

ESP Regional Chapters and National Networks Annual Report 2013-2014

A collaborative effort between Chairs of the ESP RC and NN
(written by Cluster Coordinator, Simone Maynard)

ESP Regional Chapters (RCs) and National Networks (NNs) play an important role coordinating and connecting local ecosystem services programs addressing local issues; and connecting local ecosystem services information and experiences with the global community. These central repositories of knowledge, experiences and experts on ecosystem services support researchers and decision makers through enhanced communication, coordination and cooperation.

This report highlights the key activities of RCs and NNs from Sept 2013 – Sept 2014. Email communications with Chairs; outcomes from the Chair's Annual Meetings at the 6th and 7th ESP Conferences; and individual RC and NN Annual Reports 2013-2014, have all provided input to this report. The following Appendices support this report:

- Appendix 1: Minutes from the RC & NN Chairs Meeting at the 7th ESP Conference in Costa Rica 2014.
- Appendix 2: RC and NN Annual Reports as developed by Chairs

A synthesis of these communications, minutes and reports are presented as Key Messages below.

Key Messages

Building on from Bali

- Since the first RC and NN Chair's meeting in Bali 2013, RC and NN Chairs have developed a shared vision for RC and NN activities in the form of Mission Statements. These Mission Statements are on the ESP website to guide Chairs and the Support teams (<http://www.es-partnership.org/esp/79191/5/0/50>).
- Action Agendas for moving RCs and NNs forward have also been developed by RC and NN Chairs. These Action Agendas are on the website to guide Chairs and the Support team (<http://www.es-partnership.org/esp/79191/5/0/50>)

Challenges experienced

- Chairs of RC and NN primarily assume their role voluntarily – the functioning of RC and NN now and into the future is dependent on Good Will.
- As Chairs are primarily volunteers, finding time to build RC and NN is challenging for most.
- As Chairs are primarily un-resourced, no funding to build RC and NN provides challenges also.

Keeping with the By-Laws

- As the ESP matures and grows a more structured approach to managing activities, members and administrative elements is required. The new ESP By-Laws are now on the web to assist in this process. These By-Laws were voted on by all ESP members and recently endorsed by the newly formed Steering Committee at the 7th ESP Conf in

Costa Rica. These By-Laws will come more into effect in guiding ESP operations from 1st Jan 2015.

- According to the By-Laws, all RC and NN Chairs need to be a paying member – please contact the ESP directly to discuss, confirm or pay your membership by 1st Jan 2015.
- According to the By-Laws, all RC and NN Chairs are required to submit an Annual Report. The next Annual Report (2014-2015) is due for submission 1 month prior to the next ESP conference (DTBA).

Administration

- With an increase in persons interested in becoming Chairs of RCs and NNs we need to better identify who we are and what capacity we have to contribute to internal and external initiatives. All RC and NN Chairs, please forward your CV to Simone Maynard at: maynardsimone@gmail.com .

Appendix 1: Minutes from the RC & NN Chairs Meeting at the 7th ESP Conference in Costa Rica 2014.

Agenda Item and Outcomes

Item 1: Welcome

Simone Maynard (Coordinator) welcomed and thanked all Chairs for attending the meeting

Item 2: Send around participant list

Name	Regional Chapter/National Network
Simone Maynard	Oceania / Australia
Ann Koontz	Asia/ SE Asia
Raoul Geollegue	
Emmanuelle Cohen Shacham	USA/Israel/ France
Sabdullah C Ababacar	Phillipines
Alon Lotan	Israel
Ignacio Palomo	Spain
Michael Townsend	New Zealand
Brigitte Baptiste	Colombia

Table 1: Chairs in attendance at the RC and NN Chairs Meeting at the 7th ESP Conference in Costa Rica

Item 3: Round the room introductions

All Chairs in attendance introduced themselves

Item 4: Introduce Linda Sholten and her role

Linda is Secretariat for the ESP - she coordinates memberships, websites and conducts other administrative activities. Linda will be providing administrative assistance also to RC and NN Chairs. For mainstreaming and coordinating purposes all questions and requests from Chairs should continue to be sent to Simone however. Where required, Simone will forward questions and requests to Linda for responding.

Item 5: Anything the Chairs would like to discuss??

Chairs at the meeting were invited to put 'items' for discussion on the Agenda. Suggested items delivered via email included – funding, knowledge transfer, capacity building, cooperation between universities and other institutions (for example guest lectures and internships), and how to involve private organizations. The participating Chairs agreed with the items suggested through email.

