Dear ESP members and friends,

Another month has passed since the previous Update. Some important recent developments are summarised below, but best and also regularly visit our website for News-items and changes.

1. Working Groups

After Bali' we received many suggestions for additional Working Groups, Task forces or changes in existing Groups. A new ESP Working Group called "Technical Working Groups (TWG)", to facilitate communication with, and coordination of the main users and beneficiaries of the Ecosystem Services. The first two groups have been created (on Agro-ecosystems and on Tourism) and soon more will follow (notably on the Conservation 'vector').

These TWGs can be accessed via the ESP Working Groups page (left menu) or ESP Activities and Networks on the homepage. We will add the SWG button on the home page app.

Other changes and examples of activities:

- The lead team of TWG (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) has been expanded and they are planning a special workshop early 2014, co-funded by the UK-BEIS program, in preparation of the 7th ESP Conference in Costa Rica. For more information please contact the TWG organisation.
- TWG5 (Application of ES in Planning & Management) is planning a Special Issue on the Use of ES-Indicators in Landscape Planning. The deadline for the submission of extended abstracts is December 15, 2013.
- Within TWG5 (Valuation) several people are working on a proposal for a COST-action. They are exploring possibilities to further integrate the many value-notations and approaches.
- The BEES (Freshwater systems) is planning to organize a training course for water managers and new basin committees.
- These are just a few examples both to share this information with you, and to inspire other WGs to organise workshops, write special issues, engage in proposals, develop courses or other activities.

2. ESP Update: Some important recent activities

- Preparations for the 7th ESP conference are picking up speed and after much careful thought the decision was taken to have it in the 2nd week of September to accommodate as many stakeholder groups as possible.
- If you plan to attend, make sure to save this date. Please also inform people in your network about this conference. We will soon make an official first Announcement with more details.
- ESP members can submit abstracts to participate in the Conference prior to the Conference. The deadline for submission of abstracts is December 15, 2013.
- Within TWG5 (Valuation) several people are working on a proposal for a COST-action. They are exploring possibilities to further integrate the many value-notations and approaches.
- We are also in the process of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the ESP Secretariat (www.biodiversity.org).
- The CO2 and ES Working Group is organizing a special workshop on the role of Ecosystem Services in the Context of the Climate Change Conference in Warsaw.
- Special Issue on the "Indicators in Landscape Ecology"
- A special workshop on "ES in the Management of Water Resources" will take place in Edinburgh (Scotland) on 21-22 November 2013; other special workshops and events are planned in Cebu (Philippines) in January 2014, and in Taipei (Taiwan) in February 2014.

3. Follow-up Bali Conference

Speaking of ‘Bali’: we are regularly placing further information on the Conference website - which will eventually become a news item. So please visit frequently. The Conference Organising Committee (COC) consists of the Local Organisers (Fundación Neotrópica) and representatives from regional organisations and networks: Embrapa (Brazil), the Humboldt Institute (Colombia), LANES (Chili), VESPLAN (Argentina) and IUCN Meso-America. Furthermore, 3 Ecosystem Based projects on Community Conservation will be included: CVI.net, COBRA and Eco-Adapt. More information will follow soon.

4. Elections of the Steering Committee

At the end of October we will send a Conference Evaluation form to those who were present and I would like to remind the Session organisers to make sure to publish the results in one of the ESP affiliated Journals or in another form and inform the ESP members on development of the new Steering Committee.

5. Regional Chapters, National Networks and other collaboration

- In the course of the preparations for the 7th meeting, the Latin America Regional Chapters are taking shape with the Humboldt Institute (Colombia) and Embrapa (Brazil) willing to take the lead on the South American Regional Chapter.
- We are also in the process of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between ESP and Future Earth to obtain a Stakeholder status within FutureEarth. I also noticed that it increasingly happens that invitations for speaking at conferences or participation in funding proposals are shared among the ESP members and people increasingly find each other in many different ways. This is very encouraging and exactly what the partnership is about. Please feel free to contact the ESP secretariat to support you finding other members or posting a news item or call for cooperation.

6. Upcoming ESP related events

- The inaugural event of the World Forum on Natural Capital will take place in Edinburgh from 21-22 November 2013. ESP members can save an extra 10% of the cost by quoting “ESP10" at the checkout. For more information and registration please see: www.naturalcapitalforum.com
- An international workshop on Agro(eco)systems will be held 17-18 February 2014 at the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Müncheberg. The workshop will bring all participants and ESP members to discuss recent developments.

As always, we look forward to hear from you and to see many of you at the next International Conference in September and intermediate events and workshops.

Dolf de Groot
on behalf of the ESP Executive Committee