

## Editorial

With this year's ESP conferences already high in the agenda, in this newsletter we review the past ESP conference, specifically the YESS workshop. We also present you with what is planned for the upcoming European ESP Conference. In addition, as you may have noticed, we have given the YESS newsletter a new look. We hope you like it, but if you have any additional comments or suggestions please feel free to forward them to us. Lastly, we again would like to thank all the contributors to this issue (and previous issues) for their input and hope to receive additional interesting stories for the newsletters to come! *André Mascarenhas & Samantha Scholte*

## YESS session at the European ESP Conference 2016

YESS will host another session at this year's European Ecosystem Services Conference in Antwerp, focused on "Connecting Young Ecosystem Service Specialists".

The primary aim of the YESS session is to stimulate the exchange of ideas, identify knowledge gaps and improve capacity building in relation to ES science and practice. Young ES researchers will present their latest research outcomes and provide material for an interactive discussion with their audience. Through short presentations and round tables, new ideas and collaborations shall emerge. This session will end with a short summary of the ideas and recommendations discussed at each round table.

The session will consist of up to six short presentations of four minutes followed by an open discussion. Extra time will be available for 1-2 drop-by presentations.

You are most welcome to join us!





### **YESS @ ESP8 – South Africa: Let's go local! Working together with local partners to make use of the Ecosystem Services Concept on a case of local relevance.**

YESS had the pleasure to organize its third workshop at international ESP-conferences. For the 2015 conference, YESS organized local partners to collaboratively investigate local issues applying an ecosystem services perspective. We had two local partners, Wiam Haddad from ZZ2 and Mirijam Gaertner and Luke Potgieter from the invasive species biology group from the University of Stellenbosch.

Wiam Haddad works for ZZ2, a big company performing industrial agriculture in a largely undisturbed landscape. The company now aims for sustainability. But besides Ecosystem Services (ESS), other programs, such as food security and poverty reduction are competing for resources. Additionally, ESS are not so high in the political agenda when compared to those other issues, which are more immediately pressing.

Luke Potgieter works for the city of Cape Town and will start his PhD with Mirijam next year. One of the tasks is to define priority areas to care about alien plant species removal. His question was, how the ecosystem framework could help him to set priorities on which areas to clear first and which areas to leave full of invasive plants, as they do provide some services too.

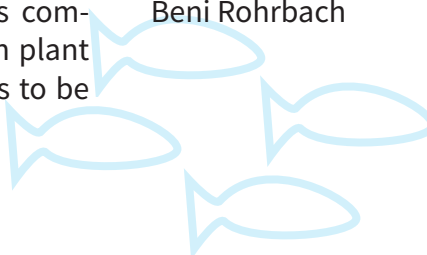
Throughout the workshop, we had brilliant discussions going on. One of the thing main insights was on the monitoring of ecosystem services (ESS). Especially the assessment of the demand was perceived to be posing some problems and we were not aware of a monitoring scheme of the demands existing. Monitoring demand is complicated, as for example demand for alien plant clearing (and thus connected ESS), seems to be driven by particular events, such as fires.



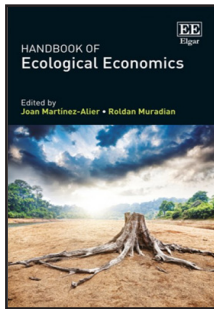
We further discussed ways of communicating ESS. Our participants had many examples that rendering ESS in some way tangible or accessible helped much to convey the value of the services.

I really encourage organizing future YESS sessions at ESP conferences as it was an interesting experience for me as a session organizer. As an idea: Next time we could focus more on YESSer's work, e.g. defining a general topic and have only a short input by a YESS-member followed by a longer discussion leading to another opinion paper. But that's up to the organizers of future sessions in any of the regional chapters.

Beni Rohrbach



## Book suggestions



### **Handbook of Ecological Economics- Edited by Joan Martínez-Alier & Roldan Muradian**

This handbook provides an overview of major current debates, trends and perspectives in ecological economics. It covers a wide range of is as the foundations of ecological economics, dm, environmental governance, consumer studies, knowledge systems and new experimental approaches.



### **The International Handbook of Political Ecology Edited by Raymond L. Bryant, King's College London, UK**

The International Handbook features chapters by leading scholars from around the world in a unique collection exploring the multi-disciplinary field of political ecology. This landmark volume canvasses key developments, topics, issues, debates and concepts showcasing how political ecologists today address pressing social and environmental concerns.



