

# BELPASSO INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

## *The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Conservation*

12-18 September 2010, Belpasso, Italy

### SUMMER SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

The European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE), the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Catania, with the sponsorship of the Municipality of Belpasso, are pleased to announce their Belpasso International Summer School on Environmental and Resource Economics for postgraduate students.

The 2010 Summer School will take place from the 12th to the 18th of September, at Belpasso, a city in the Province of Catania, Sicily, Italy. The theme of this Summer School is **The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Conservation**.

Human well-being is strongly dependent upon ecosystem services provided freely by nature and its biodiversity. Many of these services are public goods therefore associated to no market price. As a result, their loss is often not detected by our current market system. In addition, a variety of pressures resulting from population growth, changing diets, urbanisation, and climate change are causing additional pressures on ecosystem conservation (e.g. farm land from cleared forests) and this contributing to an acceleration of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity decline.

Therefore, it is crucial to evaluate the wide range of the benefits of ecosystem conservation since the market system mainly awards resource owners for benefits of ecosystem conversion. This line of reasoning is today, more than ever, vividly reflected in the international policy agenda, is embedded in the ongoing global study *The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB)* that constitutes a "major international initiative to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions moving forward". Against this background, the purpose of the Summer School is investigate some of the key issues emerging from the economic here is to contrast the economic values of ecosystem goods and services with the costs of policy action, including spatial redistribution issues, to guide policy makers in what actions they should endorse.

We shall define a sets of lectures by plus a session on case studies, presented by worldwide practitioners. The lectures will focus on the (1) understanding of the role of biodiversity and ecosystems and services in human welfare, (2) determining the value of ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity conservation, with special attention will be paid to the use of non-market economic valuation tools, including value transfer methods; (3) cost-benefit analysis of alternative policy instruments, including payment for ecosystem services. Finally, the last set of lectures addresses communications of real-case-studies from practitioners with international responsibilities in the conservation of biodiversity.

### FACULTY

**Giovanni SIGNORELLO**, University of Catania, Italy  
**Paulo A.L.D. NUNES**, University of Venice and FEEM, Italy  
(School Coordinators)

**Timothy SWANSON**, University College London, UK  
The values of biodiversity

**John GOWDY**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute New York, USA  
Policy instruments, discounting and dynamics in cost benefit analysis

**Pushpam KUMAR**, University of Liverpool and TEEB Leader, UK  
Valuation methodology for ecosystem services

**Pere RIERA**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain  
Choice models to value ecosystems services

**Rosimeiry PORTELA**, Conservation International, USA  
From science to action: Translating research into sound economic and social policies

**Anil MARKANDYA**, University of Bath, UK and BC3, Spain  
and

**Paulo A.L.D. NUNES**, University of Venice and FEEM, Italy  
Climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems services: the costs of policy inaction

### APPLICATION

The Summer School is targeted to postgraduate students. Admission is conditional on the presentation by each student of his/her doctoral work; therefore PhD students who want to apply normally need to be advanced in their PhD to have produced at least one substantive chapter, but not to have completely finished their thesis.

Application is restricted to 2010 EAERE members, both European and non European citizens. Given the highly interactive activities planned at the Summer School, the number of participants is limited to 15.

There is no participation fee. All applicants can apply for a scholarship.

For further information please access the Summer School Website at [http://www.feem-project.net/belpasso\\_2010/](http://www.feem-project.net/belpasso_2010/) or contact the Summer School Secretariat at [g.signorello@unict.it](mailto:g.signorello@unict.it)

**Deadline for application: May the 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**

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