

ESP 11 World Conference

“From global to local ecosystem services: pathways to Nature-based Solutions inspired from Down Under”

23-27 June 2025 | Darwin, Australia

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: O4

Importance of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in forest sustainable development of rural communities: livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and nonmaterial values

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
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Abstract:

Our aim is to promote a debate, through assessment and analysis, about the key role that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) play in sustainable development of rural communities. The issue is complex because it involves social, economic, political and environmental aspects, making it essential for the coordination between all administrations and stakeholders involved. On one hand, the human population is growing at a rate, so that it will require livelihoods maybe two or three times higher than it does today. A livelihood not only includes people, but also their abilities, incomes, foods, and other resources. On another hand, the multifunctional nature of forests promotes the creation of markets for forest products other than wood, which could generate enough capital to finance forest management linked to rural development. Policymakers, private forest ownership and the individual's capacity to identify the opportunities are essential factors in the making of growth possibilities for rural communities. Feedback from all experts suggest a need for training programs, aiming to present opportunities offered by the forestry sector for rural development. Most recent assessments of forest ecosystems prioritize the economic values including freshwater, carbon storage, production of foods and building materials, medicines, gas exchange, productivity from sunlight, soil conservation, shade, and biodiversity conservation. However, many ecosystem services assessments ignore the nonmaterial value of forests. For example, the spiritual and cultural value of forests is not only critical in scope but also imply to have a greatest potential for significant international conservation actions, given that several billion people value their forests predominantly because of their spiritual significance.

Goals and objectives of the session:

The goal is to contribute to a methodological debate on the role Nature-based Solutions (NbS) play in the sustainable development of rural communities. It is a complex issue, since socioeconomic, political and environmental aspects are involved. Policymakers, private owners, and the ability of individuals to identify opportunities are key factors. The need for training programs to ensure local populations know the opportunities offered by the forest sustainable development is essential.

Planned output / Deliverables:

Active audience participation is required for success and the proper development of the session. The idea is to facilitate interaction and contribute to the development of competences. It is planned to publish a special issue on the proposed topic in an indexed international journal.

Session format:

Presentation of short individual communications, 5 minutes maximum, discussion, and conclusions. Participants are invited to submit abstracts on the topic to be discussed. Depending on the communications received, the session will last about 90–minutes.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

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