



Ecological Unequal Exchange

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ABSTRACT In these years many developing countries are engaged in establishing environmental regulation, but unfortunately, their environmental problems are rooted in fundamental issues that cannot easily be corrected by the instruments normally included in environmental regulation. This paper argues that it is necessary to change the power relations, so that developing countries get a chance to rectify their environmental problems. These issues are elucidated by applying the approach of ecological economics. First, the basic theoretical problem regarding economic value is outlined, and second, it is argued that unequal exchange in ecological terms might be at the root of environmental problems in developing countries. The concept of ecological footprints is used as an illustration. Finally, it is argued that the different movements in the South offer some hope for changes.

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