The Emperor’s clothes? Addressing consistency in ecosystem service studies

Description:

The number of ecosystem service studies has grown dramatically in the last few years, as has the number of approaches to research the multitudinous aspects of ecosystem services. This variety makes it difficult to extract synthesis conclusions from the literature out there or even judge the quality of individual studies. This workshop will address the problems caused by this variance in methods and look at the potential for streamlining ecosystem studies.

Agenda:

1. Introduction on common characteristics of ecosystem services research (10 min, Ralf Seppelt, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ)
2. Can local ecosystem services valuation studies be upscaled for use in global assessments? (20 minutes, Mike Christie, Aberystwyth University)
4. The multiscale integrated Earth Systems model (MIMES): the dynamics, modeling and valuation of ecosystem services (20 minutes, Roelof Boumans, Accounting for Affordable Futures & Gund Institute for Ecological Economics)
5. Issues associated with downscaling national ecosystem services assessments to local scales: A case study from a national assessment of riparian ecosystems of the U.S. (20 minutes, K. Bruce Jones, U.S. Geological Survey)
6. 30 minute break
7. 1.5 hour discussion on synthesis and recommendations (Chair Ralf Seppelt)

Workshop Audience:

- Researchers
- NGOs

Discussion:

As local studies on ecosystem service management become ever more available, so do efforts to derive generalised result come under way. Local studies, however, employ a high variety of methods and do not always provide good metadata. Although much conceptional and methodological work has been done lots on the implementation of regional and global ecosystem service studies, we lack common ground for synthesis.

In this workshop, we will address two aspects: modelling ecosystem responses to human-induced pressures and assessing welfare effects of ecosystem changes. The workshop aims to have a discussion on the possibilities of integrating local and global studies and related information.

Organizer Qualifications:
Ralf Seppelt studied applied mathematics at the Technical University Clausthal Zellerfeld, Germany, obtained his doctorate degree at the Technical University Braunschweig, Germany in Agroecology and Systemanalysis where he worked as research assistant and lecturer at Institute for Geocology. After several research visits at the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, Burlington and Maryland, USA as well at the CSIRO in Canberra, Australia he obtained a full professorship for applied landscape Ecology at Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. He is head of the department for Computational Landscape Ecology at the Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, Germany. Focusing on the interactions and interrelationship of anthropheric and biospheric processes his major research interests are methodological developments in landscape ecology such model integration, hybrid model systems and scales in space and time. At present he is coordinator if the research field “Land use option – Strategies and adaptation to global change” of the Helmholtz Association and coordinator or the International project GLUES on Global Land use Assessments for Ecosystem Services.

Florian Eppink studied economics at the Free University Amsterdam (the Netherlands). He received his doctorate degree from the same university while working at the Institute for Environmental Studies in Amsterdam. Afterwards, he moved to the economics department at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig to work on the economics of biodiversity conservation as a Marie Curie Fellow. He has since been involved in the scientific coordination of The Economics of Ecosystems Biodiversity (TEEB). In 2009, he moved to the department of Computational Landscape Ecology to work on the scientific synthesis within the GLUES consortium.

Workshop Organizers:

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