

**15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference
July 5-8, 2009**

***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"***

CALL FOR PAPERS

Track nr 5B: Global governance for Sustainability: Who's sustainability?
Environmental Justice

Track chair: Prof. Bas Arts (Wageningen University, the Netherlands); dr. Carel
Dieperink (Utrecht University)

Sustainability is a transboundary issue indeed and therefore subject to global governance. According to the UN Commission on Global Governance, this concept refers to the many ways public and private actors manage global issues and try to solve these. *However, this approach is highly contested. It assumes common grounds, common interests and win-win options for the globe as a whole. To some, global governance therefore is an euphemism for 'neo-liberal management', which is an approach - and ideology - that sustains Northern hegemony in the world economy. Others, though, build upon other notions of global governance, not in terms of market liberalization, but in terms of socialization of civil society organizations, including those from the South, into the system of global regulation. Here issues such as participation, democratization and empowerment are at stake. In a similar vein, the issue of sustainability is highly contested. Some consider it an extension of the neo-liberal agenda, to harmonize (and often soften) environmental regulations worldwide to foster market integration, at the cost of the poor, marginalized and non-human world. Others emphasize both the environmental and social agendas, inscribed in the notion of sustainability, and consider the term a vehicle to design pro-poor and pro-environment development strategies. Whatever be the case, both notions pose the question of 'justice':

- Are global governance and sustainability just discourses that empower the rich and developed?
- Or are these vehicles of change too, potentially creating a more just world order?
- Who's sustainability is at stake here?
- Is ecological justice a real option under these terms?

This panel invites researchers from all over the world to submit papers to further reflect on these topics, both theoretically and empirically. We foresee a vivid and relevant debate.

Please look at the detailed instructions and deadlines for submitting your abstract and paper, using the Submission & guidelines button at the left side.