

The Future of Revaluing Ecosystems



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Overview

- A place, a meeting, a process
- Barriers to and opportunities for scale-up of use of ES in decisions
- Six key ideas for scale-up
- Common / recurring themes



Bellagio



A Key Question

How can we **scale up** the integration of **ecosystem values** in public and private **decisions** in ways that **incentivize** ecosystem **restoration and sustainable use**?



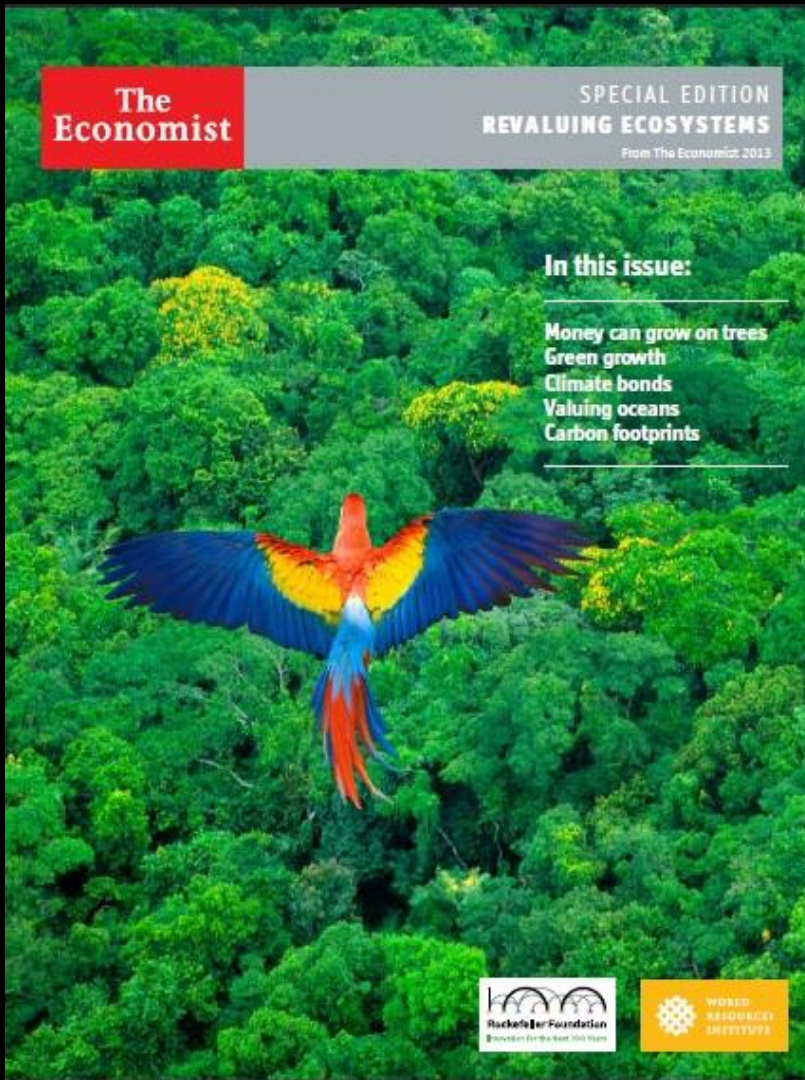
The problem of incomplete valuation







Process

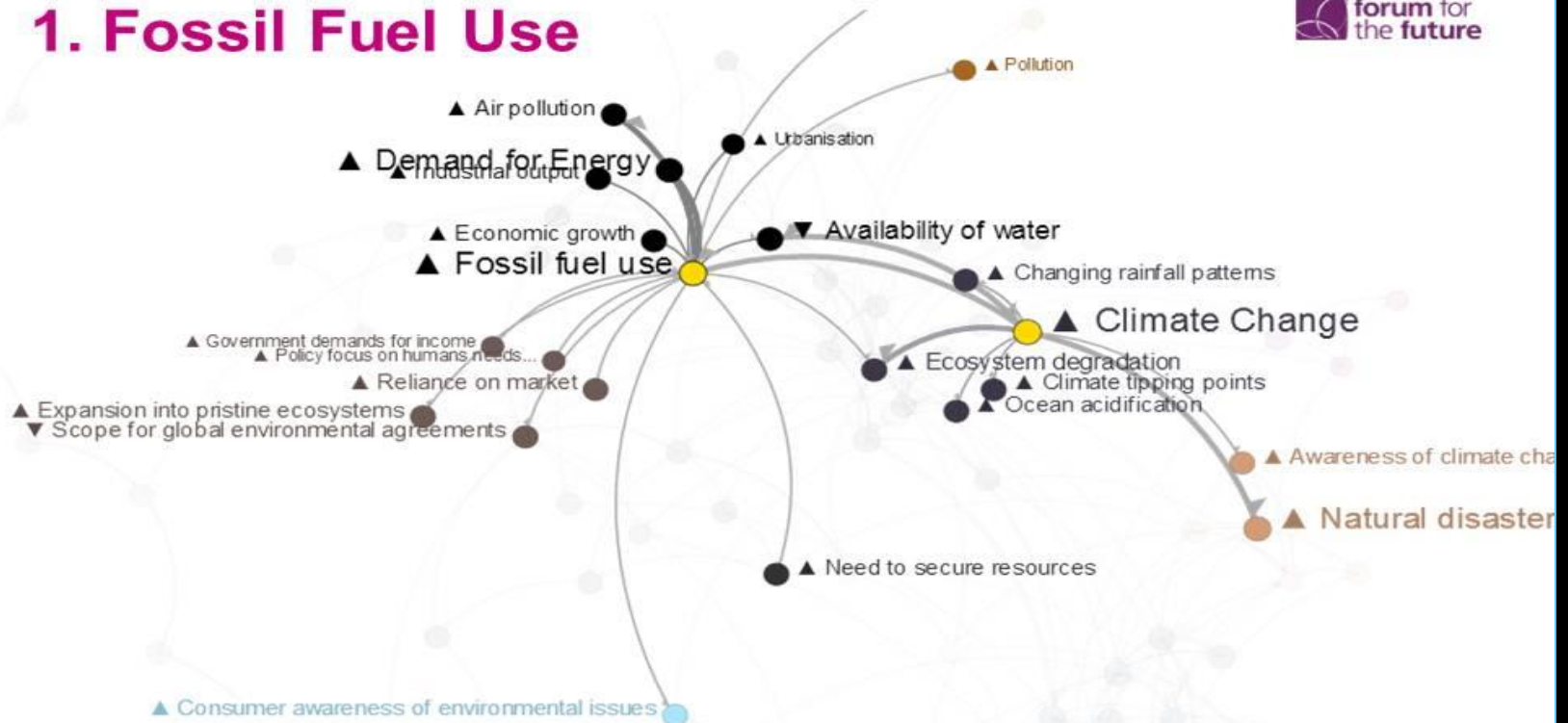


- Economist special edition
- Provocation and interviews
- No set agenda
- 2025

<http://www.visionariesunbound.com/events/revaluing-ecosystems>

Trend mapping in “Futurescaper”

1. Fossil Fuel Use



Caused by:

- Energy Demand
- Short-termism
- Economic growth

Leading to:

- Climate change
- Natural disasters
- Ecosystem degradation

TRENDS that will influence the future:

1. Declining poverty
2. Increasing fossil fuel use
3. Increased environmental degradation
4. Corporate awareness of environmental risks / corporate reporting increases
5. Ecosystem shocks
6. Decreasing food security
7. Declining scope for international environmental agreements

Barriers to use of ES in decisions:

1. Lack of local-scale information on ecosystem value
2. Uncertainty surrounding ES valuation estimates
3. Limited access to financing for restoration, management or protection
4. Fragmentation of authority
5. Vested interests / corruption
6. Lack of persuasive messengers

Opportunities / Promising Trends



Promising Trends - Information

- New sources
- Access
- Valuations
- Consolidated sources

All examples non-exhaustive



Opportunities / Promising Trends

3. improved tools and guides to support valuation of ecosystem services
4. significant growth in partnerships and forums on ecosystem services
5. growth in private sector initiatives and tools
6. youth as change agents

Six key pathways for scaling up ecosystem values in decisionmaking

