

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA SUB-REGION

20th – 22nd October 2010, Jinja, Uganda

Background

The rich environmental and natural resources of many African countries continues to be degraded due to increased population pressure, inappropriate and inadequate institutions for resource allocation, uncoordinated regional policies, high levels of poverty, and increasing civil wars in some countries. The local communities often bear the brunt of climate changes posed by the destruction of natural ecosystems, including forested landscapes, because their livelihoods are to a large measure directly dependent on the forests and forest-supported goods and services. Payment for Environmental Services (PES) provides opportunities for forest-adjacent local communities to earn incomes while conserving their environment. With the current global focus on the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) under changing climate and climate change effects, a number of organizations are using different approaches to facilitate the implementation of PES schemes in Eastern and Central Africa sub-region. It is envisaged that there are prerequisite activities that needs to be fulfilled in order to fully benefit from the opportunities presented by environmental conservation-cum-social welfare incentive schemes such as PES. Questions in need of answers are: whether there are robust approaches and tools for pricing environmental services in the landscapes, and whether the current policy and institutional setups have adequate capacities to address challenges faced in implementing PES. Furthermore, such challenges are closely linked to availability of suitable methods for valuation, attribution and compensation for, but not limited to, transboundary ecosystem resources in East and Central Africa region so as to spur PES processes. This conference is specifically planned to foster debate, and share innovations, best practices and experiences on implementation of PES among participants in the region.

Conference themes

- Institutional and policy requirement necessary for implementing PES
- The potential for forest-based carbon sequestration and REDD+ through PES markets
- Economic approaches and models for valuation of forest services
- Private sector and implementation of PES schemes across productive ecosystem landscapes
- PES and social welfare enhancement at community level
- PES and the natural resource management;

Case study presentations on implementation of PES are encouraged

Call for Papers

An international conference to address the challenges faced in embracing Payment for Environmental services in the region is organized between 20th and 22nd October 2010 in Jinja, Uganda. The conference will focus on watershed management, carbon sequestration, and the institutional and policy issues necessary for implementing sustainable PES schemes. The organizers will invite keynote speakers to discuss current and emerging environmental issues related to the East and Central African landscapes. The opportunities presented by PES schemes for local communities and for environmental conservation will also be addressed.

Prospective contributors can submit an abstract of 150 - 250 words (in English) latest by 15th June 2010 to the Conference Secretariat by email (see below). Abstract contributors should state whether they wish to present a poster or an oral presentation, and in which session of the conference themes. Each abstract must contain details of authors, institution affiliation, telephone and fax numbers, and email addresses of the corresponding author. All abstracts will be reviewed and evaluated by the Conference Scientific Committee on the basis of scientific quality, topical significance and relevance to the Conference themes. Notice of acceptance decision will be communicated by 30th June 2010 by email. Full papers (in English) of accepted abstracts shall be submitted to the Conference Secretariat (CS) via email no later than 31st August 2010. All papers submitted will be subjected to peer review, and a selection of papers will be considered for publication in an edited book volume, and some in the *African Environmental Review Journal* of Moi University and/or in a special issue of a journal on environmental valuation, conservation and management. Guidelines for preparing the papers and posters for the conference shall be sent to authors of the accepted papers by email. Publication of the Conference Proceedings in the AgEcon Search is also being considered for wider circulation.

Important dates:

- Abstract submission no later than 15th June 2010,
- Conference registration by 30th July 2010
- Paper submission latest by 30th August 2010

Conference sponsors

The conference is organized by the Project on Methods for Valuation, Attribution and Compensation for Environmental Services in Eastern and Central Africa sub-region, funded by the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA) under the Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Programme (NRM&B) and ASARECA. The Project is being implemented by a consortium of six research institutions in three countries of Eastern and Central Africa: Kenya (School of Environmental Studies, Moi University; Victoria Institute for Research on Environment and Development (VIRED-International), and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI-Muguga)); Uganda (Environmental Conservation Trust (ECOTRUST) and Nature Harnessing initiative (NAHI)), and in DR Congo, the Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA).

Conference Language

English is the language of the conference. All conference sessions, proceedings and publications will be prepared and presented in English. Translation service will **not** be provided.

Registration Fee

Registration fee will be US\$100 for all the participants. The registration charge will cover the costs of conference bag, two teas and one lunch for the conference period and a day-site visit to Mount Elgon Ecosystem.

Sponsorship of delegates

There are limited opportunities for partial support to attend the conference. All authors are kindly requested to look for sponsors to participate in the conference. When submitting the abstract, all abstract contributors should indicate if they need to be considered for partial financial assistance.

Call for sponsorship

The Conference organizers appeal to institutions and organizations to sponsor delegates to attend this conference. All conference sponsors and partners are requested to write email to the organizers for further discussion. Logos of all sponsors will be advertised on the conference main website and printed on the conference registration package. All institutions that may need to have exhibition or display stands during the conference are requested to contact the organizers.

All queries and correspondence regarding the conference and abstract submission can be sent to: deanses@mu.ac.ke, and copied to: akkipkoech@yahoo.com, jbokeyo2003@yahoo.com, and wradano@yahoo.com