



Workshop for Economists and Ecologists:

Forging interdisciplinary links to inform public policy

A case study in sustainable agriculture

Charles Darwin House, London

8th May 2012

Chair person: *Dr. Peter Costigan (Defra)*

Speakers: *Prof. Ian Bateman (CSERGE, University of East Anglia)*
Prof. William Sutherland (Dep't of Zoology, University of Cambridge)

Panelists: *Prof. Tim Benton (University of Leeds),*
Prof. Charles Godfray (University of Oxford)
Paul Morling (RSBP), Dr. Salvatore Di Falco (LSE)

The 2011 [Natural Environment White Paper](#) places emphasis on the value of nature to society. In so doing, it provides a strong basis for pursuing more effective links between ecology and economics. Although both disciplines work with the problem of managing scarce resources, significant challenges remain for forging greater interdisciplinary links. For example, each discipline attaches different meanings to terms used in environmental and natural resource management. More fundamentally, they use different criteria and methods to evaluate natural capital and the goods and services that are derived from it.

This Natural Capital Initiative workshop is designed to encourage greater interdisciplinary working and knowledge exchange between economists and ecologists, with the goal of informing public policy. The chosen case study theme is sustainable agriculture.

The event will examine the challenge for government across the UK to reconcile calls to increase production with demands for environmental protection, nature conservation and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Format

The workshop will begin with presentations to outline the perspectives of ecology and economics on sustainable agriculture. A panel discussion will follow. The participants will then split into groups to brainstorm areas where economists and ecologists agree and disagree on steps towards sustainable agriculture. This will involve development of written proposals for interdisciplinary work. The focus will be on how to best inform public policy.

Participants

The event will involve a total of around 40 ecologists and economists, all of whom will be recognised experts in their particular fields of research, policy advice or the practical application of knowledge.

If you are interested in participating, please summarize what you would bring to and how you would benefit from participating in the event in up to 150 words. Please send to secretariat@naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk by 28th March 2012. Workshop places will be confirmed shortly after this date. In the email, please indicate your position in any organisation that you are affiliated with. Further information about the event will be available at www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/ecologists-economists

Organising group

Rosie Hails (NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and NCI), Sue Hartley (York Environmental Sustainability Institute, University of York), Sarah Gardner (GardnerLoboAssociates), Bruce Howard (NCI) and Ece Ozdemiroglu (eftec – Economics for the Environment Consultancy).

NCI partners



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