Item 6: Collecting Chair's details

As the number of RCs and NNs grow it is important the ESP keeps track of who is leading what RC or NN. All RCs and NNs are an entity of the ESP; and chairing positions are at the discretion of the ESP. The ESP needs to understand RC and NN capacity to contribute (as individuals and as a collective whole) to ESP and external activities.

All proposals to develop or Chair an RC or NN should be sent to the RC and NN Coordinator, Simone Maynard at maynardsimone@gmail.com. Proposals will be submitted to the SC and EC for consideration.

All potential candidates for Chair positions (i.e. nominees) must from here on submit a CV for review and consideration by the ESP. Submission of CV does not guarantee a Chair position.

All current Chairs and Co-Chairs are also requested to send their CV to maynardsimone@gmail.com at their earliest convenience.

Should a Chair resign from their position, the position cannot be passed on by the Chair to another person. The retiring Chair should forward an email to the Coordinator of RCs and NNs (currently Simone Maynard) with notice of their intent to retire. It is possible for the retiring Chair to nominate someone else for the position (the nominated person's CV should be provided at the time of nomination). However the nominee's position as a RC or NN Chair is not guaranteed at the time of submission.

Item 7: ESP By-Laws and what does this mean to RC and NN Chairs

• Membership

The newly endorsed By-Laws state all Chairs of RC and NN must be a paying individual or institutional member of the ESP. All RC and NN Chairs are required to be members by 1st Jan 2015. If Chairs have not yet registered as members they should follow this weblink and complete the process: <http://www.es-partnership.org/esp/79105/5/0/50> If anyone has problems with becoming a paying member (by this date) please contact Simone Maynard (maynardsimone@gmail.com).

• Co-Chairs and Support

RCs and NNs will vary in their organisational structure. The By-Laws however state there should be at least 1 Chair and 1 Co-Chair for each RC and NN. If a RC and NN does not have at least 2 Chairs, current Chairs are encouraged to find another Chair as early as possible in 2015.

Chairs should have complementary skills. Representation across the region or nation should also be considered. RCs and NNs are the property of the ESP. Funding changes and people change jobs. Of most importance is that Chairs are motivated individuals, rather than being associated to an institution. Chairs can carry their position with them through changes in employment.

As RCs and NNs grow in membership and activities, Chairs are encouraged to also acquire a Support person to assist in with activities.

- **Annual Reports**

The By-Laws state RC and NN Chairs will develop and submit Annual Reports. This year was the first year Chairs were requested to deliver these. All future reports will be due 1 month prior to the ESP conference. NN reports should be forwarded to their relevant RC Chairs/Support. These reports are synthesised by the RC Chair who forwards the collective regional report to the RC and NN Coordinator. The RC and NN Coordinator then develops an Annual Report for sending to all ESP Members.

Item 8: RC email addresses

The ESP is looking into possibilities/feasibility of providing ESP specific email addresses for all RC. This would not be available for NN due to the large number that would be required. More information on this later.

Item 9: Engaging members

Difficulties in identifying and engaging members to RC and NN has been raised a number of times during the year as an item requiring further discussion/attention. Simone and Linda have been discussing possibilities for improving this from within the ESP. One idea was to send RC and NN Chairs the list of ESP members in their RC or NN. Questions were raised regarding:

- Members privacy
- How to manage this for existing members e.g. put in next ESP newsletter that member contact details will be forwarded to relevant RC and NN – give members a period to opt out of this or request their details not be sent.
- How to manage this for new members e.g. when people become members they are made aware their contact details will be forwarded to their relevant RC and NN Chairs – give members a period to opt out of this or request their details not be sent.

It was suggested a set of protocols be developed to guide Chairs and Support in best practice communication (e.g. email etiquette; when to disclose certain types of information, and when not to). This would ensure a consistent approach to maintaining privacy of members. Simone Maynard will develop first draft commencing 2015. All Chairs will be asked to assist in further developing and finalising the document.

Once developed and all Chairs are comfortable with it, Chairs requesting the contact details of ESP members in their region/nation will have them forwarded to them (by Linda). Chairs will be expected to work within the agreed protocols for member communications and privacy. NN and RC Chairs should develop an introductory email, that also asks the members how active they wish to be in the RC/NN and how they would like their information shared (e.g. online, private).

Item 10: Action Agenda items – implementation

Action Agendas were drafted for both RC and NN during the 6th ESP Conference in Bali and were further developed by Chairs during the course of the year. Chairs of RC and NN should review these Action Agenda's and tailor make their own agenda to meet these objectives. Beginning January 2015, progress towards these agenda items will be bettered monitored.

