



Conference Announcement and Call for Papers  
**TENTH ANNUAL BIOECON CONFERENCE ON**  
“The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Biodiversity Conservation Instruments”

**Sidney Sussex College Cambridge**

September 28-30, 2008

*Hosted by* CentER, Tilburg University and the Department of Land Economy, Cambridge University

*in association with*

the Dutch National Science Foundation’s (NWO) project on Evolution and Behaviour, UK-DEFRA, and the Environment Agency for England and Wales

The Department of Land Economy, Cambridge University and CentER, in association with the NWO Evolution and Behaviour, UK-DEFRA, the Environment Agency for England and Wales announce the Tenth International BIOECON conference on the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Biodiversity Conservation Instruments. The conference will be held at **Sidney Sussex** College Cambridge on 28-30 September. The conference will be of interest to both researchers and policy makers interested in or working in the management and conservation of biodiversity.

The focus of the conference is on understanding what instruments are most effective and efficient in inducing biodiversity conservation. Instruments include auctions of biodiversity conservation contracts, payment-for-services contracts, taxes, tradable permits, voluntary mechanisms, and straightforward command and control. Optimal instrument choice crucially depends on the actual context in which landowners take their land use decisions. Four are of obvious relevance. First, biodiversity conservation programs are typically implemented in a context of asymmetric information –the landowner typically has better information about the species richness of her land, the costs she incurs when conserving, etc. Second, very often the extent to which a landowner is successful in increasing biodiversity conservation depends not only on her own actions and efforts, but also on those of landowners in her vicinity. Third, species richness and management practices co-evolve, species richness adjusting to the management practice implemented, which, in turn, affects biodiversity itself. Fourth, landowners are oftentimes willing to voluntarily incur costs in order to protect specific species (or more generally the species richness) on their lands. If landowners are indeed intrinsically motivated to provide at least some conservation services, do the various instruments and existing policies strengthen this motivation, or rather weaken it? Of course, other considerations may be important too, and the conference’s theme is to assess the effectiveness and effectiveness of the various instruments in these contexts.



Papers are specifically invited on the themes of:

- Assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of biodiversity conservation instruments, taking into account information asymmetries and/or spatial considerations;
- Development of new, incentive-compatible instruments to conserve biodiversity;
- The co-evolution of natural resources (including biodiversity) and management practices;
- Determining the factors –including the choice of policy instrument– that, for example, increase or decrease a farmer's or public body's motivation to conserve biodiversity on her land;
- Application to strategies and projects of the ecosystem services approach to assessing and valuing environmental impacts.

We are particularly interested in papers documenting practical applications and experience on the above themes. Theoretical contributions are welcomed (e.g., using evolutionary approaches), but also more applied work (for example on how public bodies (managing for example flood risks) can innovatively deliver wider ecosystem benefits as well as how to stimulate private landowners to conserve biodiversity on their lands). We are also interested in multi-disciplinary papers that combine scientific and economic assessments. However, and as usual, we will also accept papers on a range of other issues related to renewable resources and biodiversity management.

The conference will take place over two days, with sessions consisting of papers on the above themes. In addition, there will be two special forums. One will be on the co-evolution of natural resources and human behaviour and the extent to which policy instruments can affect resource users' intrinsic motivation for conserving biodiversity, initiated by the NWO program on Evolution and Behaviour. The other is a policy forum chaired by the Environmental Agency for England and Wales leading a discussion on the practical application of the ecosystem services approach for land management.

Papers may be submitted for presentation within the conference and will be considered by the programme committee. Electronic copies (in WORD or PDF format) should be sent to Jan Stoop (J.T.R.Stoop@uvt.nl) no later than **15th May 2008**. Acceptance of papers will be notified by email in June 2008. Registrations for the conference are due by **30th June 2008**.

The conference will open with a reception at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge on the early evening of September 28. Conference sessions will commence in the morning of September 29 and conclude in the afternoon of September 30. Accommodation for all participants will be organised within **Sidney Sussex College**, with a conference banquet at the College Dining Hall on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Lunches and refreshments will also be provided.

The hosts will cover all conference costs (except travel) for paper presenters and discussants. There will be a £400 registration fee for all other participants that will include two nights lodging at **Sidney Sussex College**, the banquet, lunches and refreshments. There is a £100 registration fee for day-participants (that includes lunches and refreshments but not lodging and the conference banquet). Registration details are provided in the following form. Further information on the conference will be posted on the BIOECON web-site at [www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk)