



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

www.es-partnership.org | www.esconference.org

Worldwide network to enhance the science and practical application of ecosystem services in planning, management and decision-making

The Ecosystem Services Partnership

The ES-Partnership is a network organization that connects researchers who are working toward better understanding and application of the concept of 'ecosystem services' to NGOs, environmental agencies, educators, policymakers, politicians, and the general public, to implement best practices for managing ecosystem services and maintain and enhance our Natural Capital. Currently¹ over 50 organizations and more than 200 individuals are member of the Ecosystem Services Partnership.

ESP: integration, communication & collaboration

There is a growing demand for integrating ecosystem services research into policy and practice. The Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) seeks to enhance this integration by uniting the ecosystem services community and coordinating collaborative efforts on a global, national, and local level. It aims to enhance and encourage a diversity of approaches, while reducing unnecessary duplication of effort in the conceptualization and application of ecosystem services. Visit the website (www.es-partnership.org) for more information.

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.
2. **Case Studies & Showcases:** Provision of 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 becomes increasingly important to develop guidelines and toolkits to ensure proper use, avoid confusion and undesired 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.
- **Regional Chapters & National Networks** focus on the creation of a network on Ecosystem Services Assessment at the national and regional level.

¹ Version 23 July 2012; please check our website for the latest version.





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Governance of the Ecosystem Services Partnership

Governance is by a Steering Committee (SC), supported by a Governing Board (GB) 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 GB, the SC sets the priorities for ESP activities while the EC ensures that the ESP runs smoothly. ESP has a small voluntary 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 website (www.es-partnership.org) for the current members of the Steering Committee.

Membership types and benefits

ESP has three kinds of memberships: 'free website users', 'full members' and 'core partners'. Individual members pay € 50,- per year. Membership fees for institutions are shown on the website. A reduced fee (50% reduction) will apply to members (both individual and institutions) from low-income countries, and students.

There are different benefits and roles for these three kinds of members.

Free website user benefits:

- Name in ESP newsletter database to receive newsletters and updates
- Basic access to all ESP online services on the ESP Extranet
- Opportunity to participate in ESP Working Groups on specific biomes, themes and networks.

Full member (individual) benefits:

- Full contacts in ESP membership database
- Full access to all services (e.g. website intranet, key products, joint proposals, data sharing, etc.)
- Reduced fees to ESP conferences, training courses, publications, etc.
- Eligible to nominate and vote for candidates for the Steering Committee
- Right to organize activities under ESP 'umbrella' (discussion groups, workshops, etc.) after consultation with the Executive Committee

Full member (organizational) benefits:

(in addition to the benefits above)

- Two employees are automatically ESP member without additional costs
- All employees of Full Partners can register as individual member at reduced fee (25% reduction)

Core Partner (organizations only)* benefits:

(in addition to the benefits above)

*) Core partner organisations provide a substantial service (e.g. secretarial support, key-role in one of the ESP Services (data-base management, training & education, fund-raising). If so desired, core partners are exempted from paying the membership fee but do receive the same benefits as Full members.

- Employees of Core Partners can register as individual member at a reduced fee (50% reduction)

Visit www.es-partnership.org where you can find more information and [download registration forms](#).

