

Counting on Nature's Benefits

ValuES: Methods for integrating ecosystem services into policy, planning and practice.



The situation

Nature is the source of life. Human wellbeing depends largely on the benefits that ecosystems provide. Services such as water purification, soil fertility, pollination and erosion prevention – to name just a few – are essential for food production, climate change adaptation and the protection of infrastructure and human settlements from extreme weather events. Yet society and policies often fail to recognize the value of nature's services, meaning that they are under-emphasised or even ignored altogether in decision-making. As a result, biodiversity and ecosystems are being degraded worldwide, jeopardizing their capacity to render key services. Restoring ecosystems or substituting their natural services is expensive or, in many cases, impossible.

By assessing ecosystem service benefits and values, it is possible to illustrate both our dependence on nature and the impact of human activities on the environment. An ecosystem services focus promotes the implementation of environment-friendly measures and policies, and helps consider the value of ecosystems and biodiversity across different sectors and stakeholder groups. As such, it offers an important tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into decision-making. For instance, integrating ecosystem services into development planning involves both assessing the long-term environmental impacts of production and consumption and formulating policy mechanisms to address them.

ValuES: a global project

The project ValuES helps practitioners, planners and decision-makers in government, academia and civil society to integrate ecosystem services into planning, policy and decision-making. We work in many different ways and at multiple levels, from global to local.



We advise on the design and implementation of ecosystem service assessments and valuations.

We provide expertise, information and exchange on best practices and lessons learned at both methodological and applied levels.

We design and deliver training courses and tools to improve the capacities of practitioners and decision-makers.

We strengthen international exchange, support networks and foster strategic partnerships. We support initiatives of the Inter-Governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Where we work

We work with partners in more than 20 countries across four continents and support a number of international networks and initiatives, including IPBES.



On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as part of the International Climate Initiative (ICI), the ValuES project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in close collaboration with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF). Project duration: 2013-2018.

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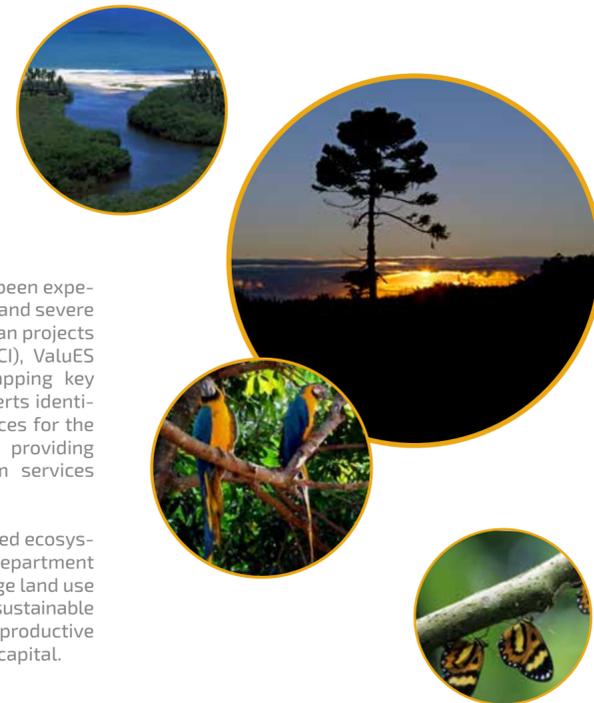
ValuES at work

Brazil

Mapping ecosystem services as a basis for elaborating and revising land use policies in Duque de Caxias (State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

In recent years the municipality of Duque de Caxias has been experiencing clean water scarcity, intense urban heat waves and severe floods and landslides. Together with the German-Brazilian projects "TEEB Regional-Local" and "Mata Atlântica" (BMUB-ICI), ValuES supported the department of urban planning in mapping key ecosystem services. Citizens, decision-makers and experts identified and prioritized the most relevant ecosystem services for the sustainable development of the municipality, thus providing non-monetary information about multiple ecosystem services across different landscapes.

As a result of this analysis, nine thematic maps of selected ecosystem services were developed. These maps will help the department of urban planning to develop a new land use plan, manage land use conflicts and discuss different scenarios for resilient and sustainable urban development. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance productive activities while at the same time preserving key natural capital.



