

BOOK OF ABSTRACT

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I. SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T18

Title of session:

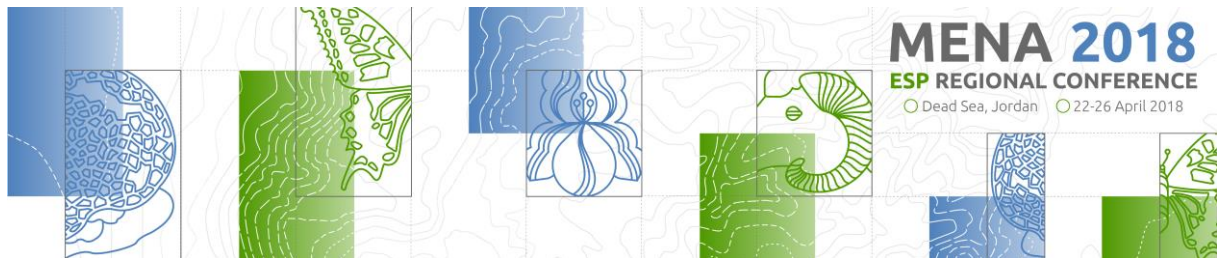
Ecosystem services assessments and valuations for policy impacts: lessons from the global project ValuES

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Dr.	Alejandro von Bertrab	GIZ	alejandro.bertrab@giz.de
Host:	Dr.	Oliver Schlein	GIZ	oliver.schlein@giz.de
Co-host:	Mrs.	Lucy Emerton	Independent consultant	lucy@environment-group.org

Abstract:

Ecosystem services assessments and valuations (ESAVs) are key to demonstrating the importance of ecosystems for social well-being and to providing solid arguments for their sustainable use, their protection as well as for the integration of environmental concerns into other sectors beyond nature conservation, such as agriculture, mining, and land use planning, among many others. However, these studies, despite their scientific soundness, often fail to have the desired policy impact, since practitioners may not always carry them out with the goal of providing information and insights to solve a concrete policy problem. Additionally, ESAV results may fail to reach the right audience or the right stakeholders may not be involved in study design, implementation and results delivery. The global project “ValuES: Methods for integrating ecosystem services into policy, planning and practice” aims to bridge the science-policy gap by providing specific advice on how to design and implement ESAVs for policy impacts. With the help of concrete cases from practice, including experiences from Jordan, this session will highlight some of the key aspects, such as credibility, legitimacy, and relevance, to improve the policy uptake of studies’ findings. ValuES is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in close collaboration with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the Conservation Strategy



Fund (CSF). The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Goals and objectives of the session:

By means of diverse presentations and discussions, participants will have the chance to learn and reflect on some of the necessary elements for ESAVs to transcend the purely scientific realm and be able to turn them into efforts to link science and policy with the ultimate aim of reaching sustainability.

Planned output / Deliverables:

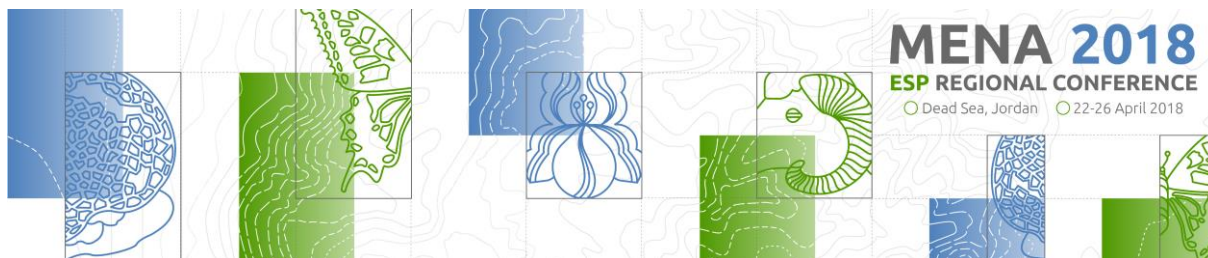
Participants will learn about various research methods and specific experiences from the field. Participants will reflect on the elements to generate policy-oriented ESAVs and will hear about concrete experiences regarding the integration of ecosystem services into policy.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