Item 11: Challenges

The primary challenge to establishing RC and NN and conducting activities is funding. Simone Maynard provided an example of a grant application she has recently submitted with UNESCO; aimed at developing a CoP in Australia and Oceania.

A lot of in-kind support is given to ESP. Grants are needed to get students over and create websites. When developing grant applications Chairs can write ESP as advisory board for any project getting funding, this creates time and budget.

A brainstorm across Chairs into funding possibilities/approaches is required. Simone Maynard to start these discussions beginning 2015.

Item 12: Opportunities

IPBES and NEAs

Item 13: Emmanuelle Cohan-Stocham (IUCN ES Thematic Group Lead)

See attached presentation

Item 14: Brigitte Baptiste

Brigitte ...

Where to from here:

Appendix 2: Collection of Regional Chapter and National Network Annual Reports

Regional Chapter: Europe incl. Russia & Turkey
Chairs: Hans Keune, Simon Moolenaar, Leon Braat

Overview of achievements and challenges

The Dutch Community of Practice Ecosystem Services, and Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) coordinate the Regional ESP Chapter Europe incl. Russia & Turkey of the ESP. At the 2013 ESP conference BEES and the Dutch Community of Practice Ecosystem Services organized a session on: *Evaluation of science-policy-practice: trans-disciplinary capacity building and cooperation in ES projects*. As a follow-up of this session plans will be developed for CoP performance evaluation. This is scheduled for 2014.

There plans under discussion amongst several NN (Belgium, Netherlands, Scotland) for initiating the organization of an European ESP-meeting in 2016, focussing on European (national and EU level) science, society & policy initiatives regarding ecosystem services, as well as on (the functioning of) the network (communities of practice) themselves; this will be the first coordinated activity for further establishing linkages between the diverse European programs, projects, networks and other initiatives.

National Networks: Austria
Chair: Herman Klug

Overview of achievements and challenges

The Austrian national network was established in 2013. Due to my New Zealand sabbatical in 2013 unfortunately not much happened during the first year.

At the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014, only a few things happened. Together with other Austrian researchers (Uta Schirpke, Ulrike Tappeiner) we submitted a research paper on Ecosystem Services and Scales headed by Adrienne Grêt-Regamey from Switzerland and following colleagues (Bettina Weibel, Kenneth J Bagstad, Marika Ferrari, Davide Geneletti).

Other initiatives were brought on the way. The Austrian chapter of the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network was connected with the Ecosystem Service Partnership; namely Michael Mirtl and Dolf de Groot were put in contact together. In this framework we intend to strengthen the Ecosystem Service research in the LTER site Mondsee and Stubacher Sonnblick Kees (SSK).

Key ecosystem services activities

- **Research**
- Hydrological Ecosystem Services (incl. glacier systems)

- Soil Services
- Climate related services
- **Policy and planning**
- Coupling hydrology and climate change on a test bed carried out in the Mondsee catchment
- Involvement of municipalities

National Network: Belgium

Chairs: Hans Keune, Sander Jacob, Nicolas Dendocker, Jeroen Panis

Overview of achievements and challenges

Belgium Ecosystem Services Community of Practice (BEES)

<http://www.beescommunity.be/>

BEES book

In the first half of 2013 the BEES coordinators have been quite busy with finalizing the BEES book *Ecosystem Services: Global Issues, Local Practices*. With more than 80 contributors (both Belgian and international), this was quite a logistical challenge. The book was published by Elsevier end of 2013: <http://store.elsevier.com/Ecosystem-Services/isbn-9780124199644/>

BEES – survey – BEES working groups

In order to revitalize the BEES community activities after the business of the BEES book, a BEES work shop survey for collecting ideas for topical workshops was organized in 2013. The overview of ideas was distributed amongst the BEES community for prioritization. As the outcome was inconclusive, the BEES coordinators proposed to group topical ideas in working groups that would go beyond workshops with presentations, but would foster concrete collaboration and development of ideas and practices. The success of individual working groups will depend on the willingness of BEES members to invest time and energy in the development of the working groups. BEES members are requested to coordinate the working groups, with the support of the general BEES coordination and the Platform. The interest for these working groups seems quite positive. Two working groups started with a first meeting in December: one on integrated valuation and one on reflection on ES operationalization. Other working groups plan to start early 2014: on agriculture, on governance and on business.

9th of July group

Following from the last BE MAES meeting, a group of Flemish, Walloon and Federal policy representatives and scientists joined with the aim of developing 1) a policy brief to raise awareness on the importance of the uptake of the concept of ecosystem services in policy and society at large, and 2) a vision text for BEES. The policy brief was launched in the beginning of 2014.

