

Ecosystem Services, stakeholders and Biosphere Reserves : exploring the potential and limits of the concept of ecosystem services for the management of Biosphere reserves

Chair

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Ecosystem services, broadly defined as the benefits that nature provides to people, has become a major concept to foster sustainable development, human well-being and biodiversity conservation. Following its success in scientific and political arenas, the concept is now diffusing at more local levels, in the spheres of territorial management like in Biosphere Reserves.

This concept appears as a good method to increase people's awareness of their interdependence with ecosystems. Sustainable territories should be places where humans consciously and actively maintain healthy ecosystems. It is also a way to make people talk about their interactions with environment and to share their points of views with other people in collective settings.

On the other hand, the ES concept describes an anthropocentric relation to nature that can be perceived as too restrictive. Ecosystem services valuations have also been criticized for their focus on economic values, at the expense of other types of values.

For Biosphere Reserves, the challenge is to operationalize this concept in a way that is meaningful and useful for local users and managers.

Objectives

- Explain and discuss the concept of ecosystem services
- Identify and share positive and negative experiences
- Discuss the uses and outputs of the concept: context, objectives, and methods

Expected outcomes

- To build a vision of the advantages of the concept in the context of Man and Biosphere program and the implementation of Biosphere Reserves
- To build an operational guideline for Biosphere Reserve managers
- To pave the way for an international research project
- If relevant, to build a community of practices

Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15

Lima Action Plan : A7, B4, B7