



7th BEES (Belgian Ecosystem services) workshop
<http://www.biodiversity.be/bees/>

Ecosystem Services and their (e)valuation: linking concepts, principles and values to policies ?

26th March 2012

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences – rue Vautier 29 (1000) Bruxelles

Context

The concept of Ecosystem Services (ESS) – and its organizational and functional principles – have largely percolated into scientific work attempting to qualify and quantify the interlinkages between society and nature. At least since the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and more recently with the TEEB initiative (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) at European level, ESS (e)valuations have become attractive and available for a number of governmental levels. The scientific concept of ESS appears thus to have hardened from a metaphor into a paradigm which rules an important number of current assessments and monitoring approaches of society-nature interactions.

On this pathway of operationalization, the quest lies today in discussing, experiencing and documenting the usability, insertion and use which could - and is - made of the ESS-concept and its (e)valuations when it comes to define, configure, amend public policies for nature and biodiversity protection. Imagining the policy implications and usefulness of ESS (e)valuations has thus logically become the core of a series of recent debates in the field; a discussion which can also be understood as an attempt to improve our understanding of the largely enthusiastic reception such (e)valuations of nature trigger among many environmental policy makers.

With an eye on this emerging discussion, the BEES-project is organizing its 7th workshop around these issues of expected, existing and experienced linkages between policy and ESS concept, between policy and ESS-(e)valuation, specifically for the Belgian level. In order to do so, we asked for a series of internationally renowned experts to develop on their experiences with ESS (e)valuations, and we propose to confront the audience - in a collegial, constructive and open manner – with some Belgian experiences of ESS-(e)valuations and their linkages to policy-making.

The main question which will guide the discussions will be to construct together the future foundations of how public policy makers should meet ESS-(e)valuations, addressing the need for adapted science-policy interfaces for ESS (e)valuations, as well as appropriate governance schemes for ESS (e)valuations.



Program (provisional)

- 9h45 Welcome and framing of the seminar
- 10h00 Introduction
“Co-constructing knowledge on Nature: a tentative framework for a transdisciplinary process for ecosystem services (e)valuation”
Hans KEUNE (INBO) & Tom BAULER (ULB)
- 10h15 ***“The use of monetary ecosystem services (e)valuation in policy formulation”*** (provisional title)
Prof. Arild VATN
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
- 11h15 Coffee
- 11h30 ***“Experiences from the institutionalization of ESS-(e)valuation: the case of TEEB”***

“Insights into the demand(s) and reception of the TEEB for policy-makers”
Dr. Patrick TEN BRINK (IEEP) (tbc)

“Insights into the demand(s) and reception of the TEEB for local and regional policy-makers”
Dr. Heidi WITTMER (UFZ Leipzig) (tbc)
- 12h30 Sandwich Lunch
- 13h30 ***“Belgian Case studies and experiences”***
Round-table with ESS-(e)valuation project promoters, experts and stakeholders

First Round: Institutional experiences
“De Wijers” (Paula Ulenaers, VLM) (tbc) and “Naturwaaardeverkener” (Tanya Cerulus, LNE) (tbc)
Second Round: Scientific experiences
“ECOfresh-project” (Sander Jacobs, UA) and “VOTES-project” (Nicolas Dendoncker, FUNDP)

Discussion mechanics: each case study will be briefly presented, and then discussed with the audience w/r to usability and relevance for policy making.
- 15h00 Farewell



Target group: Scientific experts, civil society organisations and policy makers which are interested to exchange their expectations, practices, experiences on the potential usages (in terms of policy making) of the concept and (e)valuation of Ecosystem services. The present event is a workshop: the objective is thus to reflect together where we stand today and where we should be going tomorrow in terms of creating linkages between ESS-science and ESS-(e)valuation and ESS-policy making.

Participation is free, but registration is needed (for logistical reasons). Send a mail with your affiliation to Nathalie Pipart : npipart@ulb.ac.be

The BEES consortium :

