

ESP Regional Chapters and National Networks (RCNNs)

Annual Report 2014-2015 (Dec 21st, 2015)

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many ESP RC/NN (co)Chairs and support teams:

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(Please send comments and additions to Emmanuelle minacs@gmail.com)

The Ecosystem Services Partnership's Regional Chapters and National Networks (RCNNs) play an important role in coordinating and connecting local information and experiences on the theoretical and practical application of ecosystem services, with those of the international ESP community. Regional Chapters and National Networks also support government, non-government, business, industry, researchers and communities by providing a central repository of information, experiences and experts within a region or country.

This annual report highlights the key activities of RC&NNs from October 2014 – October 2015 based on individual RC/NN inputs (see names above and in the report).

1. General update on ESP's RC&NN:

10 Regional Chapters have been established to date. These include:

- North America;
- Central America and the Caribbean;
- South America;
- Europe and Russia;
- West and Central Africa;
- East and Southern Africa;
- West and Central Asia;
- East Asia;
- South and South East Asia;
- Oceania.

This classification basically follows the IUCN system. In 2015 the Africa Regional Chapter was sub-categorised into West & Central Africa, and East & Southern Africa, for ease of management and consistency with other Regional Chapters such as those in Asia.

The registered chairs/co-chairs of ESP RC are as follows: North America: Carolyn Browning; Central America and Caribbean: Hector Tuy; South America: Brigitte Baptiste, Ana Turetta, Marcela Quintero; Europe and Russia: Hans Keune, Leon Braat, Simon Molenaar; West and

Central Africa: Dominique Diouf; East Asia: Shunsuke Managi; Jae Kyong Chun; South and South East Asia: Leimona Beria; Oceania: Simone Maynard.

Note: For some Regions, co-Chair positions are open, please email minacs@gmail.com if you are interested in chairing/supporting ESP Regional Chapters.

32 National Networks have been established as following:

- North America: Canada, United States.
- Central America and the Caribbean: none.
- South America: Brazil, Colombia.
- Europe and Russia: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey.
- West and Central Africa: Senegal, Togo.
- East and Southern Africa: South Africa.
- West and Central Asia: Israel, Kazakhstan.
- East Asia: Japan, Korea.
- South and South East Asia: India, Indonesia.
- Oceania: Australia, New Zealand.

Note: Not all the above National Networks are active and a review is currently being undertaken, to improve the level of activity in National Networks. New National Networks established in 2015 are Cyprus and Poland.

2. Collection of Regional Chapter and National Network Annual Reports

RC&NN lead teams were asked to answer 5 questions:

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year
2. The key **ecosystem services activities** which occurred in your region or nation
3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year
4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?
5. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year?

Many thanks to those who took the time to answer these questions; the reports are inserted below and we plan to analyse them in more detail soon to draw some common lessons learnt.

2.1 North America Regional Chapter

USA National Ecosystem Services Partnership

Name: Lydia Olander

“Please note other players in federal agencies, NGOs, and private institutions, have also made major contributions that are not represented here. Some of them are viewable on our resources page of our guidebook website”.

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year
 - Release of online guidebook Dec 2014 <https://nespguidebook.com/>.
 - Version 2.0 being released throughout fall and winter 2015.
 - Best Practices guidance paper released summer 2015
https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/sites/default/files/publications/es_best_practices_fullpdf_0.pdf.
 - Working with federal agencies and President’s administration in support of new federal effort to institute wide spread implementation of ecosystem services in federal decision making
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2016/m-16-01.pdf>.
 - Synthesis of existing ecological and social data, models and supporting infrastructure for major services underway.
- 2 The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:
 - Research: Synthesis and support with focus on federal implementation.
 - Policy: support and guidance for federal agencies.
 - Planning: -----
 - Conservation management: with focus on federal agencies.
3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year:
Funding the work of the partnership outside of specific projects is always challenging.

