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Revealing the contribution of protected areas to human well-being through the lens of the ecosystem services concept

Hosts:

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Abstract:

"Protected areas are areas specifically dedicated to the protection and sustainability of biodiversity and natural and associated cultural resources, managed through legal or other effective means (IUCN, 1994). Protected areas are a source of multiple ecosystem services (ES) (Stolton al, 2009), provide many social, economic, and environmental benefits to local people and nations (Watson et al, 2014), and are critical instruments for achieving long-term conservation and sustainability goals (Dudley, 2020). By definition, they are subject to restrictions or even prohibitions and are therefore subject to two main assumptions by experts: they are biodiversity hotspots and ES, while they are sometimes perceived as a constraint to local development.

In this section, we invite short papers from researchers and practitioners to explore case studies testing the hypothesis that protected areas provide more abundant ES with higher variability to diverse beneficiaries. ES studies on the identification, mapping and assessment of ES in protected areas across Europe are most welcome.

References:

IUCN, Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories. 1994, IUCN and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre: Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Stolton, S. and N. Dudley, The Protected Areas Benefits Assessment Tool: A Methodology. 2009, World Wide Fund for Nature

Watson, J.E.M., et al., The performance and potential of protected areas. Nature, 2014. 515(7525): p. 67-73.

Dudley, N., Forest Protected Areas, in Encyclopedia of the World's Biomes, M.I. Goldstein and D.A. DellaSala, Editors. 2020, Elsevier: Oxford. p. 146-152."

Goals and objectives of the session:

"The main goal is to estimate whether and to what extent protected areas provide more numerous ES to different beneficiaries across several spatial levels and diverse geographical areas.

Specifically, this session will focus on the following objectives, keeping in mind differences across geographical contexts and types of protected areas:

- to identify (sub)ecosystems and spatial units related to natural heritage that provide ES in protected areas and identify the most important ES in protected areas,
- to analyse the relationships and mis-matches between ES providers and ES beneficiaries in protected areas,
- to explore whether and how the concept of ES can be used to mitigate conflicts over land use in protected areas and contribute to the more inclusive management of protected areas,
- to discuss the mapping of ES in protected areas (e.g. approaches, scales, indicators), and
- to examine how the assessment of ES can contribute to more transparent and effective designation, management, and governance of protected areas."

Planned output / Deliverables:

Following the session, and in case of sufficient interest of workshop participants, we would aim to prepare a Special Issue on this topic.

Session format:

Standard session (presentations)

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

Sectoral Working Groups: SWG 8 - ES in Conservation