



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: G2

Gender, Ecosystem Services and Human Welfare

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:		Newman Tekwa	University of South Africa	tekwanewman@gmail.com
Co-host:		Samuel Nyikahadzoi	University of Zimbabwe	samnyika@gmail.com

### Abstract:

The interconnectedness of ecosystem services and human welfare and wellbeing is non-debatable as natural ecosystems supply services critical in sustaining human welfare. Illustratively, as a stock flow resource, the ecosystem service of food production supports the provision of critical resources of land and water necessary for food availability, one pillar of household food security. In developing context particularly sub Saharan Africa, this connection has not been emphasised with the research area remaining understudied. Highly emphasised in the literature is the unidirectional co-existence of high dependence on ecosystem services, environmental degradation and extreme poverty in sub Saharan Africa. The relationships between resource stock of an area and levels of human welfare and the extent to which declining state of natural ecosystems (and their services) can lead to decline in human welfare, commonly referred to as poverty is not well understood. Less understood as well is the connection between natural resource rights structures governing use and access to natural resources; historical and contemporary loss of entitlements to natural resources and declining human welfare (intensification of poverty) in most parts of sub Saharan Africa. What connections exist between the structure of property rights and low human welfare? Relatedly from a gender perspective, this relates to the social relations and institutions governing access to and control over natural resources and the extent to which they determine the welfare of women relative to men. The links between ecosystem services and human welfare remains understudied research area but critical in understanding issues of environment, climate change and welfare in Africa.

Key words: Gender, ecosystem services, human welfare, and food security, sub Saharan Africa

**Goals and objectives of the session:**



- Understanding of the links between ecosystem services and human welfare commonly defined as poverty.
- Establish the nature of relationships between high dependence on ecosystem services and extreme poverty or the corollary decline in wellbeing associated with increase in dependence on ecosystem services
- Understanding of the connection between natural resource rights structure (historical and contemporary); the institutions governing resource use and access to natural resources and human welfare.
- Understand the relationships between lack of access and control of natural resources emanating from social relations and institutions including gender and poverty (low human welfare).

#### Planned output / Deliverables:

1. Session presentations
2. Journal articles

#### Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

#### Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Regional Chapters: East & Southern Africa](#)