1.

Redefining economic well-being: mainstreaming ecosystem values in national economic accounts.

- Beyond GDP – Sustainability
- New Standards – SEEA
- Broader indicators of well-being



2.

Making ecosystem valuation count in local decision making.

- Compiling better evidence
- More strategic application of models
- More accessible tools
- Ecosystem Service Corps



3.

Scaling up investments in natural infrastructure.

- Improving documentation of benefits
- Quantifying scale of opportunity
- Expand engineering and urban planning programs



4.

Scaling up corporate investments in ecosystems to secure vital inputs for the food and beverage sector.

- Routine ES dependence and impact assessments
- Corporate-wide goals and plans to manage ecosystem risk
- Collaborating in landscape and watershed restoration
- Tools and guides will help



5.

Catalyzing the restoration of ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes through restoration bonds.

- Modeled after “green bonds”
- Help smallholder farmers restore ES and increase resilience -> sustainability
- Provide a risk-adjusted financial return for investors (initially with insurance)



6.

From shock to action: making ecosystem and community resilience made visible through communication.

- Raising awareness after natural disasters / ecosystem shocks
- Seizing opportunity / focus
- Establishing a well-informed network of communicators



Recurring Themes

1. Better documentation of the benefits of ecosystems (not just models)
2. Make ES Valuation influential – engage stakeholders; target policy questions
3. Communicate ES benefits clearly - without jargon
4. Seize the moment- timing matters
5. Capacity needs for info management and ES assessment
 - An Ecosystem Service \ Data Corps could help
 - Interested in your ideas!!!

Thank you!



Learn more at:

www.wri.org/coastal-capital

[http://www.visionariesunbound.com/
events/revaluing-ecosystems](http://www.visionariesunbound.com/events/revaluing-ecosystems)

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