

6th ESP Europe Conference

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T20a

Justice in Nature-based Solutions: tackling the gaps for equitable Ecosystem Service outcomes

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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Abstract:

Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are widely promoted for their capacity to deliver multiple ecosystem services (ES). At the same time, justice considerations are recognized as a central issue in the design, implementation and scaling of NBS, providing an entry point for broadening ES justice discussions in practice. However, the NBS literature, similar to the ES literature, shows uneven attention to different justice dimensions: while distributive and procedural aspects are mostly addressed, others, such as ecological and restorative justice, remain underexplored.

The session will combine short presentations with interactive group work. We invite presentations addressing ecosystem service justice in the realm of NBS. Participants will engage in facilitated discussions to reflect on which justice dimensions are most neglected in their own field and to identify strategies for addressing these gaps. The aim is to foster a justice-centered research agenda that can ultimately guide policymakers and practitioners in designing more just NBS and ES strategies.

This proposal explicitly connects to the work of ESP's Thematic Working Group 20, Equity in Ecosystem Services Research, by advancing methodological and conceptual debates on distributive, procedural, and recognition justice, while also broadening the discussion to include less-developed justice dimensions. The session will contribute to TWG20's objective of building clearer guidelines for assessing inequity in ES.

Tentative presentations

- David Camacho-Caballero: Justice, yes, but which, when and how? A cross-examination of the implementation of justice principles in NBS practices
- Johannes Langemeyer: Vulnerability Mitigation as a Paradigm for Planning Just, Sustainable, and Resilient Nature-based Solutions: A Comparative Synthesis" We invite contributions that present innovations in participatory tools and methods (e.g. open-source mapping, biodiversity apps, low-cost sensors, structured monitoring schemes) that advance citizen science and biodiversity monitoring in rural and mountain areas. Submissions may also critically examine how equity and inclusivity can be strengthened in biodiversity stewardship, explore participatory governance and policy interfaces that enable meaningful community involvement, or highlight the role of local knowledge and co-created solutions for ecosystem services. By fostering dialogue across disciplines and sectors, this session aims to foreground biodiversity as a priority that cuts across all levels of project design and implementation, offering both theoretical and practical insights into participatory ecosystem services in Europe's green transition.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- Present findings from systematic literature reviews on how justice dimensions are conceptualized and operationalized in Nature-based Solutions.
- Create a clearer understanding of the implications of NBS injustice for ES provision.
- Facilitate dialogue among participants to share experiences of justice challenges in their own work.
- Co-produce strategies for integrating overlooked justice dimensions into NBS assessment frameworks and NBS planning/implementation practices.

Planned output / Deliverables:

A potential collaborative research paper capturing the key outcomes of the session.

Networking outcome: reinforcement of the ESP working group interested in advancing justice in NBS/ES research, linked to TWG20.

Session format:

Expected time: 3 hours

Workshop methodology: Classical format (presentations) + World Café

Introduction: Brief welcome and outline of objectives (5 minutes)

Presentations: ES justice within the NBS realm (90 minutes)

Interactive group discussions (60 minutes)

Group 1: Which justice dimensions remain overlooked in your field of work?

Group 2: Which strategies could be implemented to include broader justice considerations in your field of work?

Reporting back (15 minutes)

Closing (10 minutes)"

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

Related to ESP Working Group:

[TWG 20 – Equity in ES research](#)