

Notes from Kick-off theme meeting Ecosystem Services

12 december 2016 10:00-15:00 in Halmstad

Notes by Anna Boo and Jörgen Olofsson, compiled by Cecilia Akselsson

Summary of the day

In the morning Cecilia gave a short introduction about the theme, then Yann Clough, Jessica Coria and Cecilia Akselsson gave short presentations on topics that they want to cover in this theme:

Yann Clough: Towards landscape-scale management of ecosystem services in farmland

Jessica Coria: On the Magnitude and Trade-offs of the CAP Incentives to Promote Organic Farming

Cecilia Akselsson: Multiple services in forest ecosystems

The presentations were followed by an open discussion with comments on the talks as well as other ideas on research and other activities for the themes.

In the afternoon three short talks were given, two on on-going research in the field (Annemieke Gärdenäs and Åsa Kasimir) and one on an idea for the future (Johan Ekroos).

Annemieke Gärdenäs: Organic beef and other ecosystem services

produced at semi-natural pasture and forest mosaics

Johan Ekroos: Using remote sensing to study landscape effects on ecosystem service flows

Åsa Kasimir: Drained peat soils, emission factors - mitigation and policy

Thereafter, Cecilia gave information about funding opportunities in BECC, the new call for post doc financing and a call for development for ClimBEco courses. Info on this is available on the BECC homepage (www.becc.lu.se/). There you can also find some of the presentations from the theme meeting. This was followed by a short discussion on future plans. ***The participants on the meeting, as well as other BECC researchers who are interested in the Ecosystem Services theme, are encouraged to send ideas about workshops, seminars and other activities, on short and long term, to Cecilia, Jessica or Yann.***

Notes from the discussions

The discussions from the morning and the afternoon are summarized below.

Organisation of theme activities

- The frequency of theme meetings was discussed. It was proposed that we have this kind of meeting once a year, in the spring. The yearly BECC meeting is in the autumn, and a suggestion was to also have a theme session, one of the days of the yearly meeting, which would give the opportunity for the themes to gather two times a year.
- The theme participants were asked to send ideas about workshops, seminars and other activities, on short and long term, to Cecilia, Jessica or Yann.

A strengthened platform on ecosystem services in forests

- The participants were positive to the idea of creating a strengthened platform on ecosystem services in forests in BECC. The work on agriculture and ecosystem services can be used as a role model.
- Åsa highlighted that there is a strong focus on production in forests in Sweden, and less focus on other ecosystem services. There is a need for more views than only production in forest research.
- Annemieke agreed on the importance of other ecosystem services than the ones related to biomass production. She highlighted the numerous small private forest owners, especially in southern Sweden, who are often not dependent on direct economic values, and who focus more on social and environmental considerations.
- Effects of cutting on carbon sequestration was mentioned as one example where the ecosystem services approach can be useful.
- Mark Brady suggested to use agent-based modelling for forests.
- The problem with missing knowledge, e.g. on biodiversity effects in forests, was discussed. Cecilia emphasized the importance of highlighting knowledge gaps as a basis for decision support as well as for prioritizing future research.
- We have different types of models that can be used together to model multiple services in forest ecosystems. Wilhelm Dubber suggested that we could organize a workshop about modelling of forest ecosystem services. The integration of the results from different models was discussed. Sometimes the results from the different models don't fit together, e.g. due to different spatial scales.

Remote sensing

- Johan Ekroos plans for a workshop on remote sensing for biodiversity applications. This will be interesting both for the biodiversity theme and the Ecosystem services theme.

Research on aquatic ecosystems and peatlands

- The importance of connecting aquatic ecosystems to forests and land use was highlighted by Murray Scown. There are groups (Biology and INES in Lund) that work on that, but they were not represented on this meeting.
- A joint workshop involving all three themes, focusing on links between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, was proposed.
- Nitin Chaudhary asked about research on ecosystem services in peatlands. Åsa answered that she and her group in Gothenburg work on ecosystem services in drained peatlands, and she also had a talk relating to that in the afternoon.

Integration of management in forests and agriculture

- Forest and agriculture are mainly treated in different projects and by different research groups in BECC, although the boundary between the land uses is not distinct. These differences between forestry and agriculture were discussed, as well as ways to integrate the work.
- Yann pointed out that in a long-term perspective we share the same land but use it in different ways, and that researchers in BECC could go after the low hanging fruits - to make a synthesis on the topic.
- Johan suggested a joint workshop around ecosystem services related to forestry and agriculture.
- Katarina Hedlund brought forward the time scale as one of the main difference in working with forestry and agriculture. The time scale has a big impact on the legislation. We plan land-use in different ways and we can learn from each other.
- Jonas Ardö highlighted the spatial scale differences between agriculture and forestry
- Jessica pointed out that legislation in forestry is loose compared to agriculture (e.g. CAP). This results in different interpretations of e.g. sustainability. Giuliana Zanchi highlighted the importance of the forestry sector in Sweden, which affects the planning and excludes short-term policies from EU.
 - Mark mentioned a project (a Pufendorf initiative) that he is involved in, where they try to develop a conceptual model to optimize land-use (to weigh different ecosystem services against each other - e.g. food production vs. climate-mitigation).