

## SESSION DESCRIPTION

### ID: T8

Landscape aesthetic and cultural Ecosystem Services (CES)

#### Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Dr	Alexandra Tisma		alexandra.tisma@pbl.nl
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#### Abstract:

Landscape aesthetic quality (LAQ) is an important ecosystem service that positively affects humans' health and well-being. Different ecosystem services frameworks recognize the value of landscape aesthetics. For instance the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005b) defines LAQ as the pleasure people obtain from the aesthetic appreciation of natural and cultivated landscapes. The Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services framework (CICES, 2018) defines aesthetic quality as "characteristics of living systems that enable aesthetic experiences".

Overall, CES, often described as "intangible", are the least commonly quantified and mapped ecosystem services. This "intangibility" comes from the several reasons such as difficulty to assess human perceptions, cultural norms and plurality of values in a spatially explicit way (Egoh et al., 2012; Martínez-Harms and Balvanera, 2012; Crossman et al., 2013), preferences that vary widely across social and cultural contexts (Dramstad, Tveit, Fjellstad, & Fry, 2006; Zube & Pitt, 1981), subjectivity of human judgements, and scale dependency.

While landscape aesthetic values are commonly acknowledged as important CES (Hernández-Morcillo et al., 2013; Milcu et al., 2013; La Rosa et al., 2015), standardized approaches for the assessment and monitoring of landscape aesthetics are still missing, one reason for this is the methodological difficulty in quantifying it (Uessel, 2006; Kroll et al., 2012; von Haaren and Albert, 2011; Daniel et al., 2012).

In this session we would like to discuss the need to include LAQ in CES studies and lack of reliable methods to assess it, especially on large spatial scales. The following questions will be addressed:

- How to capture human perception in CES models?
- How do we deal with the subjectivity related to aesthetic experience?

- Should we skip LAQ from modelling environments and mapping on large (global) scale or accept the shortcomings and look for the future solutions and improvements?
- Is there a universal aesthetic quality? Or do we need to adjust for cultural differences? (and how?)

#### Goals and objectives of the session:

The goal of this session is to get insights and discuss about the proposed subject with the colleagues of different cultural and geographic backgrounds.

#### Planned output / Deliverables:

A short report about the findings of the session to be shared with the broader scientific community.

#### Session format:

Discussion forum

#### Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

#### Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Thematic Working Groups: TWG 8 – Cultural services & Values](#)