

7th Conference of the Ecosystem Services partnership

Local action for the common good

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Session: C2b-13

Title of session: Current state of Ecosystem Assessments and TEEB-processes in countries of Northern Eurasia

Session host / primary contact person:

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Short description of the session

Ecosystems of Northern Eurasia provide a huge package of ecosystem services (ES) being very important not only for the region but also on a global scale (e.g. carbon sequestration, water cycles, biodiversity). Global climate regulation strongly depends on the ecosystems of this region. Thus, ecosystem functioning in the Russian Federation (RF) and other Newly Independent States (NIS) is crucial for the sustainable development of these countries and the whole world. They are characterized by old civilizations, geographical and demographic importance and rich nature on the one hand, and rapid economic development and transformation of the society, on the other hand. It includes also the goal to improving environmental conditions as well as the necessity for development and poverty eradication.

The question rises whether it is possible to prevent rapid and massive degradation of natural ecosystems and their services in this region caused by growing human pressure and ongoing climate changes by effective mechanisms of integrating ES values in making economic and political decisions?

Until now, scientists and other actors of northeastern Eurasia have had little impact on the international discussion on ES (e.g., visibility in ES-relevant papers or on ESP conferences) – not only due to the ecological importance of this region but also with regard to the many valuable and original scientific fundamentals and practical approaches of these countries, which may enrich the ES-concept in general.

Topics / Goals of the Session

- State of ES assessments in Northern Eurasia on sub-continental, national and regional level (former, recent and planned studies)
- Framework methodology for the analysis, valuation and monitoring (priorities, categories, indicators, space and time aspects); conceptual contributions of “Eastern countries” to the “Western ES concept”? Design of national reports.
- Identification of main tasks and problems – blind spots, specific regions, which ES, implementation experiences etc.
- Networking: examples of capacity building, further approaches and guidance

Format & Speakers:

ID	Name	Organisation	Title of presentation	Time
	Vladimir Zakharov (absent)	Institute of Sustainable Development of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation	Towards a sustainable Russia	13.30–14.00
192	Karsten Grunewald	Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development Dresden, Germany	Ecosystem services assessment and TEEB-processes in Germany, Russia and other countries of northern Eurasia – an overview	14.00–14.20
208	Elena Bukvareva	Biodiversity Conservation Center (Russia)	TEEB–Russia: Valuation of Ecosystem Services in Russia, first Steps	14.20–14.40
191	Olaf Bastian	Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development Dresden, Germany	Transboundary assessment and communication of characteristic ecosystem services and values in the Ore Mountains landscape (Germany/Czech republic)	14.40–14.55
242	Sander Jacobs	Research Institute for Nature and Forest INBO	An ecosystem assessment for Flanders, phase one: state of ecosystems and their services	14.55–15.10

ID: 242

Type: Voluntary contribution

13. Current state of ES–assessments and TEEB–processes in countries of N. Eurasia (OPEN)

An ecosystem assessment for Flanders, phase one: state of ecosystems and their services

Presenting author: Sander Jacobs

Other authors: Maarten Stevens, Heidi Demolder, Sander Jacobs, Helen Michels, Johan Peymen, Anik Schneiders, Toon Spanhove, Peter Van Gossum, Wouter Van Reeth

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The Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) reports biennial on the state of nature in Flanders (Northern part of Belgium). The next reporting cycle (Nature Report – *NatuurRapport* – NARA) is conceived as an ecosystem assessment for Flanders and consists of three successive phases. The first phase (NARA–T) describes the state and trends of ecosystems and their services in Flanders and will be finished by the beginning 2015. The second phase (NARA–B) is a policy evaluation of ecosystem services in Flanders and will be finished in 2016. The final phase (NARA–S) is a scenario report (end 2018) that will explore future scenarios for green infrastructure in Flanders.

The Nature report is coordinated by an interdisciplinary core team within INBO, and chapter authors from in- and outside the institute. The chapters are reviewed by a large number (+ 200) of experts from three target groups: the scientific community, the Flemish administration and societal interest groups (e.g. nature conservation organisations, farmer organisation, land owner organisations).

The reporting of the first phase (NARA–T) consists of a technical report and a synthesis report. The technical report consists of two series of chapters. In the first series, the different components of the conceptual framework are described for 16 separate ecosystem services: who are the beneficiaries, what do they demand, how are the ES supplied, what's their state and trend, how are their benefits valued, what are the main drivers for their use, supply and demand. In the second series of chapters, a set of key questions is answered.

These chapters rely on the findings and data of the first series of ES–chapters. Key questions are:

1. Which ecosystems supply which ecosystem services?
2. What is the role of biodiversity in ES–supply and how does ES use influence biodiversity?
3. What is the state and trend of biodiversity in Flanders?
4. What is the state and trend of ecosystem services in Flanders and what indicators are available?
5. How do direct and indirect drivers influence demand, supply and use of ecosystem services?
6. How do ecosystem services contribute to wellbeing?
7. How can contributions to wellbeing and economy be valued?

8. What are the conditions for bundled and long-term ecosystem service supply?
9. What are the opportunities of ES approaches for different policy fields?
10. What are remaining knowledge needs?

Here, we present the overall assessment structure and the first results of the assessment.