2.2 South America Regional Chapter

Chairs: Brigitte Baptiste, Marcela Quintero, Ana Turetta

Support: Alexander Rincón, Juan Pablo Olmus

Overview of Regional Chapter 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 (8 meetings in 2014 and 2 meetings in 2015) 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. A specific email address for the Chapter has been created (southamerica@es-partnership.org). We consider making the website more (operative) of great importance, so that any person who is interested in, or related with Ecosystem Services may be aware of news, events, information, links and contacts regarding such services, (key documents, research, or studies). It was also proposed to give access to different countries to Ecosystem Services laws, so this information is useful for countries that are interested. For example we announced the IV international Congress on Ecosystem Services in the Neotropics (September 30 – October 3 /2015).

In 2015, we didn't have really activities, because it was difficult to define new meetings and we were working with just one person working in that at the end the year, but we hope this will change in 2016. 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). We also plan 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.

Under development is to create focal points for each country that has to connect to other countries, provide information related to Ecosystem Services, and be a link between actors and the regional chapter.

We also proposed to serve as mutual support between ESP the Sub Global Assessment (SGA) and IPBES through the website, communicating activities and events taking place.

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

Brazilian National Network

Name: Ana Paula Turetta / Camila Ortolan.

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:
A formal proposal concerning Brazilian National Network sent to ESP.
2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:
 - Research: Advances in monitoring, mapping and evaluating ES.
 - Policy: Recently (October 4th, 2015), a national law project was approved, establishing the *National Policy on Payment for Environmental Services*.
 - Planning: Advances in the achievement of the Economic Ecological Zoning, by all States in Brazil; efforts to organize national data bases – for instance, the INDE (<http://www.inde.gov.br/>) initiative, that intends the provision, sharing and access to geospatial data and information.
 - Conservation management: Keep the target concerning deforestation reduction in the Amazon; Public policies concerning incentives to conservation soil management practices (p.ex. ABC plan; Water producer program, etc).
3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year
To keep in touch with the largest number of professionals related to the ES subject.
4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?
After the approval of Brazilian Network by ESP, it would be good to have a space on ESP webpage. It would help to stimulate Brazilians to access the network and to involve them at this initiative.
5. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year?
Try to organize a national meeting concerning ESP, as an opportunity to discuss research results and gaps that should be overcome.

2.3 Europe Regional (incl. Russia and Turkey) Chapter

Regional Chair: Hans Keune

National Network in Switzerland:

Richard Philip Witt informed us he no longer lives in Switzerland, so he cannot further work on this; he also informed us that due to lack of interest the project never got off the ground. The Regional Chapter Co-Chairs are trying to set up new linkages and established some new initial contacts.

NN in: Serbia - Greece - Macedonia - Croatia - Montenegro

Report by Jeroen Arends

1. Achievements

Two important achievements are the founding of the Macedonian ESP and facilitating the founding of the Cyprus ESP (in progress). Writing the framework for a Greek MAES study that unfortunately has been put on hold.

2. The key **ecosystem services activities which occurred in your nation:**

Very little that I am aware of. Just a bit more curiosity into the concept. I was involved in writing a project proposal for an EU project in the Balkans that focused on ecosystem services but we did not win the bid. The concept is getting more attention and appreciation but there is still plenty of misconception of the concept present in the region.

3. The **challenges in your ESP National Network over the past year:**

Lack of funds to conduct activities. That is the main problem. In Greece we had access to government funds to conduct a national mapping and assessment but then the government changed and the process got halted. Other problems related to the fact that ES activities are not yet supported by universities or other organizations i.e. there is no supporting platform so no funds for activities and research. Still present are very traditional mindsets regarding nature conservation and management of natural resources. There is a lack of knowledge on ES within these organizations.

4. How do you **plan to **improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?**

In order to conduct activities we need funds; knowledge transfer; cooperation with universities and other institutions in Western Europe and the US.

5. Your **plans for your National Network for the upcoming year:**

- I will attend an EC meeting and workshop with the Joint Research Centre in Italy to discuss ecosystem services mapping and assessment in the Balkans. This meeting will hopefully generate some interest and financing of MAES and other ES studies in the Balkans of which the various NN can benefit;
- Expand the number of members in the various networks;
- Get member more actively involved;
- The region has been and will continue to be struck by natural disasters. ES is getting more attention in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and in climate change adaptation (CCA) as a way to prevent and lessen damage to society. Through my work in DRRM and CCA I will promote the concept of ES and the ES-partnership with the aim to generate interest in and funding of ES research and application.

