



The Ecosystem Services Partnership

The Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) is a worldwide network to enhance the science and practical application of ecosystem services. ESP connects professionals and scientists who work towards improving the conservation and sustainable management of Natural Capital at a local, national and global level. ESP supports its members in the conceptualization and application of ecosystem services by enhancing the communication, and facilitating collaboration.

ESP is a rapidly growing professional network, currently there are more than 65 institutional and over 200 individual ESP members, in addition to 1800 ESP friends who receive the monthly newsletter.

Key products and services of the ES-Partnership

- 1. Networking & Outreach:** Stimulate and coordinate the development of a world-wide network of best-practice case studies and learning sites on ES assessment and application in actual management. ESP is pleased to support communication between young and/or early career ecosystem service specialists through the Young ES Specialists (YESS) group.
- 2. Case Studies & Showcases:** Provide a global network of case studies and showcases, where scientists work closely together with practitioners and local communities to understand how these “socio-ecological systems” work and learn how to use the ecosystem services concept for improving ES Based Management.
- 3. Data & Knowledge sharing:** Easy access to the latest information on ES-assessment tools, data and policy-support instruments, both through databases and working groups on specific topics.
- 4. Training & Education:** Develop educational material and guidance on best-practice through tool based courses (e.g. on modelling, valuation, GIS), workshops, summer schools, development of course materials and general awareness and outreach activities.
- 5. Guidelines & Toolkits:** As the concept of Ecosystem Services is becoming more and more mainstream in science, policy and practice, it is becoming increasingly important to develop guidelines and toolkits to ensure proper use, avoid confusion and inaccurate outcomes.
- 6. Support of calls for funding and cooperation:** Provide a market-place or forum for the development of collaborative and joint research projects, and provide policy makers and business leaders access to this network for effective and efficient solutions to ecosystem services issues.

ESP Working Groups

- **Thematic Working Groups** provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to exchange information and ideas on the science and application of Ecosystem Services on specific topics, such as indicators, mapping, modelling, valuation, trade-offs, planning, management, and financing.
- **Biome Expert Groups** provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas on Ecosystem Services Assessment in specific biomes (e.g. forests, grasslands, wetlands, etc.) and make the information available to a wider community of users.
- **Stakeholder-oriented Working Groups** provide a platform to address the Ecosystem Services concept according to the stakeholder group or sector that is dependent on or/and transforming specific ecosystems. Stakeholder-oriented working groups e.g. tourism, agro-ecosystems, conservation and indigenous communities.
- **Regional Chapters & National Networks** are professional networks focused on the Ecosystem Services Assessment at the national and regional level.

Governance of the Ecosystem Services Partnership

Governance is by a Steering Committee (SC) that is supported by an Executive Board (EC) consisting of active members who play a key role in providing ESP services and/or represent ESP in national or regional networks. The SC is elected by the *members* and appoints a smaller Executive Committee (EC). In consultation with the EC, the SC sets the priorities for ESP activities, while the EC ensures that the ESP runs smoothly. ESP has a small secretariat and several supporting members to maintain communication, coordinate meetings, facilitate joint proposals, enhance cooperation, and other activities to help achieve the ESP's goals. See the ES-Partnership.org for the current members of the Steering Committee.

Membership types and benefits

ESP offers two types of memberships, individual and institutional memberships. Individual members pay € 50,- per year. The institutional membership fees are progressively scaled according to the size of the organisation, which is based on the number of employees. Reduced fees (50% reduction) are offered to people and institutions from low-income countries, and also to students and IALE-members.

ESP provides a number of benefits to its paying members. Depending on your membership type, you can take advantage of the following benefits.

Individual members benefits:

- Newsletters and updates on all the latest developments in the field of ES
- Information on job vacancies, events and news in the ecosystem services discipline
- Full access to all online material including publications, funding opportunities & databases
- The opportunity to join ESP working groups
- The opportunity to join the National networks and Regional chapters
- Reduced fees for ESP conferences and training courses
- Significant reduction on the Elsevier Journal 'Ecosystem Services' subscription (€30/year)
- Reduced IALE membership fee
- Facilitation in developing collaborations and joint project proposals
- The right to organize activities such as discussion groups and workshops under the ESP umbrella
- The right to vote on partnership matters, such as electing Steering Committee members
- The right to be nominated as a member of the ESP Steering Committee
- The right to post announcements on the news, events and vacancies webpage, at no charge.

Institutional members benefits:

In addition to all benefits mentioned above;

- The opportunity to display the organization on the Members & Partners webpage. The organization's profile includes a logo, link to the website and contact person details
- Two employees can be appointed as representatives for their organization, who automatically become full Individual ESP member without additional costs
- Rent an exhibition booth at the ESP conferences at a reduced rate

ESP conferences

The annual ESP conference is a great opportunity for ESP members to meet and connect with their peers and to share and learn from each other's work.

2014 - **Local Action for the common good** San José, Costa Rica

2013 - **Making ecosystem services count!** Bali, Indonesia

2012 - **Ecosystem Services Come of Age** Portland, USA

2011 - **Ecosystem Services: Integrating Science and Practice** Wageningen, Netherlands

2010 - **Solutions for Sustaining Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services** Kiel, Germany

2009 - **Modelling Ecosystem Services** Lecce, Italy

2008 - **Solution for problems or a problem that needs solution?** Kiel, Germany

