**Invitation to help update the Ecosystem Services Valuation Database (ESVD**)

Herewith we would like to ask your help with a very challenging endeavour: to stop the structural undervaluation of nature in economic assessments (leading to continued biodiversity loss and landscape degradation), we need better data on the ‘true value’**\*** , or welfare effect, of nature conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management.

As a contribution to the TEEB study ([www.teebweb.net](http://www.teebweb.net)) we were asked in 2008 to collect evidence on these values of ecosystem services, and true costs of ecosystem loss, and developed a database which was published in 2010 and described in de Groot et al (2012) “Global estimates of the value of ecosystems and their services in monetary terms”. *Ecosystem Services*, 1: 50-61. (attached). Around that same time, the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) ([www.es-partnership.org](http://www.es-partnership.org)) was founded and currently hosts the Ecosystem Services Valuation Database (<https://www.es-partnership.org/services/data-knowledge-sharing/ecosystem-service-valuation-database/>). This database is still being used widely but by now very incomplete and outdated.

In the spring of 2019 we received some funding from DEFRA to update and upgrade the database and we now have more than 4000 data points (values) distributed over all biomes and all ecosystem services.

We are now ready to reach out to the wider ES-assessment community to help review the data we entered and ask if you are interested to stay involved by providing new data. Of course we will acknowledge your contribution in the online database but maybe even more interesting for you, and for us, is if you are willing to become co-author of regular updates we plan to publish in high impact Journals (e.g. [www.journals.elsevier.com/ecosystem-services](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/ecosystem-services) ).

As a starting point for setting up this review process we want to create so called “**Biome Data Review Teams**”: a flexible group of experts on a given biome (e.g. tropical forests, wetlands, coral reefs etc.) who will screen the current values in the database and, if possible, add new data.

We will explain the exact review- and data-submission procedure in more detail in a separate email but for now we would like to know if you are interested to participate is this project and, if so, which biomes or ecosystems you would like to help with. To facilitate your answer please use the attached form and send it back to ([dolf.degroot@fsd.nl](mailto:dolf.degroot@fsd.nl)) at your earliest convenience. Shortly after I receive your answer we will send you more detailed information on the next steps.

We hope all is clear and feel free to contact me, or Luke if you have any questions

Looking forward to hearing from you!

With kind regards

Dolf de Groot (1 & Luke Brander (luke.brander@gmail.com) (2

1) Environmental Systems Analysis group, Wageningen University and Chair ESP & FSD ([www.fsd.nl](http://www.fsd.nl))

2) IvM-VU Univ. Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Brander Environmental Economics, Hong Kong SAR, China

\*) *PS: of course we know nature has many different values (including intrinsic, relational and other non-utilitarian values) but the focus of this database is to gather information on economic welfare values measured in monetary units. The purpose is to provide information to decision making that can be used to internalise the true welfare effects of ecosystem services, particularly non-marketed services that are now largely ignored.*