

SPECIAL ISSUE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES JOURNAL (ESS)

Putting Ecosystem Services (ES) into practice. Assessment tools and indicators for land management.

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1. Aims and scope

Over the past decade, much effort has been placed on mapping and assessing of ecosystem services (ES) to articulate and sustain the societal benefits derived from ecosystem processes. Several new and promising methods have been developed, providing researchers the ability to estimate and map multiple ES simultaneously. High-profile international and state efforts have recently called for integrating ecosystem service values into land-use decision making (Global Land Project, IPBES)

Recently, an array of modelling, assessment tools and indicators focused on various types of ecosystem services and their trade-offs that have been developed within both research and business communities. They present a cornerstone towards sustainable land management. These tools substantially differ in their aim and focus, with variation of features such as scope, spatial scale, indicators and the extent of stakeholder involvement. At the same time spatially explicit information is increasingly required by decision makers to facilitate sustainable land management and in support of political decisions at multiple scales. Here indicators can play a fundamental role in putting the ES framework into practice.

The aim of this Special Issue in the Ecosystem Services Journal (ESS) is to present novel approaches to implement ecosystem service frameworks putting them into practice towards sustainable land management. This could be by coupling ecosystem services with land use change models, stakeholder approaches to introduce newly developed tools and to address user needs and requests regarding the future course of assessment tools and development of indicators. Specific application of the ES framework within different decision support systems, from planning, impact assessment, project implementation and policy making are also welcomed. The application of these tools/indicators will be ideally discussed in specific case studies. Discussion could be focused on the currently addressed issues as well as technical and methodological challenges, helping in putting the ES framework into practical applications for land management.

2.- Important dates

- Final Submission deadline: 01 of March 2016
- Final publication decisions (after peer review): 01 of October 2016
- Expected publication date of the Special Issue: 01 of February 2017

3.- Contact

For further questions please feel free to contact: Luis Inostroza, Inostroza@technotope.org or Hannes König, hkoenig@zalf.de

4.- Short title to be selected in the submission system EES

While submitting your abstract please select from the drop-down menu the option: "Putting ES into practice". This will ensure that your manuscript will be delivered to our special issue.

5.- Type of contributions

Submissions may address one of the following topics: integrated and interdisciplinary studies that combine quantitative and qualitative approaches; articles attempting basic research should outline explicit links towards policy use and/or land management decision support. We encourage contributions that include original research (including case studies) and review articles.