International collaboration

Collaboration with the Dutch Community of Practice Ecosystem Services

Also in 2013 collaboration between BEES and the Dutch Community of Practice Ecosystem Services was on the agenda, mainly by means of exchange of information. Plans are

developed to organize a joint meeting in 2014. In the Dutch CoP a small poll was organized to assess the interest amongst Dutch experts for linking with BEES: the response was very positive.

April 22nd 2014, members of the BELgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) community and of the Netherlands Community of Practice on Ecosystem Services (CoP-ESD) met in Antwerp, Belgium. The aim of our meeting was to get to know each other better and explore if and where they can share ecosystem services experiences as neighbours. As European member states they both share the commitment to implement action 5 of the Biodiversity Strategy, which, amongst others, requires us to assess and map the status and economic value of ecosystems and their services in our national territories. In the meeting it was discussed how one can make the outcome of this shared activity of use to local and national policy practices, e.g. in support of sustainable, regional development. As result of the workshop some concrete recommendations were formulated.

Ecosystem Services Partnership Thematic Working Group Value integration

In October 2013 the BEES-coordinators co-initiated (and coordinate) the establishment of the ESP Thematic Working Group Value integration: <http://www.fsd.nl/esp/81931/5/0/50> . This working group will focus on the methodological challenge of consistently combining a diversity of value systems in resource use decisions. The initiative follows from the ESP 2013 conference session ‘Sustainability in ES research and practice – from central goal to afterthought?’ which was co-organized by the BEES coordinators.

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research**

- Currently there are quite some research activities going in Belgium, in fact too much to summarize here; an earlier overview is to be found here: <http://www.beescommunity.be/en/publications/>. Furthermore, currently several BEES related overview papers are under construction for publication.

➤ **Policy and planning**

- Several of the above mentioned research projects are in fact collaborative policy/practice oriented projects. One example being the Nature Value Explorer, an online web-tool in Flanders, funded and coordinated by the Flemish Government, with which anyone can estimate nature benefits for specific locations. Other examples are more local policy initiatives in which together with researchers and local actors land use planning and nature management planning are performed with the use of the ecosystem services concept.

➤ **Conservation/management**

- See above

National Network: France
Chair: Natalia Sirina

Overview of achievements and challenges

Achievements: I am a lead since September 2013, so for the year of September 2013 –ment August 2014, my contribution of the development of National Network, is the establishing in a local level:

- 1) a network on agricultural ecosystem services with local farmers;

- 2) a network on urban greenery ecosystem services with local government;
- 3) an accord to work on wetland ecosystem services with Regional Natural Reserve Courterange (Regional Natural Parc of Forêt d'Orient);
- 4) set of indicators for forest management with the use of ecosystem services concept.

Challenges:

To find project funding: the project of “set of indicators for forest management with the use of ecosystem services concept” was rejected (the French call Appel à propositions de recherché « Biodiversité, gestion forestière, changement climatique et politiques publiques », <http://bgf.gip-ecofor.org/>); the results of the project franco-german on the set of the local production indicators with use of ecosystem services concept will be known in October this year (call “Modalité de Participation et Recommendation Importantes pour les Projets Franco-Allemands”, <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/fileadmin/aap/2014/pa-anr-2014-aap-generique-projets-franco-allemands-dfg.pdf>).

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research**

- Participate in the UICN France internal workshop in June 2014 on ecological services and the discussion after on the recommendation for ecosystem services present and future works of UICN France (with the contact of Justine Delangue).
- Meeting with a local farmer and starting to establish a network on agricultural ecosystem services with local farmers (e.g. Louise Bellet).
- Giving the commentaries on forest ecosystem services within the an important project on ecosystem services evaluation of France 2014-2016 of Sustainable development and Energy Ministry “évaluation française des écosystèmes et services écosystémiques”.

➤ **Policy and planning**

- Meeting with local government (Troyes agglomeration) for motivating them in ecosystem services assessment of greenways.
- Developing a master and engineer student works on ecosystem services of urban greenways.

➤ **Conservation/management**

- Several meetings with local stakeholders of the Regional Natural Reserve Courterange (Regional Natural Parc of Forêt d'Orient) to make aware of ecosystem services of the meadow wetlands of the reserve, and development of the research project on prioritizing of ecosystem services in the local level.

National Network: Italy
Chair: Davide Geneletti

Overview of achievements and challenges

This national network was established during 2014, and I'm afraid not much has happened during the first months, mainly due to inertia from my side.... I plan to take the first initiatives after the ESP conference. It would be great to receive the reports of other national networks to see the kind of activities that were organised and collect further ideas on what can be done for the Italian chapter.

