



The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) seeks your support toward its Tenth Biennial Conference entitled “**ISEE 2008 Nairobi: Applying Ecological Economics for Social and Environmental Sustainability**”. The conference – to take place between August 7-11, 2008 – is being undertaken in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Society for Ecological Economics (ASEE).

The conference will highlight the vision, methods and policy adjustments needed for ecological economics principles to be applied to the design and management of environmentally and socially sustainable development processes. There is a glaring need to build capacity in this area in developing countries in the face of increasing global change and interdependence.

Scholars and practitioners from around the world affiliated with ISEE are organizing thematic sessions around the overarching themes which include:

1. **Ecosystem functions and services**
2. **Climate change**
3. **Ecological economics for development strategies**
4. **Evolution, innovation and transitions**
5. **Alternative institutions and perspectives**
6. **Agroecology, conservation and resource management**
7. **Analytical tools and decision processes**

ISEE will be celebrating its 20th anniversary during the Nairobi event. Founded in 1989 by a small group of transdisciplinary scholars primarily representing Europe and North America, today, there are over 1,150 ISEE members in as many as 60 countries. Through its monthly journal *Ecological Economics* (Elsevier), website (www.ecoeco.org) and newsletter, scientific meetings and partnerships with development organizations, ISEE's has advanced the science and policy of sustainability, bridging the disciplinary gaps between ecology – which cares for “nature's household” and economics – which manages “humankind's household”. Ecological economists represent a broad range of fields, from political ecology to thermodynamics, but all have a common purpose: to inform public policy and human behavior of the need to respect biophysical limits. Ecological economics introduced the dimensions of ecosystem services and natural capital to what are today mainstream approaches to reconcile economic development with nature's constraints.

ISEE now has nine regional societies, representing Europe, USA, Canada, Russia, India, Brazil, Argentina/Uruguay, Australia/New Zealand and Africa, as well as an Ibero-Latin American network. The Chinese Society for Ecological Economics will soon formalize its links to ISEE. Regional societies are represented on the ~~board of ISEE~~ and form a regional council



which nominates its officers. In 2006, ISEE held its biennial conference in New Delhi. There, as in Nairobi, ISEE placed great emphasis on engagement of young ecological economists in developing countries. The Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Award for an outstanding young scientist will be granted for the first time at the upcoming conference in Nairobi. A series of short courses and pre-conference workshops is planned, geared toward regional capacity building efforts.

Besides its global Scientific Committee, the conference organizers have structured a Local Organizing Committee with secretariat based in Nairobi and a fundraising arm, for which the three signatories to this letter are the principal responsible parties. A Conference website at www.ecoeco.org will permit participants to register, post abstracts and papers, and take part in on-line pre-conference forums.

The estimated conference budget is US\$500,000. To support ISEE's efforts to engage young scientists in developing countries, and enable it to further advance dialogue toward sustainability through its upcoming Nairobi conference, we now seek grant support of any amount up to US \$100,000 or more from you. Please visit the ISEE website for further conference details. If you wish to donate, contact the ISEE Secretariat whose contact information appears in the footer of this letter

Sincerely yours,

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