NO

Related to ESP WG or NN:

[TWG18- Governance & Institutional aspects](#)



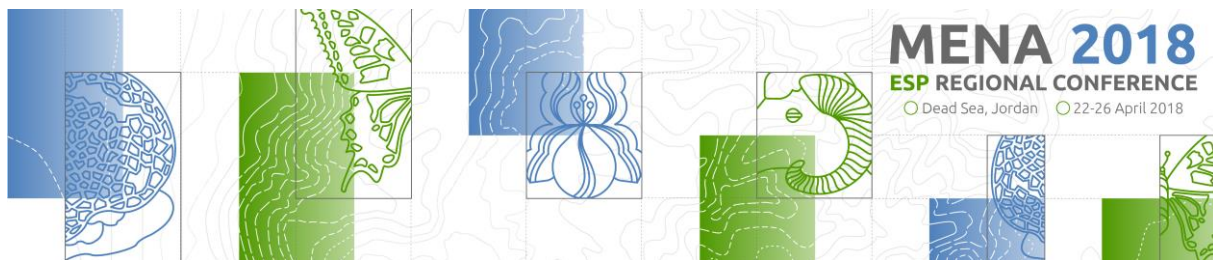
II. SESSION PROGRAM

Date of session: 23 April 2018

Time of session: 13:30-15:30

Timetable speakers

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
13:30	Alejandro	von Bertrab	GIZ-ValuES	Laying the groundwork for policy-oriented ESAVs
13:45	Yaella	Depietri	Technion	The role of the ecosystem services framework in environmental protection and conservation: a holistic analysis
14:05	Yael	Teff-Seker	Technion	Walking and focusing: a new methodology for assessing desert cultural ecosystem services
14:25	Farid	Musmar	GIZ	The German Jordanian bilateral project EKF-ESS: promoting policy change by integrating ecosystem services
14:45	Mahmoud	Al-Bdour	GIZ-GOPA	The German-Jordanian bilateral project EKF-ESS: Lessons from the field
15:05	Lucy	Emerton	GIZ-ValuES	Final discussion and wrap-up: can we bridge the divide between science and policy?



III. ABSTRACTS

1. *Type of submission: Voluntary contribution*

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T18 Ecosystem services assessments and valuations for policy impacts: lessons and tools from the global project ValuES

The role of the ecosystem services framework in environmental protection and conservation: a holistic analysis

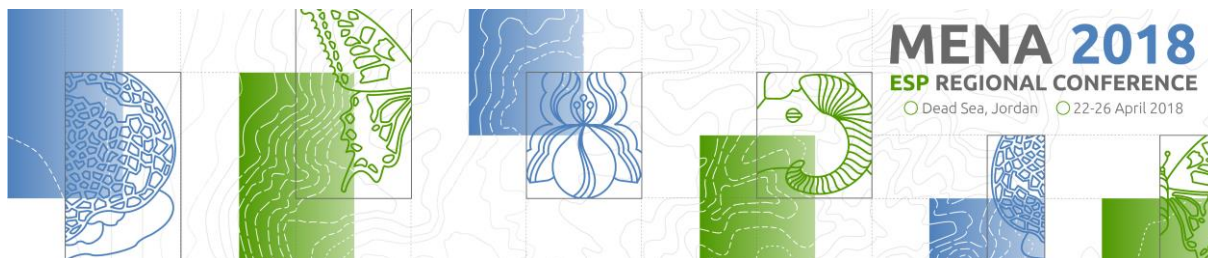
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The concept of ecosystem services has taken the environmental science and policy literature by storm, becoming almost the approach to assess the nature–society relationship. It was first developed to bring awareness on the dependence of the human system on the ecosystems and boost environmental protection and conservation. But has this happened? Mounting research is showing that ecosystem services research is difficultly translated into planning and decision making. In this paper, I argue that this lack of implementation might be linked to the inadequate use or to the over–expectations attributed to the role of this boundary concept as the only approach to tackle environmental problems. For instance, from an ecological point of view, the links between ecosystem services and biodiversity are complex, while the assessment of ecosystem services tends to bypass direct field measurements due to time and resources constraints relying instead of proxies. This perceived uncertainty might discourage applications of the concept.