6. Additional remarks:

We need funding for our activities and cooperation with universities and other organizations in Western Europe. We can't do it alone!

National Network in Belgium Ecosystem Services Community of Practice

Name: Hans Keune

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:

Within BEES, several thematic transdisciplinary working groups are still active. One of the most active groups is the one related to the [EU MAES project](#). This group meets about a week prior to any EU MAES WG meeting to discuss input for the EU WG meeting. Together with EU MAES member state representatives from The Netherlands and Luxembourg we started networking and collaboration as a BENELUX MAES initiative. We had a very fruitful joint meeting and are currently looking for opportunities to extend this, e.g. in a joint project.

Further especially the WG on integrated valuation is quite active. The other WGs are a bit less active due to lack of time among participants in taking the activities further.

At the end of 2014 the first [BEES Christmas Market](#) was organized with great success. The plan for 2015 is to repeat this, this time in collaboration with the EU MAES Working Group and a Flemish Governmental Working Group on ecosystem services.

Recently a scientific publication on BEES was accepted for publication: [Emerging ecosystem services governance issues in the Belgium ecosystem services community of practice](#).

2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:

- Research: see this scientific publication on BEES which was accepted for publication: [Emerging ecosystem services governance issues in the Belgium ecosystem services community of practice](#).
- Policy:
 - In Flanders, the Nature Report (NARA) is conceived as a regional ecosystem (REA) assessment and consists of three successive phases. The first phase (NARA-T) describes the state and trends of ecosystems and their services in Flanders. It was presented to the Flemish government on 27 February 2015. The [Flanders REA Synthesis Report](#) (dutch + English, 80 pp), an interactive mapping tool with GIS data, and the Technical Report (dutch, +1500 pp.) can be downloaded from www.nara.be. Flanders REA stage II will be completed by the end of 2016. It consists of several projects at the Flemish, regional and local scale, in co-production with policy agencies and other stakeholders. The theme of stage II is 'Putting Ecosystem Services To Work'. Stage III will develop map and value alternative scenarios for Green Infrastructure, by 2018.
 - In Wallonia, WaLES, the Walloon ecosystem services platform which involves administration and scientists, is finishing its first year of activities. The main results are: 1. the development of a conceptual framework and a integrated assessment framework (to be finished), 2. the adoption of typologies for ecosystems (by merging land cover data with info on the ecological context - soil, slope, etc.- and management methods) and ES (by adapting the CICES classification for Belgium to Wallonia), 3. the development of a common and shared information system, including a website and a database gathering and

detailing all available data and data flows useful for ES mapping and biophysical valuation (indicators and proxy). The annual work program also schedules a simplified mapping of ecosystems and ES at regional scale, depending on the data readily available. In parallel, a research project is ongoing at local scale. It aims at defining a methodology for impact assessment of rural land consolidation plans based on ecosystem services. An evaluation of the platform will be done before the end of the year. Presently, no resources are affected for further work. Political concern was to focus developments on concrete decision-making tools. Few examples of such tools have been found up to now (mainly participatory processes based on ES approach).

3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year:

Main challenges for BEES are:

- To support Working Groups the best we can for them to be active even if participants have little time left for this next to their busy working agendas.
- To improve BEES communication and the website to be more user friendly.

4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?

To support Working Groups:

- Plans to initiate activities for the WG on business by supporting to experts who have an interest in this perspective for their work.
- Connect to coordinating members of WGs to discuss with them how we can support them better.

To improve BEES communication and the website to be more user friendly:

- We are getting help from a communication specialist from the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, both for the website and communication in general like the current BEES newsletter.
- We plan to create a better overview of current Belgian ES projects and initiatives for the website as well as for international linkages; we suspect this to be informative for BEES members.

National Network in Italy:

Name: Davide Geneletti.

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:

- We performed a survey of the ecosystem services research in Italy, by detailing the type of ecosystem services, the topic, the scale, the assessment methods and illustrating exemplary studies. The results are available on the ESP website (<http://www.es-partnership.org/esp/82159/5/0/50>) and with more figures on: <http://www.planningfores.com/#!about1/c18ds>).

