

## SESSION 1 DESCRIPTION

### ID: T20a

### Disentangling equity in ecosystem services

#### Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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#### Abstract:

Inequity is one of the pivotal conservation challenges of our epoch, with far-reaching ramifications for human well-being and sustainable development. Under such challenges, the unequal access to natural capital and ecosystem services (ES) becomes apparent on different spatial levels - among and within countries, within regions, between urban and rural areas and within neighborhoods and different socio-economic and demographic groups. Despite the multiplicity of approaches and dimensions of equity and justice, clear methodologies to explore and assess levels of inequity in ES management are not fully developed yet. This session aims to address the underlying biophysical patterns and socio-economic drivers of unequal spatial, cross-scale and temporal distribution of ES benefits. In this session we invite talks exploring the linkages between ecosystem services and equity outcomes across different dimensions, including procedural, contextual (which includes recognition), and distribution. Moreover, the session will address linkages between beneficiaries, ecosystems and institutions and collect empirical evidence for distributional inequities, being rooted in societal groups being marginalized and left behind in the design, planning, and management of natural ecosystems and human-made nature-based solutions. The session will comprise two formats: i) standard presentations and ii) a discussion forum. We welcome talks focusing on the following topics and specific questions:

#### 1) Advancements regarding conceptual understanding of equity in relation to ES:

- What theories of justices are applied in the field of ES research?
- What is considered a just outcome?
- Who needs to be recognised in ES management? What needs to be recognised (e.g., capabilities, preferences, plural values)? In short, what is the entitlement and for whom?
- Who decides what a just outcome is? Which actors are involved in the equity/justice assessment?

#### 2) Methodological advancements:

- Based on which type of data can equity assessments be made?

- What type of data/outputs and related methods are needed to achieve integrated justice assessments across multiple justice dimensions?

Contributions can range from local to global scales and from urban and rural settings. Understanding equity issues is key for achieving sustainable futures and transformative change.

### **Goals and objectives of the session:**

The goals are twofold: 1) For the standard presentation part of the session we aim at increasing and enriching the scientific exchange on recent scholar work for this increasing strand of literature. We will also discuss the option of a special issue (in the *Ecosystem Services Journal*), based on the contributions to this session. The session will be a “standard” session comprising a series of 10 minutes presentations divided into two blocks of 1.5 h: presentations (5x 10 min + 5 min question).

2) For the “Forum” part of the session we aim at collecting case studies that trace back ecosystem services injustices beyond assessments of distributional injustices. We aim to discuss and find common ground for one or a few synthesis papers to advance ES justice research based on cross-case study comparison from various empirical contexts. The forum discussion is reserved for ESP-equity working group members and anybody who wants to join this group. If you are interested in joining, please submit an abstract (clearly indicating that you are interested in this part of the session) and prepare a 3 min pitch presentation providing insights about your work. Authors selected for a 10 min presentation in the first part of the session will automatically be able to join the forum as well.

### **Planned output / Deliverables:**

The planned outputs are twofold: For the standard presentation part of the session we intend to prepare a Special issue on ecosystem service equity (Target Journal: *Ecosystem Services*). For the “Discussion Forum” part of the session we intend to further develop the scholars’ network and planning of joint activities in the frame of the ESP “equity in ES research” working group, including joint research articles.

### **Voluntary contributions accepted:**

Standard presentation part of the session: Yes.

Discussion forum part of the session: Yes