

ACES IV – Session 7A

Recent Developments in Ecosystem Services Classification

What is the relation between the industrial society upon which we depend and the ecosystems which we depend on for resources?

Human measurement

natural sciences

Measure from physics up through physical and biological systems

social sciences

Measure things that follow from the human mind and human activities

What to measure?

How cross the “divide” between natural and social science approaches?

Ecologists

Economists

Which ecosystem services do we measure? How do we sort them?

Need: Classification System

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What *type* of Ecosystem Services Classification System (**ES-CS**) is needed?

Who is asking?

What purpose must the ES-CS serve?

- Environmental “green” accounting CICES
- Identify relevant environmental metrics FEGS-CS
- Scenario/Marginal Analysis (e.g., CBA) NESCS

Can a complex tool designed to fulfill one set of objectives be flexible enough to meet other useful objectives, while still remaining itself?

Does a “yes” mean we should consider integrating toward a single system?

Does a “no” mean we cannot integrate ES-CS?

ES-CS = ecosystem services classification system

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- ❖ Does “one size fit all”?
- ❖ What are key design elements in your classification system that help serve the main purpose for which your classification system was developed?
- ❖ How might your or other EC-CS be adapted to serve purposes other than the ones for which they were primarily designed?
- ❖ What are some of the challenges you faced when developing and/or applying your classification system?

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Discussion Questions

Development of ES-CS

- ❖ What is the purpose of your ES-CS?
- ❖ How do key elements of your ES-CS fit together?
- ❖ What are advantages (or disadvantages) you associate with your design?
- ❖ What are you planning to develop in the future?
- ❖ How does each ES-CS link ecosystem services from the environment to economic activity? Do you directly match categories to existing economic or accounting data?

Application of ES-CS

- ❖ How might policymakers use your ES-CS to inform decisions?
- ❖ What are some recent applications of your ES-CS?
- ❖ Are there other applications you are planning for the future?