SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T2

Assessing Ecosystem Condition: Integrating Science, Policy and Practice

Day: Tuesday

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 15:30

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Fernando Santos-Martin Philip Roche	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de Madrid INRAE	fernando.santos@urjc.es philip.roche@inrae.fr
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Abstract:

Ecosystems form the bedrock of biodiversity and provide vital services that sustain human society and economics. However, understanding ecosystem condition and assessing spatial variations remain complex challenges, particularly when covering a broad range of ecosystems in different biomes. This session seeks to explore the multiple dimensions of assessing ecosystem condition, emphasizing the integration of scientific methodologies, policy frameworks, and practical applications. Presentations are invited to explore the frameworks, methodologies, metrics, and applications used to evaluate ecosystem condition, with a particular focus on spatial assessments. We also aim to explore techniques for calibration, the relationship between ecosystem condition and restoration needs, and the capacity of ecosystems to provide essential services. We will also investigate how these assessments vary across different ecosystem types and biomes, providing valuable insights for informed decision-making and effective management strategies.

The session will delve into various approaches and tools utilized in assessing ecosystem condition, encompassing both biophysical and socio-economic indicators. We aim to highlight innovative methodologies, case studies, and interdisciplinary perspectives that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of ecosystem condition across different spatial and temporal scales.

Key topics addressed:

- Metrics that Matter: What are the most effective and informative metrics to evaluate ecosystem condition across diverse ecosystems?
- Spatial Smarts: How can we leverage spatial assessment tools to map and monitor ecosystem condition at various scales?
- Calibrating for Clarity: What methods are available to calibrate ecosystem condition assessments and ensure consistency?
- Condition to Capacity: How does ecosystem condition translate into its ability to deliver vital services?
- Restoration Roadmaps: Can ecosystem condition assessments inform targeted restoration efforts and prioritize areas of greatest need?
- Ecosystem Diversity: How do the ideal metrics and assessment approaches differ between various ecosystem types and biomes?

Goals and objectives of the session:

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Planned output / Deliverables:

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Session format:

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Voluntary contributions accepted:

Open for abstracts to be submitted to the session for review.