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Conference Announcement

Theoretical topics in ecological economics

Location : ICTP, Trieste, Italy

Organizers : ICTP, FEEM and The Beijer Institute

Major Topics : Ecological Economics

Conference Dates : 2/10/2003 to 2/10/2003

Submission Deadline : 2/6/2003

Send Submissions To : monica.eberle@feem.it

Sponsoring Organizations :

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Web Page : <http://www.ictp.trieste.it/~eee/smr1493.pdf>

The Conference will cover the following fields: - Economics of dynamic ecological systems - Non-market resource allocation mechanisms - Construction of indicators of economic performance. These seemingly unrelated fields are important for understanding the role of natural resources in the economic development of poor countries. Services generated by eco-systems are important for human well-being, but eco-systems most often lack property rights. These services are not traded on markets and their uses are instead determined by other resource allocation mechanisms. In order to design better management strategies, we need to know both the dynamic of the eco-systems and the resource allocation mechanisms. The first is studied by the use of mathematics of complex systems and the second by the use of game theory. Because of the lack of property rights, eco-system services are not visible in traditional accounts. Thus the GNP, for example, will not include them. Today, more economists believe that the right way to include natural capital is by extending the concept of wealth. This, however, s difficult problems with accounting prices and their estimation. This will be the third field of the Conference.