

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## I. SESSION DESCRIPTION

**ID: S7**

Tourism as an ecosystem service – Challenges and opportunities for research and practice /  
El turismo como servicio ecosistémico – Retos y oportunidades para investigación y practica

**Format:** Hybrid

**Hosts**

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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Co-Hosts	Sonia Uribe	University of Warsaw	s.uribe@uw.edu.pl

### Abstract

Under the framework of ecosystem services (ESs), tourism may be conceptualized in a variety of ways. First, it is recognized as a separate ES within the category of cultural ESs and is defined as a nature-based activity. From this standpoint, the ES concept is important for tourism management at the local scale: planning and linking natural areas to tourism activities. It is essential that all parties involved in local planning and management recognize the value of nature and the advantages and gratification that tourists gain from their interactions with it. Second, tourism is a global economic industry that relies on a variety of natural resources and uses the full range of ESs. Therefore, it can have an important impact on environmental processes and may have both a positive and negative influence on the state of ecosystems. This conceptualization of tourism highlights its dependence on the natural resources provided by ecosystems. Proper tourism management is therefore crucial to protect the entire ecosystem and therefore the resources directly related to tourism activities. Third, other ESs can be actively created within the context of tourism. For example, a tourist's interest in food harvested from the wild can influence how provisioning is created, delivered and valued. Management and marketing play a key role in shaping this relationship. Although the ES approach is relatively new in tourism research and practise, the growing number of practical studies and theoretical reflections over the past 5 years have already demonstrated its great potential. Considering Latin America's rich experience in developing sustainable, responsible and locally-rooted tourism, the ESP Latin America and the Caribbean Conference is an excellent venue for identifying challenges and opportunities for ES research and application within this field. En el marco de los servicios ecosistémicos (SEs), el turismo puede conceptualizarse de varias maneras. En primer lugar, se reconoce

como un servicio ecosistémico independiente dentro de la categoría de servicios ecosistémicos culturales y se define como una actividad basada en la naturaleza. Desde este punto de vista, el concepto de SEs es importante para la gestión del turismo a escala local: planificar y relacionar espacios naturales a actividades turísticas. Es esencial que todas las partes implicadas en la planificación y gestión locales reconozcan el valor de la naturaleza y las ventajas y gratificaciones que los turistas obtienen de su interacción con ella. En segundo lugar, el turismo es una industria económica mundial que depende de diversos recursos naturales y utiliza toda la variedad de SEs. Por lo tanto, puede tener un impacto importante en los procesos medioambientales y puede influir tanto positiva como negativamente en el estado de los ecosistemas. Esta conceptualización del turismo manifiesta su dependencia de los recursos naturales que proporcionan los ecosistemas. Por tanto, una gestión adecuada del turismo es crucial para proteger todo el ecosistema y, por ende, los recursos directamente relacionados con actividades turísticas. En tercer lugar, en el contexto del turismo pueden crearse activamente otros SEs. Por ejemplo, el interés de un turista por los alimentos recolectados en la naturaleza puede influir en la forma de crear, suministrar y valorar el aprovisionamiento. La gestión y el marketing desempeñan un papel clave en la configuración de esta relación. Aunque el enfoque de SEs es relativamente nuevo en la investigación y la práctica del turismo, el creciente número de estudios prácticos y reflexiones teóricas durante los últimos 5 años demuestran su gran potencial. Teniendo en cuenta la rica experiencia de América Latina en el desarrollo del turismo sostenible, responsable y arraigado localmente, la Conferencia de la ESP sobre América Latina y el Caribe es un excelente lugar para identificar los retos y las oportunidades de investigación y aplicación de la SEs en este ámbito.

### Goals & Objectives

- To discuss the benefits and drawbacks of applying an ES framework to tourism research / debatir las ventajas e inconvenientes de aplicar un marco de SEs a la investigación turística,
- To share practical solutions that contribute to the effective and responsible use of natural resources for tourism / compartir soluciones prácticas que contribuyan al uso eficaz y responsable de los recursos naturales para el turismo,
- To network and build platforms for future collaboration in ES research and its application in the context of tourism / – crear redes y plataformas para la futura colaboración en la investigación sobre SEs y su aplicación en el contexto del turismo.

