

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

Introduction to the symposium

Joke van Wensem

5th SETAC Europe
Special Science Symposium
15-16 February 2012, Hotel Marivaux, Brussels



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FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems,

and include supporting services needed to maintain other services



Ecosystem services concept

- Sustainable development
 - Planet, people, profit
- Natural, social and economical capital
- The ecosystem services concept is used:
 - To value our natural capital
 - To make natural capital visible
 - To include natural capital in decision making
- Thereby protecting and enhancing the quality of ecosystems (?)

From policy to practice

- Concept is embraced by international institutions and many governments
- *“In practice, however, we have not yet developed a scientific basis, nor the policy and finance mechanisms, for incorporating natural capital into resource- and land use decisions”*
 - (Daily et al. 2009)

Different way of looking at the environment

- Environmental toxicology and chemistry
- Not specifically about chemicals, contaminants, threats and risk assessment
- SETAC's mission is to support the development of principles and practices for protection, enhancement and management of sustainable environmental quality and ecosystem integrity



Programme

- Introduction
- Perspectives on ecosystem services
- Ecosystem services provision
- Assessment tools
- Valuation, trade offs & management
- Data and knowledge gaps
- Discussion (3)



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Have a good time!

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