

ACES 2018 Pre-Conference Workshop
December 3, 2018 | 1:30pm - 5:00pm

TITLE

Baseline Program Concepts to Use to Protect Cultural Ecosystem Services

DESCRIPTION

This workshop will therefore focus upon the key topics of human and natural systems, human social values, protective coverage, training and education, non-numeric data, information quality, assessment screening triggers, and environmental features data sharing.

This workshop underscores that cultural ecosystem service protection baseline programs must acknowledge human social values, and must couple local human and natural systems together as interdependent social-ecological systems, and must also analyze non-numeric data using robust relevant methods. These baseline programs need to be specific about what is protected, and need to assemble and deliver this information via training and education. These baseline programs must also address the quality of assessment information, the need for culturally-sensitive screening triggers, and the need to share environmental features information.

The need to integrate local human and natural systems by highlighting the environmental change, socio-cultural stability, human well-being, and traditional caretakers' governance concerns of local indigenous peoples is underscored. Main methods include pinpointing the inextricable links that exist between tribal cultural dimensions and local ecological systems (landscape values, sacred frameworks, interactions, maintaining-conserving local features); and pinpointing any changes in the attributes or functions of critical environmental features that are within the areas indigenous communities' traditionally use, or take care of. Other methods to use are honoring the communities' (or smaller social unit) relationships' to their ancestral lands - by respecting the spiritual, as well as the other values they attribute to local natural systems - and also using community social values (including knowledge and land management) data collection, combined with community empowerment, techniques.

This workshop will advise that it always be clear what qualifies for protection – via detailing whether changes to the physiology of individual plant, animal, fish, shellfish species - or other ecological features of concern and their most relevant attributes (ie. trophic structures, species composition), are protected from adverse losses. This workshop will underscore the need for preserving/protecting environmental functions that can't be substituted, or whose loss is irreversible, or will otherwise produce losses too significant to be accepted – and will counsel it must be clear whether archaeological resources (A); and basic social use or activity areas (B); and culturally-significant plants, animals, air or waters (C); and, degraded ecological features are eligible for protection, or not – and must be clear how “A-B-C-D” protection training and education knowledge-sharing is being directly supported, and if cultural ecosystem service protective programs are actually financed.

Workshop participants will be encouraged to gather pertinent numeric and non-numeric data by highlighting tribal cultural identities', experiences on the land, intrinsic values for nature, traditional land management practices, freedom of choice, and community well-being - and will be encouraged to

identify social value types using relevant methods, and spatially represent social values attributed to ecosystem services – and reshape human perspectives into social indicators. They will also be advised to optimize assessment information quality via spotlighting landscape values, and the inherent links between subsistence and tribal values – and be encouraged to: i) develop mapping indicators of landscape services, and create a landscape values atlas; ii) identify values, endpoints and indicators of sustainable development, and/or eco-cultural well-being; and iii) nurture culturally-sensitive screening triggers via targeting practices used to increase the abundance (including avoidance) of key species, and focusing on accommodating spiritual, heritage, and/or cultural values. The importance of sharing key environmental features data via underscoring geo-spatial knowledge; and community or place attachment mapping; and identifying social-ecological hotspots; and initiating local “human ecology” mapping - as well as sustaining forest-based livelihoods that affect human well-being, and promoting human health through forests - will all be highlighted. A complementary mid-conference oral session “is being proposed for 2018, as well.