



Practitioner's Guide

Appreciating the economic value of ecosystems: "Which services does your ecosystem provide?"

Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are benefits humans obtain from ecosystems, and usually interpreted as the contribution of nature to a variety of goods and services. Ecosystems provide a magnitude of resources and processes that stakeholders may benefit from. Such could be: drinking water, clean air, timber, food, recreation and tourism benefits, cultural benefits. Within the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, ecosystem services are classified as provisioning, regulation, cultural, and supporting.

Environmental Goods and Services

Environmental goods are products obtained from ecosystems such as land, resource harvests (timber, fish, and coal), water, genetic material, and exist in relatively fixed quantities.

Environmental services can be described as a flow of resources in which quantity is renewed over time. Examples for environmental services are: recreational/tourism benefits or certain ecological regulatory and habitat functions, such as groundwater recharge, flood control, water purification, climate regulation, erosion control, habitat provision, as well as aesthetic or cultural benefits.

Multi-stakeholder

The multi-stakeholder approach aims to identify all groups of people that are affected by the state of a piece of land and its future and possible project implementations. In addition, all relevant groups should be considered in the decision making process.

Example: The former airfield Tempelhofer Feld (Berlin, Germany) with its community gardens produce food for 1,000 neighbors. This land is a test lab for urban gardening and agricultural initiatives in Berlin and the rest of Germany (provisioning). Tempelhofer Feld regulates the microclimate in the adjacent neighborhoods of Tempelhof and Neukölln. It also plays a role in the water hold of the city of Berlin (Regulating). Tempelhofer Feld provides space for recreational activities like biking, kite surfing, and skating for residents of the adjacent boroughs and all Berliners. Its historical and recreational qualities also make it a strong tourist attraction with 1.6 million visitors per year. Educationally stimulating is the after-school education in pop-up structures for 2,000 kids from the area (Cultural).

The stakeholders are residents of the adjacent boroughs of Tempelhof and Neukölln (620,000 people), people that visit the park (residents of Berlin and tourists) 1.6 million per year, investors, political parties for the local and the city government, people in need of housing.



Session/Week 2

Date March 9th – March 15th 2014

Page 2/2

Your ecosystem – the land’s characteristics

Ecosystem services	Which ecosystem service(s) does your ecosystem provide?	Who are the stakeholders? Indicate or estimate the numbers of stakeholders
Provisioning Food, Fresh Water, Fuel and fibre, Timber, Minerals, Building materials and shelter, Biodiversity, Biochemicals, Natural medicines, pharmaceuticals		
Regulating Climate regulation, Water flow/Flood regulation, Natural Hazard regulation, Disease prevention, Water purification, Air quality regulation, Erosion control, Waste treatment		
Supporting Nutrient Cycling, Soil formation, Primary production, Pollination, Pest control		
Cultural Aesthetic, Spiritual, Educational , Recreational		

Stakeholders: Who benefits from the ecosystem services and who pays for them?		
Ecosystem services	Who benefits from the ecosystem service? (may be more than one stakeholder)	Who pays for the ecosystem service? (may be more than one stakeholder)
Provisioning		
Regulating		
Supporting		
Cultural		