### Planned Output

Joint paper on the challenges and opportunities of implementing ES framework in tourism research and management / el artículo conjunto sobre los desafíos y oportunidades de implementar el marco de SE en la investigación y gestión del turismo

### Session Format

Speed talk session

## Acceptance of voluntary contributions

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

## Relation to ESP Working Groups or National Networks

Sectoral Working Groups: SWG 7 – ES in (eco) Tourism

## II. SESSION PROGRAMME

**Date of session:** Tuesday 7

**Time of session:** 16:00 – 18:00

### Timetable speakers

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
16:00– 16:20	Myriam	Sánchez-Mejía	Corporación Biotec, Colombia	Biodiversidad para todos. Valoración y remuneración de la biodiversidad y los servicios ecosistémicos y su relación con el bienestar, en los territorios en Colombia.
16:20– 16:40	Felipe	Benra	Leuphana University Lüneburg, Sustainability Faculty, Social–Ecological Systems Institute, Germany	Mismatches in the ecosystem services–wellbeing nexus: a case study for Chilean Patagonia
16:40– 17:10	Matías	Barceló	Center of Applied Ecology and Sustainability (CAPES), Departamento de Ecología, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Pontificia Universidad	Perceptions of land–sea interactions and ecosystem services and its contribution to human well–being in the Valdivian coast, Southern Chile.

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
			Católica de Chile, Santiago	

### III. ABSTRACTS

#### 1. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

**S. Sectoral Working Group sessions / Sesiones del Grupo de trabajo Sectoriales:** S7 – Tourism as an ecosystem service – Challenges and opportunities for research and practice / El turismo como servicio ecosistémico – Retos y oportunidades para investigación y practica

Política indígena y negocios étnicos para el turismo. Los casos del Valle de la Luna, Toconao y Socaire en San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

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Desde el año 2000, se establecieron entre las comunidades atacameñas y la Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena (CONADI), la Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF) y el Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales, acuerdos para la instalación de un sistema de administración para el comanejo de un conjunto de sitios naturales y arqueológicos ubicados en la Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos que, con el tiempo, se convirtieron en prominentes negocios étnicos turísticos. Los negocios étnicos guardan como principal cualidad que, siendo desarrollados por comunidades y asociaciones del pueblo atacameño, representan no solo una cuestión de emprendimiento económico, sino también un ejercicio del poder. Este trabajo aborda en clave etnográfica el proceso de acuerdo, instalación y funcionamiento de estos negocios atacameños y su relación con la política indígena en San Pedro de Atacama.

*Keywords:* Comunidades Atacameñas, Turismo, Política Indígena, Agencias Estatales

## 2. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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Exploring the Relationship between Perceived Naturalness, Biodiversity, and the Selection of Natural Areas for Cultural Ecosystem Services Delivery in Urban Environments: A Case Study in Warsaw

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Urban residents seek close contact with nature by visiting green areas and spending their leisure time there, benefiting from the positive influence of nature, which is known to have significant implications for human health. However, little is known about how residents make choices regarding these natural areas. The prevailing concept suggests that the more natural an area appears, the better it serves as a nature-based recreational space. In this study, we investigated the extent to which the selection of such areas in Warsaw is influenced by objective indicators of naturalness, such as the presence of rare plant species, lichens, amphibians, and birds. We confirmed a weak relationship between perceived naturalness and objective naturalness, with only 14% of the areas identified by respondents as natural being associated with high biodiversity. We identified several key parameters that influence people's choices, including vegetation structure (natural and seminatural types) and attributes related to comfort (distance from built-up areas, population density, presence of water bodies, noise, and extreme temperatures). Based on these parameters, we distinguished four types of natural areas: (a) those close to residential areas, (b) open grasslands, (c) areas with high naturalness, and (d) forested areas. The selected natural areas exhibit significant diversity, with some being genuinely natural and associated with high biodiversity, while others serve as substitutes for more natural areas. It is noteworthy that a wide range of types of natural areas are chosen within a single green space. Our findings support the creation of pockets of wild greenery for nature contact within urbanized areas and advocate for the utilization of recreational spaces with high biodiversity. These results can inform the development of strategies aimed at enhancing the delivery of cultural ecosystem services and promoting sustainable tourism in urban environments.

