

# 6th ESP Europe Conference

18-22 May 2026 | Prague, Czechia

## SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T3

**Indicators in transition: embedding ecosystem services and nature based solution targets in recent policy frameworks**

**Hosts:**

|                            | Name                     | Organisation                          | E-mail                                                                                             |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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### Abstract:

As global and European policy landscapes evolve – shaped by the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), the EU Green Deal, and other initiatives – the need for robust, policy-relevant, and scalable indicators for ecosystem services (ES) has never been more pressing. Such indicators are essential to guide biodiversity governance, support Nature-based Solutions (NbS), and harmonize ecological integrity with human well-being.

During this session we will combine a world Café with invited talks to explore how policy frameworks can be effectively translated into actionable indicators that capture the multifaceted ecological, socio-economic, and cultural dimensions of ES. Participants will discuss the challenges of aligning indicators across scientific disciplines and policy contexts, avoiding “single-figure science,” and ensuring metrics that resonate with both policymakers and diverse stakeholders.

The session will include two main parts:

- An **interactive World Café** to discuss strategies for selecting ecosystem indicators that capture broad end-state benefits, with a particular focus on identifying and using shared language to align with diverse policy agendas and research tools to strengthen the science-policy interface.
- A **selection of short presentations/speed talks** to highlight advances and ongoing challenges in indicator development and implementation with a key focus on:

- Aligning diverse indicator/policy frameworks to avoid duplication or fragmentation, supporting coherent and comprehensive governance.
- Analysing fit for purpose for (re-)used indicators (credibility and salience of indicators)
- Ensuring the policy uptake and legitimacy of ES indicators in rapidly shifting political landscapes.
- Distilling lessons learnt from past experiences in indicator uptake to inform current and future policy frameworks.
- Co-developing ES indicators capable of addressing cross-sectoral and nexus-related challenges.
- Identifying and bridging gaps in data (particularly in social and cultural dimensions) and linking local-specific indicators to global reporting needs.

The session will also examine how current indicators influence policy cycles, monitor GBF targets, and support NbS while exploring opportunities for more integrated approaches. Participants will reflect on lessons learned from past experiences to inform the development of indicators that are scientifically robust, policy-relevant, and practically applicable.

Join us in a vital discussion as we collaboratively identify, develop, and refine indicators that will guide us towards a people- and nature-positive future.

#### Goals and objectives of the session:

- Identify and discuss indicators suitable for monitoring the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets, as well as Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
- Discuss methods for selecting indicators that capture broad end-state benefits, are policy-relevant, and use a shared language across ecosystem services, tools, and policy frameworks.
- Explore the future of the Thematic Working Group III on indicators, particularly in relation to global targets, GEOBON, and NbS.

#### Planned output / Deliverables:

We intend to discuss a set of indicators and reasons why they have been included in the set.

Expected deliverables include:

Synthesized recommendations (set of principles) for developing comprehensive ecosystem services indicators across ecosystem services linked to policy goals.

Policy communication recommendations: Practical advice for translating complex ecosystem services concepts into appealing policy-relevant language.

#### Session format:

The first part will feature invited talks combined with a World Café-style discussion, whereas the second part (order to be determined) is open to submissions. Based on the submissions received, we may use speed talks instead of longer presentations to encourage interaction and exchange, ensuring 25–30 minutes are reserved for the closing discussion of the second part.

#### Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

#### Related to ESP Working Group:

[TWG 3 – ES Indicators](#)