I plan to have somebody appointed as a support person shortly after the conference to help me in getting started.

National Network: Malta
Chair: Mario Balzan

Overview of achievements and challenges

Achievements:

Establishing research collaborations with local authorities involved in the management of ecosystem services;

Research currently carried out by the Lab of Terrestrial Ecology, of which I am a member, is providing new data and results for improving our understanding of ecosystem services provision in Malta.

Undergraduate students are aware of current research activities relating to ecosystem services and a few of these are participating in ES research.

Challenges:

Participation to ESP meetings has been limited due to the lack of available funding for long distance travel;

Recruiting students and researchers/scientists who are willing to improve on ecosystem services studies remains a key challenge for several reasons.

A key objective remains that of organising a workshop on Ecosystem Services in Malta.

During this workshop local ES research should be presented and the ESP National Network launched formally, with the aim of increasing membership.

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research**

- An ecosystem accounting approach is currently being adopted for mapping ecosystem services capacity and flow in Malta.

➤ **Policy and planning**

- National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan launched in 2012. This document addresses the need to preserve our biodiversity and ecosystem services by strengthening the integration of biodiversity considerations within decision-making as well as within the policies, plans and programmes of those sectors that act as drivers of biodiversity change.

➤ **Conservation/management**

- The environment authority is currently finalising management plans for all Natura 2000 sites in Malta.
- A number of environmental NGOs have their own projects for conservation and the management of protected habitats in Malta.
- Research currently being carried out by my Laboratory relating to conservation and management of ecosystem services, namely pollination and natural pest control, in rural landscapes.

National Network: Netherlands
Chairs: Simon Moolenaar, Leon Braat
Support: Jos Brils

Overview of achievements and challenges

In the Netherlands the main achievement and focus has been expanding the Dutch Community of Practice on Ecosystem Services, hosted by SKB (<http://www.skbodem.nl/project/43>). Simon Moolenaar & Jos Brils are coordinators and facilitators of this CoP.

One of the highlights in 2013 has been the meeting with several regions initiatives involving Dutch municipalities, water boards and provinces that started experimenting and working with the ESS-concept.

Our highlight in 2014 up to now has been the joint meeting with the BEES Network in which we have explores together the approaches in both countries regarding NEA and MAES.

There has been some specific exchange on the Dutch NEA (DANK) with the ministry of Infrastructure & Environment and RIVM.

There has also been some specific exchange with the Dutch TEEB pilot project of the ministry of Economic Affairs and PBL.

In 2014 we have set up our CoP “facebook”, showing who is who.

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research**

- Alterra research; several projects (more info via Leon Braat)
- Deltares research; several projects (more info via Jos Brils)
- SKB Projects in Science-Policy-Practice consortia (more info via Simon Moolenaar)
- Universities of Amsterdam and Wageningen; several projects (more info via Dolf de Groot)

➤ **Policy and planning**

- TEEB Pilots
- National Ecosystem Assessment (DANK)
- Master Planning for Sustainable Use of the Subsurface (STRONG)

National Network: Portugal
Chair: Cristina Marta-Pedroso, Tiago Domingos

Key ecosystem services activities

- Carrying out several work meetings with national authorities envisioning current opportunities for ES inclusive policies. The outcomes of these meetings are still undefined;

- Implementing a pilot study (regional scale) commissioned by the Institute for Nature Conservation and to be carried out under the scope of the MAES initiative launched by the European Commission (EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy; Action 5).

We shall notice that:

- Although these activities do involve members of the ESP NN they were not carried out specifically as ESP activities;
- Disseminating and expanding NN is demanding in resources and time, which has been a constraint in fully accomplishing our mission.

National Networks:

Chair: Jeroen Arends (Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Greece)

Chair: Josip Jagust (Croatia)

Support: Evangelia Drakou (Greece)

Overview of achievements and challenges

Serbia and Greece have some members and ESP friends. Macedonia and Montenegro initially had some people interested but respondents did not respond to further communication. In Serbia, the topic of ES is becoming known and there is interest in this 'hot topic' but few people know what it really entails. So there is a lack of knowledge and capacity. There is also a lack of (financial) resources to conduct ES research or to apply it in practice. Some of Serbian ESP members and friends are enthusiastic about the idea to organize a first national ES conference for next year. For this, funding is needed as well as the presence of some interesting key speakers. In Croatia, we are working on getting Croatian institutions and professionals interested in joining.