*Keywords:* Urban green spaces, Perceived naturalness, Biodiversity conservation, Recreational preferences, sustainable tourism

3. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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Cultural Ecosystem Services and Cultural Landscape: A Colombian Coffee World Heritage Site

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The Colombian Coffee Cultural Landscape (CCLC), a UNESCO's World Heritage site inscribed in 2011, is an example of human cultural adaptation to challenging mountain conditions for coffee growing. This study focuses on the synergies and tradeoffs of tourism in the CCLC, particularly in the town of Salento, in particular on the effects of tourism and development-related factors on the local traditions which UNESCO aims to protect.

Approaching tourism within the framework of Cultural Ecosystem Services (CES) will contribute to the management of responsible development in the area, especially its natural and cultural heritage. To spark discussion, I will highlight some of the obstacles to adopting the CES concept in tourism research in the CCLC. I will also discuss diversity of types of tourism and tourists, tourism and recreational activities, and elements of the natural landscape, and how they interact with the dynamic between tourists and local residents. The aim is to harmonize the preservation of traditions and the environment in the context of the sustainable development desired in the area. CES are notoriously challenging to assess as individuals' perceptions of the value of CES may differ, can be highly context-specific and evolve over time.

*Keywords:* Ecosystem Services, world heritage, tourism

#### 4. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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Tourism as an ecosystem service – Challenges and opportunities for research and practice

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Sustainable Development Goals have reached their mid-point. While the target 8.9 seeks countries to promote sustainable tourism and the indicator 8.9.1 measures tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP, under the indicator 12.b.1, countries are required to “develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism” to ensure reaching the Goal 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production. In this context, this study aimed to examine the status of Sri Lanka in researching and reporting under both the indicators. Utilizing qualitative methods, secondary data gathered through official reports and records, and peer reviewed journals and Key Informant Interviews were held with the sector experts, including the officials and academia. Emphasizing the economic significance of the tourism sector, the World Travel and Tourism Council reports that the tourism sector contributed 7.6% to global GDP in 2022 and created 7.9% employment. Sri Lanka is considered as one of the biodiversity hotspots with high endemism. Even though the tourism sector has been identified as a key engine of growth of the Sri Lankan economy, the tourism sector contributed 5.9% to GDP in 2018. 52% of tourists visited ecotourism destinations in 2018 and there is high potential for further development of the ecotourism sector and its contribution to the economy and environment. For that, effective data gathering tools and mechanisms are required. It is visible that national and sub-national level data gathering are not interconnected and coordinated. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, academia and private sector conduct research isolated and it was found four key issues relating to the research; no common research agenda, no single or common data sharing platforms like single symposiums or web portals, lack usage of data for planning, and lack of funding for sectoral researches. Therefore, this study recommends managing an ecotourism research hub in Sri Lanka.

*Keywords:* Sustainable Development Goals, Ecotourism, Research, Knowledge management

5. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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Small-scale Guatemalan Farmer Livelihood Risk Assessment from Climate Change in High Tourism Areas: Living Wage Estimates, Export Cropping, and costs of international migration

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We evaluate economic risk incurred by small-scale farmers in the Altiplano of Guatemala due to climate change, water quality declines, and large market fluctuations that buffet traditional small-scale community farming practices and propose a potential international agricultural insurance program funded and managed by both local community organizations, national government, and international community.

Small scale farmers receive income from their operations but often need off-farm income from the tourism sector, commercial export agricultural plantations or migratory and commuting wage labor in cities. We present risks from effects on the watershed from climate change and the risks and impacts on small-scale farming operations itself on their livelihood portfolio. We then compare this livelihood with local estimates of minimum living wage levels for the region, and recent estimates of migration cost to other countries. We estimate both the net returns and risk of failure due to pests and the level of off-farm income to cover the losses based on existing living wage estimates in the literature and the potential cost of international migration. Using these results, we estimate insurance costs to a producer that would be necessary to mitigate the income risks.