Over 20 research groups across Italy participated in the survey.

- We launched the "Observatory of Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes in Italy".

The purpose is to create the first database of Italian PES schemes. PES schemes are highly context-specific, given that they are developed and adopted in a specific legislation, governance and decision-making framework. For this reason, we believe that it is valuable to generate an overview of PES schemes currently embedded in legislations or regulations in Italy, at any administrative level, from local to national.

The purpose of this inventory is to:

- Taking stock of existing efforts, and enhance their visibility;
- Promote the exchange of experiences and best practices;
- Stimulate further applications and improvements;
- Promote scientific debate on PES effectiveness.

Preliminary results are foreseen by early November.

2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:

- Research: Launch of the ESERALDA project (<http://www.esmeralda-project.eu/>), in which an Italian team is involved.
- Policy: Establishment of a MAES working group (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem services, in compliance with the European Union Biodiversity Strategy) and preliminary results of its activity.
- Planning: -----
- Conservation management: -----.

3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year:

- Establish connections and engage representatives outside the research/academic community.
- Getting people to register on the ESP website!

4. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year:

We aim at having 1-2 sound activities each year. Once the Observatory of PES will be established, we will design the next one, perhaps in the field of planning/policy making. In our "mission" we state that activities will be demand driven. So, we are hoping to get some ideas on future activities from the group. In any case, what will happen in the coming months will be an attempt to engage the public sector, both at local and regional levels. In terms of networking, we aim at having a national gathering in 2016, back-to-back with some relevant conference or event.

National Network in Poland

Name: Małgorzata Stępniewska

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:

- NN in Poland has been established in June 2015.
- In July 2015 we launched a webpage for our NN, <http://www.espartnership.org/esp/83664/5/0/50>.
- Currently we are building the contact list of people who can be interested in joining the NN.

- Co-chairs of NN are invited to the meeting of regional nature conservers, which is organized on 3-5 November 2015 by **General Directorate for Environmental Protection**. Co-chairs will present ES approach, as well as global and European initiatives in this field, including ESP. They also will discuss challenges and opportunities of implementing ES concept in Poland.
 - We started preparations for the next edition of Polish National Symposium on Ecosystem Services in Transdisciplinary Approach – ECOSERV 2016 (which will be held on 5-6 September 2016). The Symposium is organized since 2010, in biennial cycle (ECOSERV 2010, ECOSERV 2012 and ECOSERV 2014). It is the only nationwide forum on this subject, which is a platform for researchers, administration and non-government communities who want to exchange their information and experiences. Through ECOSERV 2016 we would like to wider develop transdisciplinary network of researchers involved in the field of ES.
2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:
- Research:
 - i. Since January 2015 Environmental Monitoring Programme in Poland is carrying out a program covering mapping and assessment ES in different types of geo-ecosystems representative for the Polish landscape.
 - ii. Adam Mickiewicz University team is a part of the consortium ESMERALDA (“Enhancing ecosystem services mapping for policy and decision making”) within Horizon 2020 Programme (project carried out from February 2015).
 - Policy:
 - i. In 2015 Environmental Information Centre UNEP/GRID-Warsaw continued Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services for Poland. The project started in the second half of 2014, as a contract of the Polish Ministry of Environment. This work should be finished till the end of 2015.
 - ii. Additionally in March 2015 the Ministry of Environment has launched the contract on Mapping and Assessment of Urban Ecosystems. The Urban MAES deals with the strengthening the use of ES approach in the protection and development of green infrastructure in cities. The contractor is Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.
3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year:
Mainly organizational issues, as NN website management and familiarizing with ESP procedures.
4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?
We would like to organize ECOSERV 2016 (5-6 September 2016) already as a part of our activities within the ESP. Using ESP auspices will allow us to promote new National ESP Network in Poland among people and stakeholders who can be interested in joining the NN.
5. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year:

To present and promote ESP during the IV Polish National Symposium on Ecosystem Services in Transdisciplinary Approach – ECOSERV 2016, and encourage participants of Symposium to joining the NN.