Greece is the latest addition to the NN and in short time some people have joined either as member or ESP friend. Prospects look promising. We are currently working on expanding the Greek NN (HESP) and hopefully we can promote the HESP on the coming conference of the Greek Ecological Society in October. Also, some people have shown interested in setting up a university course involving ES and to make beginnings with a Greek MAES as part of the EU initiative thereto. Also, there is interest to conduct small scale ES research as part of a pilot project or as part of a course.

The main challenge is to get people on board and find resources to conduct ES research. University budgets are tight in this part of Europe (even for membership of the ESP) and also donor money is scarce to find. There is also a knowledge gap and one of the focus points is to raise awareness and transfer of knowledge. My problem working for a private consultancy firm is that I am not connected to a university or research centre which makes it difficult for me to get involved in ES research or to be eligible to research funds. Some affiliation would help. Also, I am working for the ESP next to my other activities and have no budget for activities to expand and promote the ESP. Some financial support for instance travel would be helpful. Also useful would be cooperation with universities and research centres in Western Europe.

There is momentum and there are prospects! But there are some challenges as mentioned above.

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research**

- Mostly awareness raising and training of ES in relation to Natura2000 in Serbia
- In Serbia beginning of basic ES research in PA mostly related to tourism and the connection between biodiversity and ES delivery in forest areas.

➤ **Policy and planning**

- At government level there is a realisation that the issue of ES in regard to CBD and EU accession is necessary to address. This creates opportunities for the ESP to get involved. As part of the CBD report of Serbia to the CBD convention a very basic assessment of ES in Serbia was conducted.

➤ **Conservation/management**

- The Institute for Nature Conservation (not an ESP member or friend) conducted an assessment of ES in Djerdap NP but they were pretty clueless about what ES entails and mostly made an inventory of species diversity.
- ES is becoming known and a 'hot topic' but not many people know what it really entails and do not have the capacity. Also there is some apprehension and mistrust of the concept although some conservationists are open to it.

National Network: Spain

Chairs: Fernando Santos Martin, Ignacio Palomo

Overview of Regional Chapter/National Network achievements and challenges

Since the creation of the Spanish Ecosystem Services National Network (SESNN), we have conducted several activities many of which are connected to the project National Ecosystem Assessment of Spain (SNEA <http://www.ecomilenio.es/>).

In September 2013, after last year ESP conference in Bali, we conducted a seminar in the Autonomous University of Madrid organized by few members of the Socioecosystem Lab (<https://www.uam.es/gruposinv/socioeco/>) informing all participants about results from the 6TH ESP congress, general information of the network and sharing our intention to create the Spanish National Network for ESP.

Related to the SNEA, and with the aim of encouraging consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including economic value, in the activities of Spanish institutions, we have set the following objectives:

- Coordinate internal communication elements that allow proper scientific exchange between the research teams involved in ES.
- Ensure that the results will be useful to different stakeholder as well as taking into account the different actors involved in or dependent on ecosystem services.
- Develop external communication tools tailored to the needs of different target audiences such as the media, school communities, NGOs and social movements.
- Contribute to the national and international collaboration channels associated with ES research in Spain.
- Increase the interaction and information flow between the scientific community, policy-makers, businesses and society in general

During the last year we have written the following book: Ecosystems and biodiversity for human wellbeing. Synthesis of the key findings from the Spanish National Ecosystem

Assessment (2014). Biodiversity Foundation of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Madrid, Spain 90 pp.

Another Ecosystem Services related event in Spain organized by the SESNN has been the International Workshop on Ecosystem Services and Sustainability that has been organized by the Basque Centre for Climate Change (www.bc3research.org) at that took place in July 2014 in Guikuri, Alava. In the workshop, the capacity of the ecosystem services framework to foster sustainability has been discussed.

Finally, we have taken part as partners of an ecosystem services research proposal submitted to the European H2020 program and which includes several active members of the Ecosystem Services Partnership. The proposal addresses ecosystem service mapping in Europe.

Several challenges lie ahead to strengthen the SESNN. Many relate to the lack of a future research and policy program for ecosystem services that provides support (both institutional and economic) to allow the creation of discussions arenas for the researchers and policy-makers working in the field of ecosystem services in Spain.

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research**

- Establish a database for indicators of ES and the main drivers of change for ecosystems.
- Conduct an economic valuation analysis for eight ES with market based and non-monetary techniques and conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis studies of existing studies in Spain
- Organize and create a list of mapping of ecosystem services in Spain.
- The regional Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in Bizkaia (http://www.ehu.es/cdsea/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=305&Itemid=427&lang=en), continues, conducting several research activities and delivering results through international publications.