I review 95 papers identified through a search in the web of science and based on the following keywords: “ecosystem services”, “environmental protection” and “conservation”. The review explores the different dimensions of the ecosystem services concept (i.e. ecological, economic, cultural, social, political and institutional) with the aim to suggest a more clearly defined role of the ecosystem services framework which better serves environmental protection and conservation. I highlight the framework privileged stance in bringing socio–economic and cultural values in conservation efforts. Based on the results of the review, I argue that socio–economic valuation is perhaps the most significant contribution of the application of the ecosystem services framework to environmental conservation. The ecosystem services framework, with its stance in bringing socio–economic factors and arguments, should however represent one of the many other layers of the decision–making process.



Keywords: Ecosystem services, biodiversity, conservation, environmental protection, valuation

2. Type of submission: Voluntary contribution

[T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T18 Ecosystem services assessments and valuations for policy impacts: lessons and tools from the global project ValuES](#)

Walking and Focusing: A New Methodology for Assessing Desert Cultural Ecosystem Services

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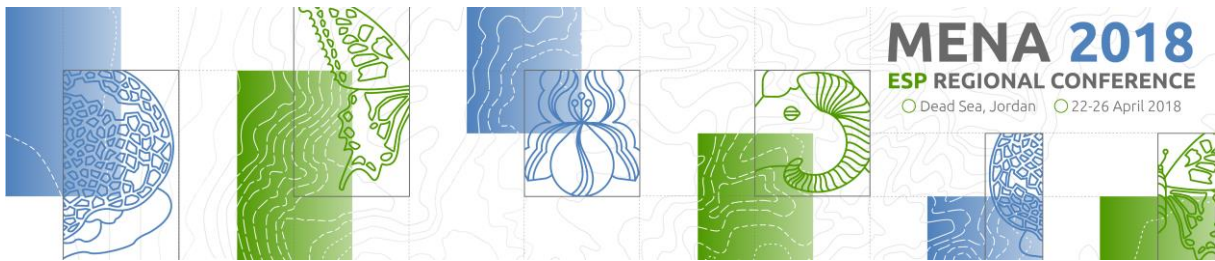
Walking and Focusing: A New Methodology for Assessing Desert Cultural Ecosystem Services

Dr. Yael Teff-Seker, Technion University, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning

Prof. Daniel Orenstein, Technion University, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning

Cultural ecosystem services (CES) are the non-material benefits that people derive from nature. They include recreational, spiritual, cultural and cognitive services that have significant value to people. However, they are also inherently difficult to assess due to their largely intangible nature. In our lecture, we first review the quantitative and qualitative methodologies currently used for CES assessment. We then present the current study, in which we implemented a methodology that combines walking interviews in natural landscapes and the technique of Focusing. Focusing was developed by Eugene Gendlin for therapeutic applications. It encourages focusers to be attentive to their “felt sense”, including information that is often perceived as irrelevant “background”. Focusing interviews thus provide insight into human experiences rather than into opinions or preferences.

In the pilot study, we conducted thirty walking-focusing interviews in the Negev Desert, asking subjects to focus on various aspects of their experience. Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and thematically analyzed, to assess the types of insights gained by the method. Results indicate that this methodology can enable scientists to better understand the holistic



experience of subjects (rather than opinions or attitudes), difficult to attain using other methodologies, and that the advantageous combination of walking in nature and focusing gives access to myriad types of information, including physical, emotional and cognitive experiences, often intertwined.

It was found that for the study of CES in drylands, this methodology was particularly suitable. As drylands often have less conspicuous fauna and flora, focusing enabled participants to notice and address them more clearly. Main themes included a sense of detachment from everyday life, obtaining a new point of view, enhanced imagination, reminiscing, feelings of love and longing, fear, boredom, finding the landscape reminiscent of biblical times or other planets, scientific curiosity and appreciating geological processes and sophisticated survival mechanisms.

Keywords: Cultural Ecosystem Services, Deserts, Drylands, Assessment