

UKNEE Seminar Announcement

1st in the *UK Network of Environmental Economists 2004* seminar series:

"Do biodiversity offsets offer a viable and valuable basis for compensating the unavoidable impacts of development?"

5:30pm for 6pm start

Refreshments: 7-8:30pm

Monday, 28 June 2004

Room 7 a/b/c, 2nd floor, Ashdown House, DEFRA 123 Victoria Street, London SW1

Biodiversity risk - the reputational and operational risk of improper management of biodiversity impacts - is increasingly receiving attention by top companies. Actively managing this risk requires companies to integrate biodiversity criteria into environmental and social assessment practices.

But where biodiversity losses are an unavoidable outcome of meeting other sustainable development objectives, and when they have been minimised and mitigated to the extent possible, *biodiversity offsets* can deliver both development and biodiversity benefits. Extractive and utility companies are already involved in a range of agreements to offset harm caused to biodiversity by their activities through compensatory conservation activities, on- or off-site, as required by regulation or implemented voluntarily.

This seminar will aim to stimulate discussion on the potential use of both voluntary and regulatory offset schemes and the role of investors, companies and governments in bringing about effective outcomes for biodiversity conservation. What are biodiversity offsets? How can biodiversity offsets be designed to be politically acceptable, practically workable and to motivate corporate involvement? Is there a role for biodiversity offsets within the EU's Environmental Liability Directive?

Our two guest speakers, Kerry ten Kate from Insight Investment and Joshua Bishop from IUCN, will provide us with two short presentations to launch a stimulating debate on the topic to be followed by a drinks reception.

Guest Speakers:

Kerry ten Kate, Insight Investment is Director of Investor Responsibility for Insight Investment, the asset manager of the Halifax and Bank of Scotland group, where she runs engagement programmes designed to improve the environmental, social and ethical performance of the companies in which Insight's £71bn of funds are invested. Formerly a practising barrister and member of the Secretariat of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Ms ten Kate has worked for the Convention on Biological Diversity and for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and has advised developed and developing country governments and companies on biodiversity strategies.

Dr Joshua Bishop, IUCN is Senior Advisor on Economics and the Environment at the Global Headquarters of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. Prior to joining IUCN, he was Director of the Environmental Economics Programme at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in London. He started his career in West Africa where he worked as a consultant economist to the EC and the World Bank and as a conservation extension agent with IUCN. Dr Bishop is the author or co-author of several books and articles on economic approaches to environment and development.

FREE for UKNEE members • £5 for non-members • RSVP: allan@eftec.co.uk

UKNEE - the UK Network of Environmental Economists - aims to bring together environmental economists from academia, consultancy and public and private sectors to foster closer relationships, follow recent developments and share experience.

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