➤ **Policy and planning**

- Spain is taking part in the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), being involved in several processes such as the participation in the international meetings and the selection of candidates for representation. Moreover, the ecosystem services concept seems to start reaching the main Spanish environmental institutions (such as the Spanish Ministry of the Environment). However, there is still much to be done in order to implement and institutionalize the ecosystem service framework in Spain at different levels.
- Contributes to the accomplishment of all the actions identify above in collaboration with the staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment to provide answers in regards the EU Biodiversity Strategy Target 2, Action 5 process.
- Promote coordinated projects (i.e. costal and marine) to connect basic research and applied development policies of biodiversity conservation.
- Promote consideration of the Biodiversity and ecosystem services, including its economic value, in the design of policies of the State General Administration

➤ **Conservation/management**

- Improving mechanisms for communication with society in biodiversity

- Develop initiatives to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of biodiversity, including its effects on human wellbeing, to promote changes in attitudes toward it.

Regional Chapter: South America

Chairs: Brigitte Baptiste , Marcela Quintero, Ana Turetta

Support: Alexander Rincón, Darío Zambrano, Gisella Cruz, Marnix Becking

Overview of achievements and challenges

In the framework of strengthening the ESP network in Latin America, Alexander von Humboldt Institute in Colombia, the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Peru and EMBRAPA (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária) in Brazil have assumed, since the end of 2013, the coordination of the Regional Chapter for South America. As part of this process, the objective has been prioritized to generate a Science-Policy interface to facilitate discussion and reflexion on research and management of ecosystem services, in such a way that different decision makers may interact. The intention is to integrate progressively all countries and a larger number of participants in South America, to facilitate exchanges and capitalize on the existing diversity of visions and concepts in the region with respect to Ecosystem Services.

The first step has been to contact existing networks in the region, such as LANES¹, VESPLAN². One of the first successes has been to connect these to REDISAS³, based in Ecuador. Through regular skype-videoconferences (some 8 meetings in 2014) with key actors in 6 countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Argentina, Chile) we advanced on a common regional agenda on Chapter related activities, mainly exchange of information between the networks, discussing content and maintenance of the website (set up of an Editorial Committee, not yet operative), and coordination of events at the ESP Conference. A specific email address for the Chapter has been created. (southamerica@es-partnership.org)

To reach out to the remaining countries on the continent, it has been prioritized to conduct an inventory and analysis of the heterogeneity of approaches in policies and associated instruments related to Ecosystem Services, present in the different countries, in order to get a regional overview of the state of the art and stimulate participation in future regional joint endeavours. Therefore we have designed a simple questionnaire and identified national experts to inquire for the typology of policy instruments related with ecosystem services available for each country. We have thus covered all South American countries, including Guyana, French Guiana, Surinam and Venezuela, as well as Paraguay and Uruguay. We have not been able to conclude this survey before the ESP Conference, but strive to have a

¹ Red Latinoamericana de Estudios en Servicios Ecosistémicos

² Red Iberoamericana sobre Vulnerabilidad, Servicios Ecosistémicos y Planeamiento del Territorio Rural

³ Red de Interesados en Servicios Ambientales

document with the input of various partners in Latin America, that presents a general synthesis of how ecosystem services have been included in their policy agendas.

Our main challenge is to include the people working on, or interested in, Ecosystem Services in those countries that are not yet part of the mentioned networks and have no national networks and how to establish effective communication and information exchange with the non-Spanish-speakers countries (especially the northern countries such as Suriname and the Guyanas). Also, to promote participation of actors and countries with different and critical views towards the concept of ecosystem services (Bolivia, Venezuela). Therefore, to invite concepts from other perspectives to be included, we have proposed to consider Ecosystem Services in the broad sense, as a metaphor that enables to relate ecosystems and their benefits to society, and explicitly not restricted solely to Payment for Ecosystem Services nor to the mercantilization of these services, which are only some of the possible associated instruments. We believe that including the diversity of experiences and views from South American countries will enrich the regional and global ESP discussions.

Regional Chapter: Oceania

Chairs: Simone Maynard, Sangeeta Mangubhai

Support: Michael Townsend

Contributors: Simone Maynard, Neville Crossman (Australia); Sangeeta Mangubhai (Fiji); Michael Townsend (New Zealand)

Overview of achievements and challenges

Achievements:

- Increasing number of projects focused on economic valuation of ecosystem services;
- Training program and materials now available on cost-benefit analyses, specifically targeted at Pacific Island government staff (led by Secretariat of the Pacific Community);
- Launching of five economic valuation studies in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu by IUCN Oceania Regional Office, under the MACBIO project;
- Society for Conservation Biology Conference Oceania in Suva, Fiji, held a symposium on the inclusion of ecosystem services in spatial planning.

