

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: E2

Ecosystem services education for people- and nature-positive future

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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Abstract:

Education is a cornerstone for advancing people- and nature-positive future. Ecosystem services (ES) science provides a robust framework to connect ecological knowledge with human well-being, enabling learners of all ages and sectors to rethink their relationship with nature and their ultimate dependency on healthy ecosystems. This session explores how ES science can be integrated into education across schools, universities, professional training, companies, and governance. By showcasing diverse experiences and practices, we aim to understand how ES concepts are taught, for what purposes, and with what outcomes. Examples may include using ES to foster ecological literacy in schoolchildren, teaching future professionals to design regenerative cities and buildings, or embedding ES in organizational training to inform sustainability strategies. This session invites contributions from educators, researchers, and practitioners who are committed to integrating ES knowledge in education as a means to cultivate ecological literacy, foster transformative change and regenerative mindsets, and support the transition towards a society that stops ecological deterioration and thrives with nature.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- Map existing educational approaches and initiatives that integrate ES across different sectors and audiences.
- Exchange best practices, teaching methods, and tools for various target groups (students, professionals, policymakers, citizens).
- Explore the role of ES education in shaping regenerative societies, supporting transformative change with a focus on both social and ecological benefits.
- Foster connections between educators, researchers, and practitioners to create synergies and build a shared vision for ES education.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- A compiled overview of “who teaches what, and where” regarding ES education (across schools, universities, professional sectors and governance).
- A collection of best practices, case studies, and teaching resources to be shared with participants and beyond.
- Initial groundwork for a knowledge exchange network on ES education within the ESP community.
- Input and inspiration for developing future collaborative projects, guidelines, or educational platforms to mainstream ES in learning and practice.

Session format:

This discussion forum will present a set of case studies on ecosystem services education to provide ground for a discussion with session participants on the promotion of ecosystem services at all educational levels. Contributions showcasing the inclusion of ecosystem services at any educational level (primary, secondary school, bachelor's, master's, and PhD) are welcome. Presentations should focus on the contents and methods taught and shouldn't be longer than 10 minutes.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

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