

International Perspectives on Incorporating Ecosystem Services into Decision Making: Science and Practice



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Asia Pacific Contributors



Questions

- ❖ How far has the concept of ecosystem services gone & been accepted by your national (or other) governments?
- ❖ If the concept has been accepted in policy, what is happening in practice (i.e. what is the link between policy & practice)?
- ❖ What challenges & other opportunities exist in using an ecosystem services approach?

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Language is there- philosophy is missing. ▪ Federal wetland section accepted ES -. Ramsar. ▪ Some 'commitment' at high level – not to project level. ▪ Current political climate isn't a good one ▪ Local govt becoming increasingly active ▪ Natural capital accounting discussed - actual govt acceptance ad hoc/situation or person specific. ▪ Awareness by policy makers is low. ▪ Victorian Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Govt not fully accepted ES – words in documents - evident by a continuing lack of investment and education. ▪ Pockets of excellence - not consistent. ▪ Ramsar wetland management - but rudimentary listing ES. ▪ Local govts & NRM bodies implementing green infrastructure and natural assets - limited coordinated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decades of advocating ES ▪ ES as part of the CHANS concept - not coupled, siloed ▪ Lack of understanding & knowledge ▪ Non alignment with Law ▪ Need enviro. crisis (e.g. GBR). ▪ Education. ▪ Focus on classification and conceptual frameworks & not enough on application ▪ Valuing ES

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Borneo	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only evident where UNESCO protect & enforce 	-
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept of ES has been fully accepted by both top leaders & the public - integrated into national strategies, planning schemes & implemented in many projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conservation & compensation of ES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low awareness; Need clear principles, methodologies & tools to promote ES; Need broad implementation of the ES approach; Need monitoring systems for the implementation of ES.

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ES is adopted in national & local policies. ▪ Basic Act on Biodiversity (2008) promotes conservation & sustainable uses of biodiversity - National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans. It encourages local govt to prepare strategies & plans - more than half of 47 prefectures have local strategies. ▪ Concept has been well accepted by the govt, - provides guidelines & information on ES to the public & local org's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since the Act is rather conceptual, there is no detailed practice implemented. However, there are many cases promoting ES by using taxation & subsidy systems at the national & local levels following the concept of PES. Most obvious ones are for disaster prevention, (e.g. protecting forests in order to avoid landslides or floods). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of valuation - particularly cultural as well as biodiversity-related regulation services. This hampers policy implementation such as direct PES. ▪ Cultural & spiritual values are very important - traditional religion is closely linked to nature. This element is often overlooked or not well integrated with economic values which are more widely accepted.

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept is accepted at the Ministry level & is at the very initial exploratory stage with the Economic Planning Unit of the Federal Govt. ▪ With the exception of PES, no state has started exploring the concept of ES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evident in policy, but not practiced – not in ethos except for green movement. ▪ The Low Carbon Cities Framework calculator (measures types of native trees & sequestration at different ages). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data acquisition for gaps already known to exist; ▪ Data sharing between agencies & ministries; ▪ Lack of a coordinated approach to undertake ecosystem assessment; ▪ Lack of national priority, funding & skilled manpower.

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National policy on sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no benefit for the local people only from the natural resources business. Need green natural resource accounting for the benefit of the future generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation for rational use based on the policy target of the natural resource & also to consider development pathway of local people socio-economic situations. Problem regarding property rights of local people, especial indigenous people.

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept is slowly coming along at the govt level but it is not there yet - ES as wording in regional plans but nothing concrete. ▪ At national level, the ES concept is still in its infancy. There are talks around a Natural Capital Assessment led by the Natural Resource Sector but the project hasn't started yet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Variable with pockets of excellence ▪ Not applicable yet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wording, understanding. ▪ The “holistic approach” is also novel - dept's working on one issue at a time - not integrated. ▪ Opportunities to showcase the value of the ES for biodiversity conservation, & for public awareness of multiple benefits of some mgmt actions in the landscape – e.g. state of the enviro. reporting to use ES for assessing conditions & trends of ES ▪ Administrative constraints are still too restrictive

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Conservation Strategy 1992 ▪ Biodiversity Action Plan 2000 ▪ National Climate Change Policy 2013 ▪ EIA Regulations 1997 & legislation on protected areas. ▪ Concept an integral part of Guidelines on Economic Valuation of Forest Ecosystems ▪ Nation Strategy & Action Plan for Coastal Areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building measures promote concepts of Integrated Coastal Management & building resilience of socioecological systems. The resilience approach is using almost identical IPBES methods and tools. ▪ Awareness on ES is increasing through advocacy by NGOs/INGOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of integrated institutional mechanisms for monitoring & assessment of ES. ▪ Challenges in advocating & communicating values for policy orientation. ▪ Integrating ES values in decision making processes due to lack of understanding of values by policy makers & a lack of political will.

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept generally accepted (especially the Dept Enviro & Nat. Res.) although it has not been absorbed fully by several agencies. Several policies are in place to address pollution ▪ Looking at ways to set up PES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some "environ. fees" being collected - these have not always gone towards the improvement of the ES provided. ▪ Some even went to the development of tourism in the areas hence the maintenance of ES has generally taken a secondary place in the budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The major challenge is low awareness of the importance of ES. ▪ An awareness campaign for all stakeholders, capacity building (for some sectors on principles, methodologies, tools) would be a basic need to ensure the ES approach is maximized at local to national levels.

Country	Policy	Practice	Challenges/ Opportunities
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services ▪ National Strategy on Enviro. Protection ▪ Master Plan on Biodiversity Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some small scale PES (& other) projects - 36/63 provinces have implemented PFES according to Govt. Decree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of assessment methodology - identification of values; ▪ Monitoring & evaluation of PES; ▪ Capacity (human resources & finances) for assessments. ▪ Many types of ecosystems with high potential ES (forest, wetland, marine/island); ▪ Member of some regional/global networks (e.g. PES Network, IPBES, etc.); ▪ Cooperation is increasing in the recent years.

Policy Adoption

- **National biodiversity plans and strategies**
- **National PES programs**
- **Climate change**
- **Environmental protection (disaster reduction)**

... a lot of words

Practice

- **PES** (forestry)
- **Taxation and subsidies**
- Green **accounting**
- **Carbon** programs
- **Disaster** prevention
- **Awareness** raising
- **Capacity** building

... very few practical examples

Challenges

- Lack of **political will** - lack of faith and movement at the national level
- National Plans for **Biodiversity**
- Limited **capacity** – human resources/finances
- **Valuation** abilities – communicating them and understanding what they mean
- **Data** availability, acquisition and sharing
- **Monitoring** systems
- **Cultural Services**
- Low **awareness** of ecosystem services

Opportunities

- **International programs** (e.g. IPBES, UNESCO, Ramsar)
- **Markets - PES** programs
- **Awareness** raising programs
- **Disasters**

... more challenges were identified than opportunities

... possibilities for Aust and NZ to assist others?!



Thank You

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