National Network in Turkey

Name: Esra Başak Dessane

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:
Even though it still remains difficult to talk about a proper “National Network” of people interested and active about ES related works in Turkey due to a number of constraints (see number 3 below), at least some work has been covered. For instance, attendance to the Natural Capital Accounting Regional Workshop for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region organized by The World Bank and the Turkish Ministry of Development (March 2015) where ES based data could be integrated to national accountancy systems.
2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:
 - **Research:** ES related valuation studies have been piloted in the Bolu Region, namely Valuing Forest Products and Services in Bolu Forest Area by the World Bank. Also Nature Conservation Center, an NGO based in Ankara, has conducted ecological studies pertaining to certain ES.
 - **Policy:** IPBES Processes: A number of Turkish experts have partaken in different Deliverables of IPBES such as Policy Tools, Guidelines on BES Values and some preliminary work on the ECA Regional Assessment.
 - **Planning:** Very few concrete use of ES approach in planning nationally. Past ES work and their economic values have been applied in coastal and marine PAs; however, this has not really altered planning procedures. The main problem remains the inconsistency of the legal EIA requirements which do not include the consideration of the wide range of ES.
 - **Conservation management:** Some ES studies have been taken into account in the management of terrestrial and marine/coastal protected areas in Turkey; however, it would be difficult to say that they have influenced site management directly per say.
 - **Communication:** Public radio broadcasting on ES and their values (İzmir Public Radio TRT – September 2015).
3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year:
The main challenge of the ESP national chapter is the fact that an insufficient number of people/experts are available to catalyse a real “network” doing exchanges, joint projects, lobbying, among others. Due to the fact that a structured group doesn’t exist, I remain rather alone. As I work freelance broadly on the topic and seem to barely find time to keep up with my workload, inspiring others to mobilize for a more active national ESP chapter remains unfeasible. This is also the same reason why I have not been able to join ESP conferences (needs to be self-financed and is not possible). The other big challenge in the region is the uncertainty of nature conservation in the national politics. The predominant, aggressive neo-classical development drive that can be observed in all spheres/sectors does not lead to and endorse sufficient amount of ES

studies. This also includes the academic realm where fundamental ecological studies are lacking.

4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?

I don't think I can improve the bigger political context challenge as nature conservation is not in the priority area of state's interest. I plan to continue to work in the field and improve my own skills and capacity for one thing. Perhaps similar ESP members where national networks are nearly non-existent could be matched to exchange experiences.

5. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year:

My first concrete plan is to develop a basic datasheet of people, parties interested and active in ES studies in Turkey. I have already attempted to do this before but I didn't succeed a whole lot. To be more precise, I plan to hold a meeting with the Nature Conservation Center, NGO in Ankara, to map out existing studies and develop joint actions that could be developed as a project.

National Network in France

Name: Natalia Sirina

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:

I am a lead since September 2013, so for the second year, my contribution of the development of National Network by:

- Participation in the seminars organized by the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy in connection with the national evaluation of ecosystem services (EFESE) project.
- Support of French national network of young researches "EFESE et theses".
- Participation in the seminars "Ecological services", organized by French IUCN committee.
- Scientific support of the participatory experimental farm Coyolles.
- Popularization of urban ecosystem services concept with local government.
- Participating in the European project proposal IVES-COM as a partner on the ecosystem services network elaboration COST (H2020).
- Participation on the conference COLEIT (<http://coleit2014.utt.fr/>) with the presentation on the conceptual framework of local value creation for forest ecosystem with diffusion of the written proceedings through ResearchGate website.
- Preparation of 2 scientific papers on ecosystem services.

2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your region/nation for:

- Research: The big continuous national project EFESE that focuses on different ecosystems (e.g. agro ecosystems, forest ecosystems ...).
- Policy: Project of the National Law on biodiversity, nature and landscape.
- Planning: -----

- Conservation management: -----
3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year:
 - Elaborate the active national network on the ecosystem services.
 - Some scientific societies e.g. on agricultural ecosystems like INRA stay closed within the research institution.
 - To show the advantages of ESP.
 4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?
Need the support of the experienced members on how to make the national network operational.
 5. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year:
 - To promote the network as a showcase for French ecosystem services research via existing network with the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and scholars.
 - Find funding to support the French chapter.

