

3rd ESP Africa Conference

2022 | Musanze, Rwanda

Ecosystem services for the future: Delivering value for Nature, Livelihoods and Economic Investment

HYBRID EVENT

ESP
Ecosystem Services Partnership

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: G5

**Leveraging the ecosystem service concept to improve conservation outcomes in Africa:
A joint initiative by ESP Africa and ICCB 2021**

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Prof. Dr.	Beth Kaplin	Centre for Excellency in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management, University of Rwanda	bkaplin@antiochne.edu
Co-hosts:		Benis Egoh	University of California at Irvine, California, USA	begoh@uci.edu
		Tuyeni H Mwampamba	Institute for Ecosystems and Sustainability Research, National Autonomous University of Mexico Morelia Campus, Michoacán, Mexico	tuyeni@iies.unam.mx
Other involved organisers :		Ephrem Imanirareba	International Union for Conservation of Nature, Rwanda	Ephrem.Imanirareba@iucn.org
		Badru Mwezi Mugerwa	Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin, Germany	bmugerwa@gmail.com
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Abstract:

The future of conservation, economic development and human wellbeing in Africa strongly hinges on the ability of current governments to institutionalize and implement the ecosystem services concept in policy and practice. Although there is accumulating evidence that framing of biodiversity in terms of ecosystem services, natural capital or nature's contributions to people can be a powerful tool in achieving conservation outcomes, the adoption of the concept in environmental policies in Africa is minimal. Adoption is particularly relevant for sectors such as natural resource management, agriculture, and conservation which are highly dependent on maintaining biodiversity, functional ecosystems and

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flows of goods and services to society. Several tools and approaches exist to make the dependencies more explicit in national and sub-national policies. However, the field of ecosystem services has advanced enormously in the last decade making it difficult to keep up with emerging concepts, tools and approaches especially as a practitioner. This Special Session aims to demystify the ecosystem services concept in order to explore how it can be useful for decision making in conservation and natural resource management in Africa. In this vein, the Session aims to demystify ecosystem services and related concepts and demonstrate the ways that associated tools and policy instruments can be leveraged to improve conservation outcomes on the continent.

Goals and objectives of the session:

The goal of this session is to explore with decision makers in Africa how the ecosystem service concept can be useful for framing natural resources and conservation challenges in Africa and facilitate the design policy instruments that improve conservation and natural resource management outcomes at national and sub-national levels.

The specific objectives of the 3-hour session are to:

1. Present key advancements in ecosystem services, particularly the numerous tools and techniques currently available for incorporating ecosystem services approaches into national conservation and natural resource management strategies (UNSEEA, Natural Capital Accounting, WAVES, ESS Mapping)
2. Highlight case studies from the region that are successfully employing these tools and others to improve conservation and NRM outcomes
3. Promote sharing and exchange of experiences among decision makers in the region that can lead to community of learning

Planned output / Deliverables:

- Policy Brief
- Commentary paper in Conservation Science and Practice Journal

Voluntary contributions accepted:

No

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

TWG 14 – Application of ES in Planning & Management