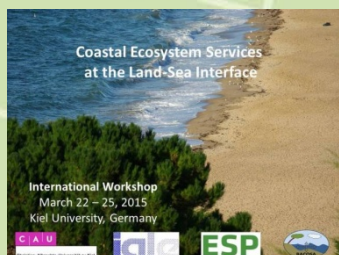


## Editorial

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the YESS newsletter! Unfortunately it is not always possible to visit all the conferences you like or that are relevant for your work. Although there is not much that beats going to a conference yourself, there are also other ways to stay up to date or to get a glimpse of the conference talks and presentations. Below we highlight some interesting conferences that took place in the past few months with links to their websites. Many of the websites give you access to posters, presentations or talks! Our colleague Nadia Sitas also shares a deeper insight from a Future Earth conference for young scientists. Since we cannot always be entirely up to date ourselves, we invite you to provide us with info about nice upcoming or past events so that we can include them in the newsletter. If you visited a conference and would like to share some interesting insights with the YESS community, feel free to send us a short text about it!

*Samantha Scholte & André Mascarenhas*

## Conference round-up: what has been going on?



### International Workshop: Coastal Ecosystem Services at the Land-Sea Interface

This workshop that took place at Kiel University, Germany, from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, dealt with the complex network of landscape and seascape characteristics present at the *land-sea interface*. It focused on finding suitable indicators for ecosystem service quantification, conceiving

optimal strategies for ecosystem service valuation and implementing ecosystem services into management, mapping and planning strategies. The aim was to answer several *focal questions*, for example ‘How to quantify coastal ecosystem services?’ Several presentations are available at the workshop’s [website](#).

### Green Week 2015: Nature – our health, our wealth

The 2015 edition of *Greenweek*, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, took place from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> at The Egg Conference Centre in Brussels. Under the banner of *Nature – our health, our wealth*, the theme was *nature and biodiversity*. Green Week looked at the benefits we receive from nature, and the framework in place to protect it. For speakers and presentations please have a look at their [website](#)!



# ES activities

## Conference round-up: what has been going on? (cont.)



### International conference: Motivations and arguments to act for biodiversity – Alternative ways to inspire innovative policy making

Having enjoyed only a few days of rest after the EU Greenweek, scientists and policy makers convened in Brussels again on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to think about nature conservation at the BIOMOT-BESAFE conference. The key focus of this conference was to think about what motivates people to take action for nature. On the [webpage](#) you can find presentations and abstracts from various speakers, but one particular recommendation would be to have a glance at the [presentation](#) of Michael Pregernig about 'Transdisciplinary research for ecosystem service provision and biodiversity management in the European Union'.

### European Society for Ecological Economics Conference 2015: Transformations

The biennial conference of ESEE (European Society of Ecological Economics) was held between June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Leeds this year. Theme of the conference was 'Transformations' and it aimed to explore solutions for the transformation to a sustainable society, building on the distinctive contribution of ecological economics, by shining a spotlight on the interdependency of economic activity and natural systems, and identifying options that prioritise human wellbeing within planetary boundaries.



## Inside Report – Future Earth networking conference for early career scientists

**Nadia Sitas\***

2015 is a big year for the planet. The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) was agreed upon in March, the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the [Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC](#) will take place in December, and in September the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) will be unveiled. All of these initiatives highlight the importance of enhancing the resilience of social-ecological systems to ensure the provision of ecosystem services for current and future human well-being.

(continues)

# ES activities

## Inside Report – Future Earth networking conference for early career scientists (cont.)

To promote the role of science in the effort to develop a sustainable future for all, 32 early career researchers from around the world (representing 23 countries) convened under the banner of [Future Earth](#). I was lucky enough to attend the conference and was blown away by the commitment and enthusiasm of the participants to find integrative, equitable and sustainable solutions for enhancing human well-being and promoting ecosystem stewardship.



Future Earth is an international research platform which seeks to coordinate interdisciplinary research and provide the knowledge and support to promote transformative change for a more sustainable world. Future Earth aims to coordinate new research through three themes: Dynamic Planet, Global Sustainable Development and Transformations towards Sustainability. Future Earth will coordinate its activities around a cluster of core projects and initiatives related to Global Environmental Change.

One of the core projects of Future Earth that YESS can potentially contribute to is the [ecoSERVICES](#) project. ecoSERVICES aims to investigate the impact of biodiversity change on ecosystem functioning and services and human well-being. In a recent paper by [Bennett et al. 2015](#), the authors outline the 3 key research questions that will frame the activities of ecoSERVICES:

- a) How are ecosystem services co-produced by social-ecological systems;
- b) Who benefits from the provision of ecosystem services;
- c) What are the best practices for the governance of ecosystem services.

The YESS community is well placed to start using our collective minds to contribute towards answering these questions and strengthen the knowledge base that is needed to inform the tough decisions that are needed to steer our planet towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

*\*Nadia Sitas is a researcher in biodiversity and ecosystem services at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa. She has recently completed her doctorate in the opportunities and challenges of mainstreaming ecosystem services in decision making.*

# Publications and events



## Recent publications from YESS members

van Oort B, Bhatta LD, Baral H, Rai RK, Dhakal M, Rucevska I, Adhikari R, 2015. Assessing community values to support mapping of ecosystem services in the Koshi river basin, Nepal. *Ecosystem Services* 13: 70-80 ([Link](#))

Mascarenhas A, Ramos TB, Haase D, Santos R, 2015. Ecosystem services in spatial planning and strategic environmental assessment—A European and Portuguese profile. *Land Use Policy* 48: 158-169 ([Link](#))

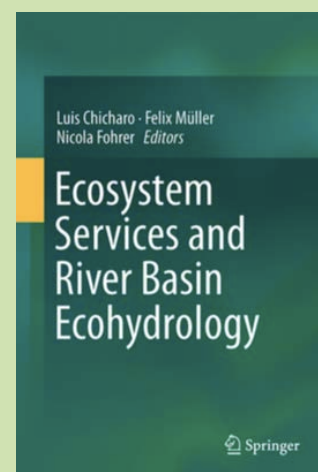
Stürck J, Schulp CJE, Verburg PH, 2015. Spatio-temporal dynamics of regulating ecosystem services in Europe – The role of past and future land use change. *Applied Geography* 63: 121-135 ([Link](#))

## Book suggestion

### **Ecosystem Services and River Basin Ecohydrology**

Editors: Luís Chicharo, Felix Müller, Nicola Fohrer

This book provides an integrated analysis of the methodologies and main processes occurring at the entire river basin, from upstream until the coast, by merging the biological and hydrological processes with the social and economic components, thus providing an integrated framework for river basin management, integrating the ecohydrology approach with the ecosystem services concept.



[Link](#)

## Conference announcements

EcoSummit 2016 – Ecological Sustainability: Engineering Change. Le Corum, Montpellier, France, 29 August - 1 September 2016 ([Link](#)).

European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change in Urban Areas and their Rural Surroundings. Bonn, Germany, 17-19 November 2015 ([Link](#))

8<sup>th</sup> ESP World Conference: Ecosystem services for Nature, People and Prosperity. Spier Wine Farm and Conference Centre, South Africa, 9 – 13 November 2015 ([Link](#)).