

## Call for ISEE 2010 Special Session

!!!!!!New deadline!!!!!!

The 11th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE): “Advancing Sustainability in a Time of Crisis” will take place from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010, in Oldenburg and Bremen, Germany ([www.isee2010.org](http://www.isee2010.org)).

For this conference, we organise a special session on:

### *Needs, Capabilities & Sustainable Development*

*Needs* is a central issue in the Brundtland definition of Sustainable Development, but it has not received much attention in the scientific and political debate.

*Capabilities* have been introduced into the scientific and political debate by Amartya Sen and others. The concept is central for the discussion about human development.

*Sustainable Development* was meant to reconcile developmental and environmental discourses by combining moral stances of intra- and intergenerational justice. Sustainable development is considered by some as meaningless and an oxymoron, and has been adopted as a major principle by countless governments, businesses, NGO's and citizens.

The convenors of this special session agree that there are fruitful links to explore between needs, capabilities and sustainable development. We think that needs understood as by Manfred Max-Neef (1991) come close to dimensions of capabilities (Alkire 2002). The philosophical debate on needs theory can inform this discussion (Reader 2005).

It is crucial to consider the material and energy intensity required for specific strategies to meet needs (or to achieve functionings from a capability set). The impact of this intensity, inevitably linked to deterioration of ecosystem services, on individual quality of life and “development as freedom” (Sen 1999) has to be understood, as the availability of ecosystem services is essential for intra- and intergenerational justice.

Talking about satisfying or actualizing needs in order to increase overall life quality has the potential to touch people more than other concepts of environmental or developmental debates. Quality of life, being increasingly considered as a political goal in sustainability governance and beyond, is defined differently in the capability approach, in sociological discourses or in happiness economics.

Bringing together the development debate, which is weakly present in Ecological Economics, and the environmental debate, weakly present in discussions around the Capability Approach, brings us back to the political sources of sustainable development. Joint discussions will also link intra- and intergenerational justice, and the implications of these two moral stances of sustainable development.

Conceptual and empirical papers on links between needs, capabilities, sustainable development and/or quality of life are welcome for these special sessions. If you have doubts, please contact us.

Following the rules of the ISEE2010 call for papers, the special sessions will be on the basis of full papers with up to four 15 min. presentations.

Deadlines:

1. Internal deadline: Please send title and abstract (max. 400 words) to [felix.rauschmayer@ufz.de](mailto:felix.rauschmayer@ufz.de) until **20<sup>th</sup> of November** for the inclusion in the special session.
2. In parallel, please make your online abstract submission of via [www.isee2010.org](http://www.isee2010.org). Online submission will be open starting 15 September 2009. Deadline for submission is **30 November 2009**. Submissions will be reviewed by an international review panel before being accepted.

The paper has to be submitted no later than **1 July 2010**. Full papers can also be submitted before 30 November 2009.

#### **Convenors:**

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#### **References:**

- Alkire, S. 2002. Dimensions of Human Development. *World Development* 30(2), 181-205.
- Max-Neef, M. 1991. *Human scale development: conception, application and further reflections*. London, New York: The Apex Press.
- Reader, S. (ed.). 2005. *The Philosophy of Need*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sen, A. 1999. *Development as Freedom*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.