

SPECIAL WORKSHOP:

Ecological Economics and the Green Economy: relevance for the South, in times of global change – Panel Proposal

Moderators:

Joseph Weiss (Center for Sustainable Development, University of Brasília, Brazil) and Seema Purushothaman (*Ashoka Trust, India*)

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The purpose of the panel is to exchange views among researchers, represented by regional ecological economics societies and BRICS countries, and on the contribution the South can make to these issues, as well as the institutional and cultural changes needed for a transition to a sustainable development paradigm. Please find a list of such leaders who will participate in the panel, below.

The multidimensional world crisis that erupted in 2008, centered on the North, is seen as an opportunity to discuss a new economic model. Concerned with climate change, parties to the UNFCCC have established the objective of decoupling carbon emissions from growth. The South sees this transition as an opportunity for strategies toward endogenous development – to continue reducing poverty and inequality while seeking to meet world emission goals.

The Green Economy Initiative is a pragmatic effort of instruments and technologies to change the real economy towards sustainable development. The objective is to change the economic growth paradigm and the economic incentives which support it. With the right incentives, it could spearhead decarbonization. It speaks the language of business and innovation, requiring substantial business engagement in sustainable development, government in regulation and intervention to initiate green trends and the participation of all segments of society. However, it is not clear that this approach responds to the development targets and objectives of all parties, despite reference to “inclusive wealth”.

The emerging powers see this transition towards a green economy as a strategy for inclusive development with low environmental impact.

Within this context, ISEE/REDES proposes the following south centred discussion at this panel:

1. How do we conceive economic growth compatible with less depletion of natural resources and more equality?
2. Can decoupling carbon from development and green GDP help us tunnel through the Environmental Kuznets Curve - EKC?
3. Can the economic valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity and PES help us move towards an equitable and green, economy?

Subsequent to this panel, a draft policy brief based on the discussions will be prepared during the Conference.

Panelists:

Maria Amélia Enriquez (*Federal University of Pará, Belém, Brazil*)

Dajian Zhu (*Tongji University, Shanghai, China*)

Kevin Urama (*ATPSNet, Nairobi, Kenya*)

Stanislav Shmelev (*Senior Visiting Research Associate, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford, UK*)

Walter Pengue (*General Sarmiento University, Buenos Aires, Argentina*)