Challenges:

- Challenging to keep track of projects relating to ecosystems services, as there are many at the national level within individual countries;
- In Australia there are many research activities and science-policy initiatives, despite the very challenging times caused by the new Federal Government's fiscal tightening.

New Zealand has many challenges associated with science and addressing ecosystem services issues. As a small country, resources are tight and competition high for science funding. Following interaction at the ESP conference in Bali last year, between DOC (the Department of Conservation), Niwa, Massey University, and the Cawthron institute, we have continued to grow together and this ESP connection has helped to foster collaboration. We have had a multi-agency project this year between 3 of us and another joint venture we are seeking funds for. ESP deserve credit for fostering out relationship and connecting our joint interests.

The main challenges are, growing out population base, increased and regular communication, branching into terrestrial stuff (marine focus so far, its naturally that I am familiar with this) to make this non biomes specific. Also just a lack of time is main challenge (for me personally), this second half of the year has been intensely busy.

Key ecosystem services activities

➤ **Research (examples only)**

- IUCN issued a consultancy for a short study to document the economic values of the Sovi Basin in Fiji (IUCN).
- March 2014 the Wildlife Conservation Society commissioned a short study to undertake an economic valuation of key ecosystem services, such as fisheries production and ecotourism, to estimate the value of the Vatu-i-Ra Seascape.
- Consultancies issued under the MACBIO project to pull together economic values data from five countries in the Pacific – Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu (IUCN).
- CBA study, on the CBA of eradication of four alien invasive species in Fiji (NZ Landcare Research).
- Valuation of the economic cost of inadequate water and sanitation, South Tarawa, Kiribati (funded by ADB).
- An analysis of the ecosystem services and other key benefits provided by Lagoons of New Caledonia World Heritage site has been conducted. It is part of the IUCN's World Heritage Programme, who together with UNEP-WCMC, are undertaking 'A global analysis of the ecosystem services provided by natural World Heritage sites'.
- ARC-funded project at Southern Cross University (lead by A/Prof Caroline Sullivan, ESP SC Member) on ecosystem service values and trade-offs in northern NSW (2014-2016)
- Review and community importance survey of ecosystem services in the Coorong (led by Neville Crossman)
- Many other ecosystem service research activities in CSIRO, University of Queensland; University of Melbourne, University of Technology, Sydney (+ more?)
- Several important NZ papers,
- Recent funding announced (sustainable seas) from government will have a significant ES component.
- a multi-agency, 540 page book (john diamond ed.) as a vast repository of ES information across biomes, across cultures, across ecology and economics and management this book is not specifically link to esp, but shows there is a high level of ES Based research going on.

➤ **Policy and planning**

- Economic valuation on Vatu-i-Ra seascape used to engage government in the exploration of the potential to set up offshore marine managed areas in Fiji.

- A side session of the 9th Pacific Island Nature Conservation Conference held in Suva Fiji in December 2013 was dedicated to the use of economics in conservation policy.
- A study has been conducted for the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to assess the benefits and costs of meeting the Aichi Targets for Australasia and Pacific region.
- Australia 21 Workshop on Ecosystem Services “Considering the environment in national strategic thinking: why, what and how”, November 2013, Canberra
- Strong Australian participation (ESP members and non-members) in IPBES working groups
- Incorporation of ecosystem services into the 2015 ACT State of Environment Reporting – landmark development in Australia
- Australia has been piloting (by the Bureau of Meteorology) the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting methods.
- ES integrated into the Hauraki Gulf Marine spatial plan, NZ.
- **Conservation/management**
- In Australia, the University of Queensland’s Centre for Excellence in Environmental Decision (<http://ceed.edu.au/>) continues to conduct world class research on ecosystem services.
- Ecosystem service valuation workshop in the IUCN regional office (Suva) in April 2014 hosted by IUCN.
- High level meeting held on bêche-de-mer and coastal fisheries, and the ecosystem services provided to Pacific Island people, and to seek high level political commitment towards improving coastal fisheries for food and livelihoods.
- Integrated coastal management plans being developed for a number of provinces (e.g.. Ra, Bua, Lomaiviti) in Fiji, that incorporate key ecosystem services into the planning process.
- Continued efforts to establish locally managed marine areas in Fiji, to provide/support fisheries benefits to local people.
- NZ, work on going to factor ES into MPA planning process.