We focus on Lake Atitlán watershed in the Guatemalan Altiplano region where there are acute water quality issues in the lake and compounding economic and health links to the watershed communities. The lake is a World Heritage Site supporting ecosystem services and cultural resources important to local Mayan communities, and international and national visitors. It exists in an old caldera approximately 1,555m above sea level, with the watershed rising to over 3,650 m. Approximately 421,000 people live in the watershed, which provides an important economic base and cultural resource for the communities. In

addition, there are multiple Mayan languages, with separate cultural land tenure practices and institutional systems

*Keywords:* farmer risk, Living Wage, livelihood

6. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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Challenges of Ecosystem Services Assessment and Balance in Small Islands of Inland Waters

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Presentation is based on the project “LIFE Terns” (2018–2023) (dedicated to restoration and management of breeding grounds of the bird species of EU importance, the Little and Common terns), implemented in Lithuania, and the assessment of its impact on the small islands ecosystem services (ESS).

At a first glance, the project demonstrated commendable win–win results: activities kept waterways in good shape, at the same time restoring sandy islands’ ESS and, in theory, creating an unusual, exciting routes and possibilities for ecotourism activities. However, considering the specificity of expected project impact and some already existing ESS overuse and disturbance practices in the project sites, even the positive results of social survey of the potential use of cultural ESS (main users – local community, inhabitants of surrounding municipalities and visitors of the project areas on the national level) could not guarantee part of the expected outputs, namely, the increase of sustainable use of improved cultural services.

Presentation is expected to contribute to the discussions about the evaluation of restored ESS in novel cases, when areas contain of specific, fragile ESS, rare habitats and biodiversity, however, are small and very sensitive to natural and human based impact, yet so far remain complicated from viewpoint of restoration, valuation, and conservational & use balance establishment.

*Keywords:* Ecosystem services, small islands, cultural ecosystem services, restoration, inland waters

## 7. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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Fish & Tourism?

Synergies and trade-offs between cultural and provisioning ecosystem services in Mazury (Poland)

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Local food is an important element of nature-based tourism worldwide. ‘Nature on a plate’ allows people not only to satisfy their hunger (provisioning ecosystems services), but also to enjoy local tastes and feel they are consuming something special (cultural ecosystem services). This synergy may, however, cause many problems for local environment: tourists’ demands do not necessarily correspond to the environment’s supply, and vice versa. The gap between nature and its social construction may therefore cause a number of trade-offs, which will lead to social misunderstandings and damage of ecosystems. In this presentation we will discuss this problem with the example of fish in the Great Masurian Lakes region (north-eastern Poland). As in any lake region, fish used to be one of the main pillars of local economy and diet. This is, however, no longer the truth, as fish abundance has diminished, and the number of consumers (including tourists) has raised.

This qualitative study uses in-depth interviews with local stakeholders, which were conducted in August and September 2021, May 2022 and May 2023. The results show that the social perception of fish which tourists eat in this nature-based destination is different than the real situation. Although tourists believe that they are served with a fresh fish just caught in a Masurian lake, in fact this is not the case. Making tourists aware of the real origins of fish they are eating could bring both negative and positive consequences. From the one hand, this can result in lower attractiveness of the region, or in lower tourism’s multiplier effect on the local economy. From the other hand, this could be an important step in shaping pro-ecological behaviours of tourists and support sustainable development of the region.

*Keywords:* tourism, cultural ecosystem services, local food, fish

8. *Type of submission:* Abstract / Resumen

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One day nature-based tourism in the peri-urban area – biophysical and monetary assessment

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This contribution presents the application of the ecosystem service flow assessment and valuation of nature-based ecosystem service to the local municipalities, which host the protected area. The protected area in this study is a peri urban Slezka mountain providing perfect opportunities for one day hiking for families. The case study area represents five municipalities that are part of the Ślęza Landscape Park in Poland. We mapped nature-based tourism and attributed it to the benefiting sectors, in order to recognise the contribution of ecosystem services (ES) to economy and human well-being. The analysis relates to year 2014 and 2021 and include ecosystem biophysical and monetary assessment. Thanks to the local character of our case study, we were able to spatially allocate the ecosystems and beneficiaries. We present in a spatially explicit ways the contribution of a selected ES to local economy. We discuss the applicability of ecosystem accounting to spatial planning and local governance.

*Keywords:* nature-based tourism, peri-urban, protected landscape