

Strategic plan 2017-2020 for the Challenge theme “Mainstreaming [consideration of] ecosystem services into land use decision-making under global change”

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Our vision is “to be an internationally visible hub generating innovative transdisciplinary science studying and supporting the generation and use of ecosystem services and providing insights for decision making in a society facing global change”.

Theme members

All BECC participants are welcome to join theme meetings, seminars and other theme-related gatherings. The theme has a mailing list, which will be updated continuously, and information about meetings will be posted on the Ecosystem Services Theme page on the BECC homepage.

Long-term strategy: 2017-2021

This strategic plan builds on the Strategic plan 2016-2020 for BECC, and on the external analysis that is included there.

The strategy of the Ecosystem Services theme for the coming five years is:

- To assist researchers and research groups in taking the step towards working transdisciplinarily with ecosystem services, and to make all BECC researchers, in all departments, all types of environments, and with all available methods, become aware of how their work relates to Ecosystem Services, including, but not limited to, the risks and opportunities offered in this context by the increasing importance of ecosystem-based climate adaptation and the bioeconomy. This will be done by organising thematic workshops and seminars and multi-disciplinary syntheses where main research challenges are identified.
- To increase the added value of the BECC stakeholder contacts, through increased coordination within the theme, in coordination with the other two themes. This will be based on a mapping of the BECC stakeholder contacts, and of the stakeholder contact requirements in BECC projects and action groups.
- Build capacity (i) among the next generation of researchers and practitioners to pursue excellent and innovative Ecosystem Service research, and (ii) among business and administration to enhance the sound application of ecosystem service approaches, by proposing new theme-related courses (and striving to maintain existing ones) in PhD Graduate schools Climbeco and MERGE, increasing the transmission of theme-related knowledge and methodologies in undergraduate curricula, and identifying and responding to training needs for actors in business and administration.
- To maintain and further develop and strengthen the already strong transdisciplinary group in BECC working on ecosystem services in agriculture by identifying upcoming hot topics, research gaps and policy windows, and the best ways to address them.

- To tie together the already strong but decoupled smaller groups working on ecosystem services in forests, with the long-term aim to be able to lead or participate in research programs on the topic. To achieve this, a workshop in 2017 will be arranged and the theme will encourage proposals of action groups and research projects in this topic. The work on ecosystem services in agriculture will be used as a role model.
- To facilitate landscape-perspectives in the work on Ecosystem Services, through integration of spatial data between disciplines, by supporting exchange between researchers using spatio-temporal data from contrasting land use types and supporting the operationalization of cutting-edge spatio-temporal data sources. To achieve this, a workshop will be arranged 2018 and the theme will encourage proposals of action groups and research projects in this topic.
- To strengthen the research on the ecosystem services coupled to connections between agriculture, forestry and aquatic systems, in order to put BECC in the forefront in the area of ecosystem based climate adaptation. The theme will encourage proposals of action groups and research projects in this topic.
- To develop the theme homepage, both an internal and an external version. The internal version will contain background information on ecosystem services and examples of successful projects, as well as information on on-going projects, action groups and forthcoming seminars and workshops. The external homepage will contain links to relevant project homepage, external seminars and reports.

Short-term strategy: 2017

- One theme meeting will be organized, in spring, with the aim to come up with ideas for the work within the theme for the next year (seminars, workshops, action groups, applications). A session at the annual meeting, to follow up the theme's work, would also be beneficial.
- Two workshops are planned for, on the following topics:
 - Ecosystem services – What do the stakeholders need?
Workshop with invited speeches from stakeholders (e.g. Naturvårdsverket and Skogsstyrelsen) and discussions about valuation of biodiversity and social ecosystem services.
 - Ecosystem services in forests
Workshop on the status and the way forward of the work on Ecosystem services in forests in BECC, with a focus on bioenergy.
- In November 2017, a two-day workshop on Agriculture and Ecosystem services will be organized by Katarina Hedlund.

- The internal homepage, with background information, examples of successful projects, and information on on-going projects, action groups, seminars and workshops.

How will the work within the theme be organized?

There will be one theme meeting every spring, covering the whole theme. Before the meeting a summary of on-going theme-related projects, action groups, planned seminars etc. will be sent to the BECC community. The meeting will then focus on new ideas from the participants, about research projects, action groups, seminars, courses, etc. The spring meeting will serve as a basis for the planning of the coming year.

Preferably there will also be a theme session on the yearly meeting in autumn where theme members are gathered. The main purpose of that meeting would be to follow up on the theme activities decided on the spring meeting.

The main activities in the theme will, however, be performed in seminars, workshops, action groups and in projects. The contact between the theme members and theme leader and assistant theme leaders will be continuous, and the theme leader will represent the theme in the board.

In the theme homepage, information about on-going and previous projects and action groups will be collected, and previous and future activities will be listed and documented, in order to make it easy for the BECC community, especially new employees, to get an overview of the theme activities.

Coordination with other themes

There are strong overlaps and opportunities for cooperation between the themes. There will be continuous contact between the theme leaders when questions that relate to more than one theme come up. The theme leaders will also meet at BECC board meetings and an ambition is that at least one of the theme leaders in each theme will participate in the other themes meetings.

How will the theme contribute to education?

In 2017 one of the ClimBEco courses “Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in agriculture and forestry” will be revised, to get more of an Ecosystem Services focus.

On the spring meetings, one session will be open for ideas about PhD courses and courses on a basic level about Ecosystem services, stakeholder interactions and topics related to that. Before the first spring meeting (2017), a list of courses on a basic level and on a PhD student level will be compiled, as a basis for the discussions.