

**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 5E: *Reconsidering Socio-ecological regime conditions: innovations,
institutions and new value chains for a sustainable economy*

Track chair: Prof. Mark Swilling (Stellenbosch University, South-Africa)

As the 'polycrises' of the global economy intensify, the search is on for alternative conceptual frameworks and strategic initiatives that can point the way towards solutions to our current problems at the global, regional, national and local levels. Both developing and developed countries are trying in different ways to find new modes of governance that deal both with our economic and ecological challenges – what some refer to as "sustainable resource management". In some cases it is national governments that initiate change, while in others it is innovative city-level governments that are the first movers. Global warming is clearly undermining development in many developing countries, and resource scarcities are challenging the growth paths of fast developing large economies like China and India. Institutional economists suggest that it is inappropriate institutions that are the main obstacles to growth and more equitable development, while ecological economists say our problems are caused by the fact that we have breached key ecological thresholds. New syntheses of these perspectives are starting to emerge, and innovations are driving new value chains. The rapidly emerging focus on decoupling resource consumption/environmental degradation from growth and the related discussion about 'dematerialization' is opening up new ways of thinking about socioecological regime transition. Transitional towns and the EcoVillage movement provide examples at the local level. This Track will provide a forum for discussing all these conceptual trends and many practical examples of transition in both developed and developing contexts at different scales.

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