National Network in Cyprus

Name: Ioannis Vogiatzakis

1. Introduction to ES in Cyprus
Despite the progress made at European level, Cyprus efforts on the topic are lagging behind. Drawing from the experience gained at European level on ES assessment, the key objective of the NN is to set up the foundation for the first national assessment of ES and to demonstrate the extent to which an assessment of the state and trends of Cyprus major terrestrial ecosystem services could be made using the evidence currently available.
2. Motivation for establishing the NN
The mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services is an essential part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and a necessary condition to make ecosystems and their services key parameters informing planning and development processes and decisions. High quality and consistent information on the condition of ecosystems and the services provided by those ecosystems will be needed in order to identify priorities for restoration, support the deployment of Green Infrastructure and enable the development of a No Net Loss initiative (actions 6a, 6b and 7b of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy). Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 foresees that every Member State will, with the assistance of the Commission, map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services, assess the economic value of such services, and promote the integration of these values into accounting and reporting systems at EU and national level by 2020 In my previous post in the UK I have contributed to two projects on Ecosystem Services funded by Defra, while I have co-supervised two PhD theses on the topic (Kenya, Italy). I am trying to maintain this line of research in my current post. I have contributed in the National

Biodiversity Strategy for Cyprus and have argued successfully for the inclusion of the concepts of Ecosystem Services. Currently I am working together with the Department of Environment, MANRE towards mobilizing resources for the first National Assessment of ES in Cyprus. In addition I have incorporated as stated below ES concepts and methodology in my teaching and research. This is the reason why I am keen to lead this NN during its first steps.

3. Objectives of the NN

The objectives of the NN will be to:

- build a network of individuals and organizations in Cyprus working on ES;
- promote the concepts of ES and raise public awareness;
- incorporate teaching of ES in University Curricula;
- carry out relevant research activities;
- promote ES in the national policy agenda;
- identify opportunities for financial support through various instruments in Cyprus and the EU (research and structural funds) to promote ES activities.

4. Proposed activities of the NN;

Inclusion of ES in University curricula: I have incorporated in the past 3 years Ecosystem Services into the MSc programme Environmental Conservation and Management I am convening at the Open University of Cyprus and I am supervising MSc Dissertations on ES assessment and mapping. Through collaborations with colleagues from other Universities in Cyprus we are already seeking ways to incorporate ES concepts and methods in major University courses in Cyprus.

Research: I am supervising 1 PhD thesis on ES & agro-ecosystems while I am advertising a PhD position on mapping ES. At the same time we are working together with other colleagues towards a proposal on setting up the first national ES assessment for Cyprus. Through joint PhD supervision with colleagues from other Universities in Cyprus we plan to address major research questions on ES concepts.

Networking and Engaging Partners: The NN will promote networking activities relevant to ES. We work already in partnership with one more University and two government departments towards that direction. In the first year of its life the NN will organize a 1-day workshop to bring all stakeholders together. At the same time the key persons of the NN will hold meetings with major Governmental and NGOs players in the field, which can promote the cause of ES on Cyprus (please see section 6).

Related projects and networks: With my team we are currently working in a LIFE project www.liferizoelia.eu on ecosystem services assessment at the site level using the TESSA framework (tessa.tools) and as part of a 2nd LIFE+ project agrolife.eu on ecosystems services assessment in High Nature Value Farmlands. We are also part of a COST action www.greeninurbs.com working on linking environmental with social aspects in studying and managing urban forests.

National Network in Spain

Name: Fernando Santos Martin, Ignacio Palomo

1. The **major achievements** of your ESP National Network in the past year:

During the year 2015 the National Network, we have conducted several activities which are mostly connected to different International and national projects (i.e. MAES, ESMERALDA, MESEU, OPENESS; National Ecosystem Assessment of Spain; ECOGRADIENTES) with the main aim of advancing scientific knowledge in the field of ecosystem services and encouraging consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision-making (mainly in Spanish institutions).

