

6th ESP Europe Conference

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T2a

Integrating co-benefits into the evaluation of nature-based solutions to support ecological restoration

Hosts:

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Abstract:

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has catalyzed global efforts to reverse environmental degradation. This is reflected in policy instruments such as the EU Nature Restoration Law, which mandates the restoration of all ecosystems in need by 2050, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which targets the restoration of 30% of degraded ecosystems. Within this context, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have emerged as a promising approach to effectively promote ecosystem creation, restoration, and enhancement, with direct implications for biodiversity conservation. However, despite growing interest, empirical understanding of the capacity of NbS to co-generate benefits for human well-being remains limited. Specifically, there is a need for systematic analysis on how co-benefits, generated through the provision and enhancement of ecosystem services, can be strategically planned, governed, and equitably distributed. This necessitates insights into the typology of co-benefits, the identification of both intended and unintended beneficiaries, and the allocation of benefits across diverse societal groups. In this session, we therefore will address the following key questions:

1. How can we comprehensively assess the co-benefits and trade-offs of NbS in restoration projects, including their distribution across beneficiaries?
2. What tools, methods, and indicators best capture the diverse values of ecosystem services for effective integration of NbS into planning and governance?
3. How can the ecosystem services framework be operationalized to navigate trade-offs, address implementation barriers, and inform decision-making across diverse contexts?

We invite scientists and practitioners from diverse disciplines to submit conceptual, methodological, or empirical contributions. We especially welcome submissions that address the session's key questions across a variety of socio-ecological systems and scales. Contributions could, for example, present novel methods for assessing co-benefits, analyze the distributional effects of NbS in specific case studies, or explore synergies and trade-offs in restoration projects. Studies employing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches are highly encouraged.

Goals and objectives of the session:

This session aims bringing together scientists and practitioners to discuss and identify the opportunities and challenges of the concept of ecosystem services to support the implementation of nature-based solutions in the context of ecological restoration efforts.

Planned output / Deliverables:

The session will be the basis for a common paper with interested participants, which will be further developed after the conference.

Session format:

The session will be a mixture of presentations and group discussions. The session duration should be at least 1.5 hours, potentially up to 3 hours allowing to work together on the research questions for preparing a common paper.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

Related to ESP Working Group:

[TWG 2 – Biodiversity & Ecosystem services](#)