



CEEweb for Biodiversity  
Széher út 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary  
Phone: +36 1 398 0135  
Fax: +36 1 398 0136  
ceeweb@ceeweb.org  
www.ceeweb.org

## Guideline to develop proper decisions both for nature and for humanity through proper evaluation of our natural heritage

During formulating and implementing policies, policy-makers should fully consider that natural and socio-economic systems work together inseparably. For developing proper decisions, the newest publication of CEEweb would give a helping hand. This bunch of findings from different scientific institutions reveals proper measures and models to evaluate natural values, as well as how their integration can serve appropriate basis for making right decisions and their possible environmental and social consequences.

Each ecosystem on any scale is multifunctional; it provides numerous services to sustain nature as well as human society. Bearing cultural, institutional and structural drivers of biodiversity loss in mind, even the minor daily decisions of individuals may impact the state of the surrounding landscape, not to mention decisions arising from local and regional spatial planning and development decisions. Therefore, policies should aim to reduce the total human pressure on ecosystems, including the unsustainable use of land and the overuse of natural resources and ecological space. In addition to changing the current harmful practices, political efforts should also aim to restore degraded ecosystems in order to improve spatial structures and enhance ecosystem functions.

In environmental sciences, descriptive and analytical research is increasingly being replaced by systematic-approach, which concentrates rather on the analysis of interactions and cause-effect relationships. The publication entitled *Borrowing services form nature – Methodologies to evaluate ecosystem services focusing on Hungarian case studies* aims to show good examples of proper measures and models to evaluate natural values and to integrate them properly into policies. Methods presented in the articles could play fundamental role in decision making, by presenting possible environmental and social consequences of particular policies.

The publication can be downloaded from [http://www.ceeweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ES\\_publication\\_web1.pdf](http://www.ceeweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ES_publication_web1.pdf).