



ESP Update 2014/9

December 18, 2014

Nr. of recipients: 2120

Dear ESP members and friends,

Another year is nearing its end. For ESP it was a busy, but successful year; with a well-attended and appreciated 7th ESP Conference (see below) and a growing membership, both in terms of paying members (+20%) and Friends (almost doubled to more than 2000 account-holders). In 2014 we also saw the election and start of the Steering Committee. We are currently busy inviting people to the ESP Advisory Board to strengthen the ties with the main international organisations on the science, policy and practice of ecosystem services.

We thank all of you for the various contributions you have made to ESP and look forward to 2015!

1. 8th ESP Conference in South Africa, 9-13 November 2015

We are pleased to announce that the next ESP conference will be held in a very special location: [Spier Wine farm and Conference Centre](#) in Stellenbosch, near Cape Town.

Initially also ICRAF had proposed Tanzania, near the Ngorongoro crater as a possible venue but due to financial constraints they withdrew their offer. More news will follow soon so keep an eye on the ESP website but mark these dates and spread the word! We already have an informal agreement with GIZ to again organise a pre- or post-conference [Training on Values](#) which was very well received in Costa Rica.

2. Outcomes of the ESP7 conference survey

In total 80 respondents, or almost 25% of all participants of the 7th ESP Conference completed the survey. The conference overall was rated with a 4.1 (on a 1-5 scale). Most appreciated was the opportunity to get together with the ESP Working Groups (4.28), and the pre-conference trainings (4.24). The facilitation of the Poster session needs improvement (3.4) and many people found the keynotes not challenging enough, and not always linked to the conference Theme (3.63). The complete report with all survey results and lessons learned can be read [here](#).

Currently we are finalising uploading the conference presentations which are made available at the conference homepage in the 'Conference outcomes section' before Christmas. Please check [here](#) to see if your presentation is available yet.

3. ESP Governance

- To ensure proper attention to important issues, and divide the workload, four special [Issue Committees](#) have been created (on funding, international relations, membership engagement and the international conference), consisting of members from both the Executive Committee and Steering Committee.
- To further strengthen strategic collaborations and partnerships, so that ESP can be even more effective at achieving its goals, we are in the process of establishing the **ESP Advisory Board** to provide support and strategic guidance on the relevance and effectiveness of our activities.

4. Working Groups

- Following ESP7, several WGs are preparing Special Issues, among others on "Integrated valuation of ecosystem services: challenges and solutions", managing guest editor: [Sander Jacobs](#). Submission deadline: April, 1st 2015. When you [submit](#) your article and be sure to select "SI: Integrated Valuation"
- Several new Working Groups and Task Forces have also been proposed (more news on that in the next Update)
- Several working groups updated their pages on the ESP website. Have a look at the following links to learn more about the latest activities of these groups.
 - * [BWG 5. Mediterranean Ecosystem Services](#),
 - * [TWG 2. Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services](#),
 - * [TWG 10. Co-investment and reward mechanisms for ES](#),
 - * [National Network Greece](#)

- With the growing number of working groups it is necessary to harmonise the description of the Working group webpages on the ESP website. Therefore an email was sent to the more than 160 WG Lead teams to discuss the webpages content. In addition, we are investigating how we can better facilitate discussions and sharing of documents by improving the interactive aspects of the ESP website.

5. Outcomes of the general ESP survey

A survey was held amongst ESP members and friends in August and the results were presented at the 7th annual ESP conference in September. The survey gave us a good impression of the expectations and concerns, as well as the profile of ESP'ers. ESP is a young community, the average age of the ESP'er is 39 years old and has been working on ES on average for 6.4 years. The majority of ESP'ers work on the science aspect of ES, this is also reflected in the fact the 50% work at universities. These are just a few of the findings, click [here](#) to view the full ESP survey report online. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please email info@es-partnership.org.

Also see the growing list of [news-items](#), [vacancies](#), [calls for cooperation](#) and [upcoming events](#) on the [ESP-website](#) for new and previous messages, and interesting links.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you and wish you all relaxing holidays and a Happy New Year!

Events

8th Annual International ESP Conference 2015

Spier, South Africa
9-13 November 2015

9th IALE World Congress: Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders: Global Approaches to Complex Challenges

Portland, USA, 5-10 July 2015

[Click here for more information](#)

ESP Working Groups

Thematic Working Groups



Biome Expert Groups



Sectoral Working Groups



National ESP Networks



Support & Secretariat

Questions about membership?
[Contact the ESP Secretariat](#)

Questions about the working groups or the ESP website? [Contact the ESP Support Team](#)

Questions about the Conference?
[Contact the ESP Conference](#)

Questions about research or organizational issues?
[Contact Dr. Dolf de Groot](#)

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