



## Discussion Minutes

### D2 – The Role of Ecosystem Services in Governing the Nexus

**Chair:** Jean Carlo Rodriguez de Francisco  
**Speakers:** Jochen Hack, Nina Hagemann, Nazmul Huq, Francis Turkelboom  
**Minutes:** Fabian Thomas

#### Questions and discussions after each presentation

##### **Jochen Hack - Using functional linkages of hydrological ecosystem services to solve integration problems of integrated water resources management**

- Q (Bodin): Question related to second last slide. Interplay. That was an example of how different levels of authorities should connect to each other. Missing link here. Local organization. Often people think of integration in term of sectors (Agriculture, etc.). You could also introduce this dimension. You didn't emphasize this kind of interplay.
- A (Speaker): Horizontal level is important. Cross-sectoral interplay is important but was not covered in the presentation. It is incorporated in my research.
- Q (Follow up, Bodin): What do you think is the more challenging one: connect hierarchical levels vs connect sectors?
- A (Speaker): Ecosystem services concept helps in connecting across sectors. But not so much in connecting different political levels. It has a potential to connect different sectors. But finding the appropriate levels of management it is more difficult. Actors are far away from each other. Ecosystem service level may not be the suitable level.
- Q (Follow up, Chair): What about national payments for ecosystem services, are they able to connect this?
- A (Speaker): There are different kinds of schemes. Many national schemes also in Latin America. Example: Costa Rica.
- Q (Lebel): Similar in Thailand. Here it's more about preexisting institutions. In northern Thailand there are 500 year old local irrigation institutions. Whole set of institutions, with rewards for ecosystem service protection. When now IWRM comes in and tries to put itself on top its get problematic. Area-based jurisdictional hierarchies. Formal vs. informal actors.
- A (Speaker): Yes, important to take existing institutions into account.
- Q (Chair): I did a payments for ecosystem services study in Ecuador. When the payments were implemented, the people that were not interested in the PES scheme just stopped attending the community meetings. So here capacity was reduced.
- A (All): Interplay with pre-existing institutions is very important.



### **Nina Hagemann - Trade-offs and synergies between ecosystem services of soils: Governance implications towards sustainable agricultural soil management**

- Q (Turkelboom): When you showed that erosion control had a positive effect on agricultural production. Whose opinion is that?
- A (Speaker): The idea is that erosion control is positively influencing food productivity of land. Farmers' opinion and authority opinion.
- Q (Follow up, Turkelboom): In Belgium the farmers would not agree. If they use much of their land for erosion control, they only have benefits in the long term. But short term loss of land.
- A (Speaker): Interviews with the farmers are still going on. More opinions needed. One particular farmer had a lot of catch crops, so he was very much into erosion control.
  
- Q (Pahl-Wostl): Voluntary agreements: When do you find cooperation? What are the context factors that make people cooperate voluntarily?
- A (Speaker): Bee-keeper meets farmer every now and then, because personal contact existed. Other example: Exchange of machinery. Don't know how this was initiated. Some actions are triggered by meetings with/at the farmers' association.
  
- Q (Lebel): What is the farmers understanding of ecosystem services? Do they know about the benefits of strips of vegetation close to the rivers?
- A (Speaker): We asked ourselves how to approach them with the term, we asked for the definition of ecosystem services and it was said the it is too academic. They know what we are talking about but they are not so familiar with the term. We now talk about services provided by nature.
  
- Q (Chair): Sample of farmers. Is the sample heterogeneous? Does it relate to responses to interlinkages?
- A (Speaker): We want to have heterogeneous groups (organic, subsistence, large farms, family farms, etc.). We have to see if we find these correlations and get different answers from different groups. Think this will be the case.

### **Nazmul Huq - Ecosystem Services in Climate Change Adaptation Governance: Perspective from Bangladesh**

- Q (Lebel): Example from Cambodia. What we found is, that one difficult thing was to find entry points to the public policy. A lot of institutional analysis was needed. E.g. when it comes in here, then we can get funding there. The understanding of public staff was extremely low. They were struggling to come up with a policy process. They wanted change but they didn't have the capacity.
- A (Speaker): Thank you. Yes, capacity is very important.
  
- Q (Chair): Does the literature really ignore ecosystem services in the WEF context, like you said?
- A (Speaker): It is not a highlighted component of WEF nexus. Although it is at the heart of the nexus.



## **Francis Turkelboom: Application of the ecosystem services framework for vision development: Experiences from Belgium and Syria**

- Q (Hack): How large are the areas that you considered?
- A (Speaker): Belgium, quarter of a province. In Syria about 100 km<sup>2</sup>.
  
- Q (Follow up, Hack): How important is the distance between the actors? Physical distance.
- A (Speaker): Quite often we realize that they don't know each other. Sometimes from official settings. So it's a challenge. If the group knows each other you can go on much faster. You need trust building otherwise and they need to get to know each other. Ongoing process. Stakeholder analysis. How they are related. Will everybody come? The powerful often do not attend. You have to do the homework before.
  
- Q (Follow up, Hack): A Comment, from my experience when using the ecosystem services concept and when trying to reach policy solutions it is really important to have a certain distance. People need to identify with their area. For 80 km<sup>2</sup> it's going to work but not for 1000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- A (Speaker): For example in Syria all the high officials that came have never been in those areas before ("Oh look! We have flamingos in Syria?!"). So, yes, it's challenging.
  
- Q (Lebel): What do you want to achieve? Exploring the options or actual policy change? Did that (policy change) happen?
- A (Speaker): This was only the first step. Only development of a vision. In Syria things went into in another direction. Everybody knows that. In Belgium we want to go on. We need to address the lower levels of decision making for that.
  
- Q (Follow up, Lebel): In China we ran an ecosystem service assessment in three provinces. We found that in the provinces were the local officials had a lead role, policy change actually happened.
- A (Speaker): This is a selection criterion for us. It doesn't make sense if officials are not committed. You can do it on provincial level. But things get much more concrete at local level. Don't stay too far away from the actions.
  
- Q (Gupta): Is the rainfall taken into account in the management of the water body?
- A (Speaker): Complicated. Lake is used for irrigation. In Jordan lakes disappeared. But they came back due to failures in a neighboring country.
  
- Q (Follow up, Gupta): But what about actual rainfall?
- A (Speaker): Not so much impact. Irrigation water not so important.
  
- Q (Follow up, Gupta): Rainfall to surface water bodies. Also green water. If you take the rainfall system into account. How do you draw the boundaries (clouds, etc.)?
- A (Speaker): Not yet included.



- Q (Kößler): What was the outcome? You described the vision. But what were the outcomes?
- A (Speaker): Abandoned stream. Now we can make a city park of it. A company will set up a landscape plan. Not only think about recreation but about all the functions identified in the workshop. Discuss with local citizens.
  
- Q (Lebel): Can you give examples of what cultural services were important?
- A (Speaker): Actually the cultural services always come on top. Walk around environment. See nature.
  
- Q (Follow up, Lebel): In Syria as well?
- A (Speaker): Yes also. Also enjoy environment. But also conflict with hunting. As important as food production etc. People are interested in cultural services. Belgium is even stronger.

### General discussion

No general discussion.