



SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T13a

An Ecosystem Services approach to community-based Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods development

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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Abstract:

Watersheds worldwide provide crucial ecosystem services, such as the regulation of water flows, climate, the provision of food and raw materials, and nursery functions for wildlife and natural habitats. However, watersheds are increasingly under threat from degradation and over-exploitation of their natural resources.

Farming practices are often not sustainable due to an increasing population pressure which leads to an over-use of land for crops and livestock that are not well suited for such (intensive) use. Intensification of cropping and large-scale cash crop planting (monocultures) contribute further to land degradation. Also deforestation and forest degradation puts increased pressure on the environment.

Intensified land use has not only resulted in the gradual loss of biodiversity, but also in the diminution of the ability of these forest ecosystems to provide essential ecological services. When ecosystem processes and functions are drastically perturbed, various consequences with significant socio-economic impact follow. In the end communities suffer from a less resilient farming system, while biodiversity declines as a result of ecosystem degradation.

To reverse this trend, landscape restoration is essential, to conserve and restore the watershed's ecosystem services and establish resilient farming systems for sustainable livelihoods. Restoring or rehabilitating degraded landscapes through an ecosystem services approach, therefore, has received greater traction in the past years from research and sectors of the society.



In this session we assess such restoration approaches: how the local population can be mobilized, from farmers to policymakers. What are current experiences with bottom-up landscape restoration? What are benefits from ecosystem restoration, and how can we use that in our communication to stakeholders in the landscape?

This session is organised through the MWARES project, which focuses on the Manafwa watershed in Eastern Uganda. The watershed originates from the Mount Elgon National Park and then flows through a densely populated area, providing all kinds of ecosystem services along the way. The goal of “The MWARES” project is to restore resilience and stimulate stewardship of the Manafwa watershed.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- Explore how landscape restoration is realised through bottom-up processes and stimulating local initiatives
- Share knowledge and experiences in conservation work and landscape planning.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- A summary report will be prepared from the session and all presentations;
- Papers will be collected for a special issue of the journal LAND, with selected articles from the session

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/land/sectioneditors/Landscape_Ecology

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 group: TWG 13 – Role of ES in Ecosystem restoration](#)