Practical Use of Ecosystem Services in Policy and Decision Making

Special Session Organizers:

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Session Approach

• Impetus & Objective for Session
• Three Presentations
  • Joke van Wensem – Dutch Soil Protection Technical Committee
    “Integration of Ecosystem Services in Regulatory Frameworks and Decision Support Tools”
  • James Boyd – Resources for the Future
    “Ecosystem Service Values: What Are They, Why Are They Controversial, How Do We Measure Them and Should We Even Try?”
  • Janet Ranganathan – World Resources Institute
    “Integrating Ecosystem Services into Public and Private Sector Decisions”
• Panel/Audience Discussion & Summary
Impetus & Objective

- Concept & science of ecosystem services has advanced substantially
- Yet, challenges remain to practical use in policy & decision making
- SETAC-ESA international workshop: *Ecosystem Services in Environmental Policy and Decision Making*
  - Develop broad consensus & practical guidance for using ecosystem services in policy & decision making to promote sustainability
  - Global representation
  - Summer 2013
- Session objective: Solicit your views about attributes of practical guidance across broad range of decision contexts ("reverse” panel approach)
“Reverse” Panel Discussion

- Moderators will pose questions
- Panelists & moderators will facilitate & engage in discussion
- Moderators will capture conversation highlights on flip charts
- With permission, highlights will inform SETAC-ESA workshop
Question 1

What is the current status of use of ecosystem services in decision-informing analyses conducted by government, industry, NGOs & other organizations?
How can consideration of ecosystem services enhance decision making to promote sustainability?
Question 3

Where has an ecosystem services based approach proved itself – what examples demonstrate the value added and how and why did they happen?
Can environmental quality standards accommodate ecosystem services metrics in environmental regulations? What are those ecosystem services metrics?
Question 5

How do or should environmental, social, cultural & economic values of various kinds inform policy and environmental decisions?
What techniques are available or are needed to make transparent the synergies and trade-offs in ecosystem services under differing policy options?
What guidance already exists for applying the concept of ecosystem services in environmental policy and decision making?
What considerations & components should be included in practical guidance for applying the concept of ecosystem services?
What additional research is needed to inform development of guidance for using ecosystem services in environmental policy & decision making?