### **Impacts of Land-use Change on Ecosystem Services - Prof. Jinyan Zhan**

This book aims to systematically elaborate how land-use change directly or indirectly exerts impacts on the ability of ecosystems to provide services for human society. The relationship between land use, ecosystem services and human well-being is a hot topic, and there have been some important achievements in this field, but its continuing growth means that it warrants further research.



## Upcoming conferences

### **EcoSummit 2016, Ecological Sustainability: Engineering Change, 29 August - 1 September 2016 | Le Corum, Montpellier, France**

This conference series was founded in 1996 in Copenhagen, as a forum to meet the demands of scientists working in several new ecological disciplines, and who required a better understanding of the concepts and methods for a holistic use of ecology in environmental management. EcoSummit 2016 will centre on the ecology of terrestrial ecosystems and all habitats that are integrated within those ecosystems, including river networks, wetlands and coastlines.

### **Urban Transitions Global Summit 2016, Towards a better urban future in an interconnected age, 5-9 September 2016 | Shanghai, China**

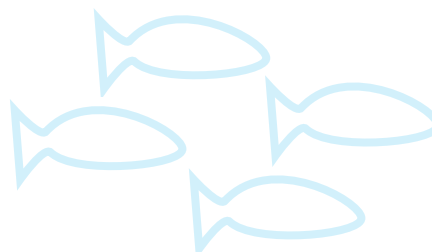
Today, more than half of the world population lives in urban areas, and each week, the urban population increases globally by 1.3 million. Urban Transitions 2016 will bring together researchers, policy-makers, government representatives and practitioners to review the themes of Economically competitive urban futures; Sustainable and resilient urban futures; Equitable and inclusive urban societies; Digitally supported urban futures

### **European Ecosystem Services 2016 conference Helping nature to help us, which will take place in Antwerp, Belgium from 19-23 September 2016.**

This conference will be the biggest European event in 2016 that links science, policy and practice on ecosystem services and natural capital. With our strong focus on practice and implementation we will showcase excellent knowledge and research, share working examples from business, land management, policy and local practice. The conference is organised by the research projects OPERAs, OpenNESS, and ECOPLAN and the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP). Please click [here](#) for more information.

### **ACES: A Community on Ecosystem Services - Jacksonville, Florida, December 5-9 2016**

Plan to attend this important meeting that provides an open forum for sharing experiences, methods, and tools for assessing and incorporating ecosystem services into public and private decisions. Additional information will soon be posted on the conference website.



### Recent publications from YESS members

Jones, L., Norton, L., Austin, Z., Browne, A.L., Donovan, D., Emmett, B.A., Grabowski, Z.J., Howard, D.C., Jones, J.P.G., Kenter, J.O., Manley, W., Morris, C., Robinson, D.A., Short, C., Siriwardena, G.M., Stevens, C.J., Storkey, J., Waters, R.D. & Willis, G.F. (2016) Stocks and flows of natural and human-derived capital in ecosystem services. *Land Use Policy*, 52, 151–162.

Kenter, J.O. (2016) Deliberative and Non-Monetary Valuation. In: *Routledge Handbook of Ecosystem Services* (eds M. Potschin, R. Haines-Young, R. Fish & R.K. Turner). Routledge, London.

Mascarenhas, A., Ramos, T.B., Haase, D., Santos, R. (2016). Participatory selection of ecosystem services for spatial planning: Insights from the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, Portugal. *Ecosystem Services* 18, 87–99.

Rall, E. L., Kabisch, N., & Hansen, R. (2015). A comparative exploration of uptake and potential application of ecosystem services in urban planning. *Ecosystem Services*, 16, 230–242. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2015.10.005>

Sitas, N., Reyers, B., Cundill, G., Prozesky, J.H. E., Nel, J. L., Esler, K. J. (2016) Fostering collaboration for knowledge and action in disaster management in South Africa, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 19, 94–102.

Scholte, S.S.K., Todorova, M., van Teeffelen, A.J.A., Verburg, P.H. (2016) Public support for wetlands: What is the link with ecosystem service values? *Wetlands*,

Vačkář, D., Harmáčková, Z.V., Kaňková, H., Stupková, K., (2016). Human transformation of ecosystems: Comparing protected and unprotected areas with natural baselines. *Ecological Indicators* 66: 321–328.

Winkler K.J., Nicholas, K. A. (2016). More than wine: Cultural ecosystem services in vineyard landscapes in England and California, *Ecological Economics* 124, 86–98.

**YESS – Young Ecosystem Services Specialists is a group of post-graduate students, early-career scientists and practitioners. If you would like to know more about YESS please visit our website or join us on Facebook and Linked-In!**



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