

Training Course Integrating Ecosystem Services into Development Planning (IES)

A practice-oriented training based on the Harvard Case Methodology

Background:

During the last decades and especially after the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategy Plan 2010-2020, practitioners and policy makers are more frequently confronted with a set of multifaceted challenges regarding the identification, assessment, integration and reporting of ecosystem services in different management areas and sector strategies. Projects and policies intended to meet development goals often go forward unwittingly at the expense of nature, e.g. a national plan to expand agriculture to increase food production may increase deforestation leading to soil erosion and flooding. People who depend on nature for their livelihoods and well-being feel those effects. Recognizing the linkages between ecosystem services and development goals can make the difference between a successful strategy and one that fails due to unexamined consequences for an ecosystem service.

A better ability to assess, describe and value benefits of ecosystem services, can help development planners to better understand how their actions depend on and change ecosystem services, to consider the trade-offs among options, and to choose policies that sustain such services.

Rationale of the training:

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) developed a guide for development planners and policymakers on integrating ecosystem services into development planning. It advocates a stepwise approach through which it is possible to recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for development planning.

The training combines the theoretical and practical elements of the stepwise approach and guides participants through the application of each step:

- 1. Defining the scope and setting the stage**
What are the main issues to take into account?
- 2. Screening and prioritising ecosystem services**
How does socio-economic development depend and impact on ecosystem services?
- 3. Identifying ecosystem service conditions, trends and trade-offs**
What are the drivers of change that influence the natural environment?
- 4. Appraising the institutional and cultural framework**
Which institutions, policies, regulations, needs and interests exist?
- 5. Preparing better decision making**
What are ecosystem-related risks and opportunities?
- 6. Implementing Change**
Who is involved and what is their role?

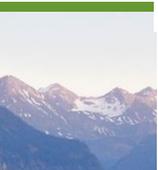
The training is based on the Harvard Case Methodology, which conveys teaching messages mainly through interactive practical work by participants. The training deals with the fictitious country of

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Bakul, which presents a situation closely based on real life conditions and challenges. All modules follow a similar sequence, including the following crucial elements:

1. The **introduction**, given by the trainer, provides the necessary theoretical background and introduces participants to the casework and the exercises.
2. The **casework** gives participants the opportunity to work through the different aspects linked to IES in a systematic manner. Participants assume the roles of external experts or involved stakeholders and are in charge of specific tasks for each exercise.
3. The groups present their results to the **plenary**. Trainers offer alternatives and corrections when necessary.
4. In the **reflection**, participants reassume their own (real-life) position and reflect on their experiences during the exercise.

Objective:

The training course introduces the theoretical and practical starting points of integrating ecosystem services into development planning. Participants will gain a general understanding of ecosystem services (ES) and the ecosystem services approach, and will learn about the potential application of the ES approach and its application in the political discourse. During the training, participants will identify arguments to convince different stakeholders via an ecosystem services perspective. Moreover, participants will learn about a number of useful tools and instruments to value and assess ecosystems. After the training, participants can use this knowledge to apply the IES 6-step approach in their own real-life work and find new solutions to challenges in the field of natural resource management.

Specific objectives include:

- To provide an overview of the TEEB initiative and applications: historical background, objectives and outcomes.
- To learn how to recognize linkages between ecosystem services and development.
- To familiarize participants with tools and methods for assessing and valuing ecosystem services.
- To learn about main policy options and instruments to capture ecosystem services related risks and opportunities as well as entry points for decision-making.
- To earth the approach in the context of partner countries and identify and agree upon concrete steps for implementation.

Content:

1. **Basic concepts and ideas** (biodiversity, ecosystem services, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Aichi Targets, IPBES, TEEB, IES 6-Step Approach)
2. **Ecosystem services conditions** (ecosystem services assessments and characteristics, drivers of change, risks and opportunities)
3. **Governance of biodiversity** (reasons for ecosystem degradation, role of governance and stakeholder relations, incentive mechanisms, stakeholder needs and interests)
4. **Economic Valuation** (why ecosystems can be valued, Total Economic Value (TEV), economic valuation methods)

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5. Policy Options (policy instruments, examples, entry points, main messages, communication products)

All training materials are available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian. A comprehensive training package will be provided, including: the IES manual, PowerPoint slides, factsheets, literature, lists, exercises and answer sheets.

Duration and Participants:

We offer a tailor-made agenda design. According to special needs and interests, the duration can vary from a two-day compact format up to a five-day course that includes excursion, planning sessions and/or a public event.

The course is well suited to:

- Government planners and policy-makers from sector ministries
- NGO and civil society representatives
- Researchers and academics from universities and research institutes
- Technical staff from GIZ projects and programmes

Contact:

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