

Ecosystem Services Partnership



Call for papers International Workshop and Special Issue on Governance of Ecosystem Services: Challenges for Sustainable Development

10 – 11 March 2014 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Focus of the Workshop and the Special Issue

Introduction: The sustainable provision of ecosystem services (ES) and conservation of biodiversity demands policy innovations. The mainstreaming of the concepts of biodiversity and moreover of ES has resulted in a paradigm shift in its ethical and political foundations, from conserving nature for its inherent/intrinsic value to an emphasis on anthropocentric values (Jax et al. 2013). While nature conservation is not merely driven by the intrinsic value of biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), it recognizes the “ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components” (Art. 1 CBD). As a utilitarian concept, ES solely encompass those benefits human populations derive from ecosystems (Costanza et al. 1997). This paradigm shift has also resulted in changes in the governance of natural resources over the past two decades. New policy instruments, such as the creation of markets for ES, payments for ES or community based governance approaches, have gained increasing political importance as a means to secure the provision of these services and ameliorate problems ranging from biodiversity and habitat loss to climate change (Adger et al. 2003; Scherr et al. 2004). It is emphasized that these new policy solutions can be powerful tools to reduce costs, dampen the adversarial nature of regulation, and support economic growth, while still achieving regulatory and conservation goals. In addition, they are collaborative, enlisting state, market and civic actors in the design and delivery of such policies, calling for new forms of relationships between state and non-state actors in the process of policy formulation and implementation (Paavola et al., 2009). As such, they provide alternative ways of adjusting social behavior, which may complete or even substitute direct interventions by the state (Haddas and Huigen, 1997; Jordan et al., 2003, 2005; Tommel and Verdun, 2008). However, the question as to whether this paradigm shift has actually led to a more sustainable provision of biodiversity and ES remains largely unanswered.

In this workshop and special issue, we take a multidisciplinary view on the emergence, development, and use of policy instruments and governance approaches. In particular we look at the processes leading up to their design and implementation. This includes the identification of particular socio-ecological context conditions, fostering or hindering institutional factors as well as related interests and power structures of involved actors, their expectations, promises and conflicts. Furthermore we assess how the concept of ES has been included in existing and newly developed policy instruments, and how this has impacted on the provision of ES and the conservation of biodiversity. Special interest is given to the fact that biodiversity and ecosystem processes are managed at local and regional scales, while impacting beneficiaries of ES up to the global scale (Fisher et al. 2009). This has turned the sustainable provision of ES and biodiversity into an inherently multi-level and multi-actor governance problem.

We are looking for a collection of papers that jointly explore new perspectives on policy and governance of ES. With this we want to better understand how, and under what conditions and assumptions such policy and governance solutions are designed and subject to changes to reflect on the related uncertainties and challenges for sustainable development of ES provision and biodiversity protection.

Key questions: The workshop and the special issue focus on the changes, challenges and opportunities the concept of Ecosystem Services has brought about in environmental governance. Of particular interest are the following questions:

- How has the introduction of the concepts of biodiversity and ES changed modes of governance?
- What are the underlying discourses of these changes?
- Who are the actors driving the change?
- How has this resulted in a change in the process of policy instrument development?
- Have these new modes of governance and policy instruments resulted in a more sustainable provision of biodiversity and ES?
 - Which kind of frameworks and methods for impact assessments including ES and biodiversity have been applied?
 - What do the results of these impact assessments indicate?
- What are the challenges for future policy design and implementation?

Target audience

The workshop and the special issue targets researchers, policy advisers and practitioners dealing with governance for ES provision and biodiversity. It is of particular interest for people that empirically study the emergence and development of policy instruments for ES provision and biodiversity; assess old and new forms of policy instruments for ES provision and biodiversity with respect to their functional promises and political realities; have been involved in policy design processes, providing insights on identifying and dealing with trade-offs; conceptualize strategies which are able to cope with ambivalence, uncertainty, and distribute power for sustainable policy instrument design.

Structure of the workshop and the special issue

In the workshop and the special issue, we want to present a range of papers that discuss general principles of policy design, types of instruments and forms of governance that are in use for ES provisioning, as well as selected case studies that illustrate different stages in the policy process and discuss sustainability implications for future design processes.

We plan to structure the workshop and the special issue in three sections: First, we start with an overview on policy developments in the area of ES, describing the shift from government to governance, i.e. from top-down, command-and-control approaches to multi-level, multi-stakeholder initiatives and towards bottom-up and participatory governance. We highlight principles and elements of certain policy/governance arrangements that seem to foster or hinder sustainable provision of ES.

In this course, we not only want to summarize policy discourses that became dominant in the area of ES and biodiversity governance, but also present insights into processes of policy design, including topics such as the emergence and development of policy service industries, i.e. constituencies that specialize and push certain policy solutions forward, like REDD+ or tradable certificates, as well as general innovation mechanisms, patterns and dynamics. We are furthermore interested in the impact of policy instruments, and how ES and biodiversity are being addressed in impact assessment tools, including potential improvements.

Second, in order to better illustrate the various stages of policy and governance design and use, we would like to see case studies that function as examples for fostering and hindering governance arrangements, and the implications gained from their uses for future design processes of instruments for ES provision and biodiversity, as a result of policy evaluation and learning (e.g. the need for better adaptation of policy to local ecological, socio-economic, institutional and cultural context conditions). The case studies are sorted according to their development stage in a policy process of formulation, realization and learning, as well as grouped and clustered according to the instrument type/governance form described.

Finally, based on these past policy developments of ES and related governance approaches, we want to focus on challenges for future policy developments, and present a range of (background) issues from policy discourses to be taken up and considered again for future policy design as a sort of innovation agenda. An interdisciplinary process for identifying and describing these issues was started in the course of a “Challenging Futures” workshop at the Ecosystem Services Partnership Conference in Bali, 26-30.8.2013, and will be continued during the follow up workshop on “Governance of Ecosystem Services” in March 2014. Issues for future policy developments have been e.g. policy dynamics; political will, responsibility and agency for ES; institutional interplay; use of policy mixes; knowledge base and information exchange, trade-offs between context sensitivity and standardized policies; integrated impact assessment and participation possibilities.

Overview of papers and timing

Title: Governance of Ecosystem Services: Challenges for Sustainable Development

Journal: Ecosystem Services (Elsevier)

Special Issue Editors: Dr. Lasse Loft, Dr. Carsten Mann & Prof. Dr. Bernd Hansjürgens

As a preliminary outline, we include authors and topics in the special issue, sorted by themes:

- 1) An emerging paradigm for ES policy and governance
- 2) Examples of different stages of a policy development process: design, implementation, and learning
- 3) Challenges for future policy developments for ES provision and biodiversity protection

Important Dates

December 2013:	Call for papers
January 17 th 2014:	Deadline for abstract submission
January 31 st 2014:	Confirmation of acceptance/rejection
March 10-11 th 2014:	Joint workshop on “Governance of Ecosystem Services” by ESP, Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre Frankfurt a.M. (BiK-F), TU Berlin, Centre for Environmental Research UFZ in Frankfurt a.M.
April 2014:	Submission deadline for full paper contributions
December 2014:	Publication of special issue

Submission of abstracts and papers

Contributions should relate to the workshop themes and questions and be submitted in the form of an abstract of up to 400 words. Submission of papers (maximum 8,000 words, word doc). Please send abstracts to:

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