With this general aim in mind we have reached the following achievements:

- Coordinate an internal communication phase that allows proper scientific exchange between the research teams working with ES under the integrated and inclusive framework of the Spanish National Ecosystem Assessment.
- Bring the development of ES concept to the attention of different stakeholders in Spain and listen to their needs and contributions regarding ecosystem services to ensure that the results will be useful to them as well as taking into account the different actors involved in or dependent on ecosystem services.
- Develop and present a research project to monitor an ecosystem services related policy instrument (a payment for ecosystem services scheme) that has been applied in Spain.
- Establish a Committee Advisory Board (associated to the OPENESS Project) to study the implementation of natural capital and ecosystem services as a framework in the management of Doñana Traditional Vineyards.
- Develop external communication tools tailored to the needs of different target audiences or stakeholders (technicians, policy makers, academia, broad public, etc.) as well as innovative formats and channels for the dissemination of the results of Spanish NEA in different social spheres, such as the media, school communities, NGOs and social movements.
- Characterize the messages that define the approach of the NEA project regarding the human-nature relationship as well as building a graphic identity for the project and amplifying its messages through existing channels and networks.
- Contribute to the international dissemination and projection of the Spanish NEA and other national and international collaboration channels.
- Increase the interaction and information flow between the scientific community, policy-makers, businesses and society in general to improve decision making in the management of ecosystems according to the their objectives".

2. The key **ecosystem services activities** that you are aware of and which occurred in your nation for:

Research

- 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 <http://www.ecomilenio.es/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Informe-EMEC-def.pdf>.
- Establish a database for indicators of ES including spatial explicit information of different ES.
- Based on this experience 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 Regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia.

- Contributes to the accomplishment of all the actions identify in regards the EU Biodiversity Strategy Target 2, Action 5 process in the context of the MAES working group created by the EU commission.
- Promote a coordinated project on costal and marine ecosystem to connect basic research and applied development policies of biodiversity conservation to the fisheries sector. (See the following publication: <http://www.ecomilenio.es/nuevo-informe-eme-evaluacion-de-los-servicios-de-los-ecosistemas-aplicada-a-la-gestion-pesquera/3785>).
- Improving mechanisms for communication with society in biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Organizing an international workshop to discuss the exponential growth of the ecosystem services framework in policy and practice, and the implications of this, especially for sustainability.
- Conducting a literature review to analyze the role of the different non-natural capital types in ecosystem services co-production and their effects on ecosystem services quantity, trade-offs, resilience and equity.
- Giving lectures or seminars about societies' perception of ecosystem services in the Salburua Wetland and in the Sierra de Guadarrama National Park.
- Publishing and editing different books, reports and scientific articles: For example: 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. (See: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/2zdlefxa8thwenp/Ecosystems%20and%20biodiversity%20for%20human%20wellbeing%20-%20SNEA%20-%20Shyntesis%20of%20Key%20Findings.pdf?dl=0>).

Policy and planning

- Contribute 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 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.

3. The **challenges** in your ESP National Network over the past year

One of the main problems encountered in organizing the national Network was related to the mobilization of different stakeholders involved. It was difficult to converge in a common understanding of the conceptual framework, terminology, definitions and classifications of ecosystem services, spatial delimitation of ecosystems, interpretation of information through indicators, accessibility to data to ecosystem levels, limited resources. Another challenge has been the reduced funding that Spanish Research

Institutions are suffering as a consequence of the economic crisis, which reduces the budget for research a travelling that would strengthen the network.

4. How do you **plan to improve these challenges** in the coming year? Do you need any support from ESP?

In our understanding a National Network is a group of people sharing their knowledge on ecosystem services with each other and also other interested actors. The goal is to learn from each other's experiences. This can be done through meetings but also by maintaining a website or by using social media. Establishing this community across Spain could have different implications at different levels. For example better information of ecosystems, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services is also expected to contribute to thematic environmental policy on nature, air, water, or land. Also the new research program on nature-based solutions (under Horizon 2020) will be a key user of the knowledge base generated in the Spanish NN.

ESP could prepare a brief outline/working guidance on the options and possibilities to create ESP-NN's as a community of practise on ecosystem services based on the capacity of ESP to support the development of national networks.

5. Your **plans** for your National Network for the upcoming year:
Analysis of the present initiatives and proposal for supporting the development of more formal national networks in Spain. The analysis should make proposals targeting different partners which can play an active role in network development.