the relevance of this concept at the country level in the context of the unfolding economic crisis, specific needs of the countries that are interested in exploring the potential of moving towards a green economy, and how best UNEP together with its partners can respond to such needs.

More information: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/>

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2. Economic Instruments

Training Resource Manual *The Use of Economic Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management*

This training resource manual aims to contribute to the capacity building of planners, environmentalists and decision makers to design and implement economic instruments. It is meant to assist trainers prepare and deliver training courses that provide an understanding of economic instruments and their application to influence behaviours, consumption and production towards more sustainable patterns. Designed as an interactive working document composed of flexible modules and exercises and providing guidance for trainers and course participants, the manual offers substantial flexibility for trainers to custom design courses that meet local needs and priorities.

More information : <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/econInst.php>

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3. Sustainable Trade

Third International Review Meeting for Trade and Biodiversity Projects, Geneva, Switzerland, 18-20 March 2009

The Third International Review Meeting for UNEP's initiative on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies and Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sector will be held from 18 to 20 March 2009 in Geneva . This UNEP initiative aims to enhance capacity in six African, Pacific and Caribbean countries (Jamaica, Cameroon, Mauritius, Madagascar, Uganda and Papua New Guinea) to assess the impact of trade liberalization on biodiversity in selected sectors and develop policy recommendations that safeguard biological diversity while maximizing sustainable development gains from trade.

The meeting will bring the six country teams and the group of advisors together again to (i) review the results and recommendations of the integrated assessment studies, (ii) discuss the implementation of selected recommendations, and (iii) develop a final draft of a manual on incorporating biodiversity into integrated assessments of trade policies in the agricultural sector.

More information on the Initiative on Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies and Biological Diversity in the Agriculture Sector : <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php>

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