Jordan

Promoting Jordan as a regional leader in the ecosystem services approach.

Located in the Middle East, Jordan is predominately a desert country. It faces increasing difficulties in providing key ecosystem services, such as clean water, food and raw materials, for its growing population. With a mix of training modules and technical advice, as well as assistance in facilitating national-level planning workshops and regional conferences, ValuES cooperates with the German-Jordanian bilateral project "Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Jordan" (commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ) to help improve national and local land use planning, promote effective implementation of the national biodiversity policy and, ultimately, foster the sustainable management of Jordan's vulnerable ecosystems.

Under the leadership of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment, a broad array of civil society organizations, academic institutions, government agencies and international experts are currently involved in the design of guidelines for the consideration of ecosystem services in environmental policy. These will likely provide a road-map for integrating ecosystem services into land use planning processes, and for designing monitoring and reporting indicators. In addition, a Middle East and North Africa-wide conference on ecosystem services, moderated by ValuES in October 2016, set Jordan at the centre stage of the regional scientific debate around ecosystem service assessment and valuation.



Côte d'Ivoire

Ivory Coast's national park authority employs an ecosystem services perspective to drum up support for its protected areas.

Tai National Park contains one of the last major remnants of primary Upper Guinean rainforest that once stretched across much of West Africa. Besides hosting extraordinary biodiversity, the park's 530,000 hectares of forest regulate the climate in the surrounding region. About 180,000 farming households benefit from this ecosystem, producing cocoa, palm oil, rubber and coffee, contributing with 3.2% of national GDP.

Together with the bilateral GIZ project "Promotion des Filières Agricoles et de la Biodiversité" (commissioned by BMZ), ValuES supported a study to value Tai National Park's ecosystem services. This included facilitating a series of stakeholder trainings and scoping workshops to explore options for ecosystem service assessments in light of fundraising purposes. The results of the study are now being used by the national parks authority to make the case for increased budget allocations, and to help raise funds from the international cocoa industry. Similar studies are now being conducted to pinpoint the importance of two other Ivorian national parks for local livelihoods and national socio-economic development.



Policy-oriented ecosystem service assessments and valuations

Ecosystem service assessments should be purpose-driven. They can be conducted to gain new insights, to argue for a particular course of action, to choose between various policy options, to start a discussion, to help settle a dispute or to improve a planning process. The ValuES Methods Navigator is there to help you find the right methods for your situation.

• An ecosystem service assessment is part of a larger process.

To have a policy impact, the assessment process is as important as its results. In designing and planning an assessment, an initial scoping of the situation helps clarify: Who should be involved? What should be the main emphasis? What type of information is needed? The Navigator features several method descriptions, which may be suitable for different stages within the process, from scoping to portraying results in different ways.

• Assessing ecosystem services is a multi-disciplinary task.

Ecosystem services are the benefits we derive from nature. To assess these benefits we need to understand both the 'supply side' (the ecosystem) and the 'demand side' (the socio-economic system). Knowing this context helps us ask the right study questions and correctly interpret the results. The Methods Navigator provides assessment methods from multiple disciplines.

• Aligning the ecosystem service assessment with its purpose is key to success.

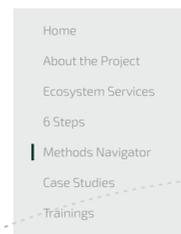
'Fitness-for-purpose' of assessment design is as important as the 'strong science' that supports it. There is no universal standard for assessments, and not all methods serve all assessment purposes. So the main purpose of an assessment needs to be clarified early on.

The ValuES Methods Navigator

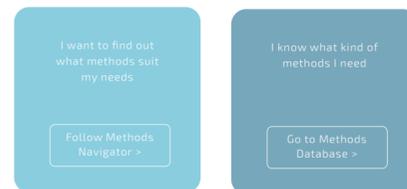
The Navigator guides you through various steps to help you select the right methods. After you specify the policy area and purpose of the assessment, the Navigator proposes a selection of methods that are suitable for your particular case. The list can be further refined by applying filters, such as specific ecosystem services to be assessed and broad types of methods. Top Tips and examples from practice help illustrate the ways in which methods can be selected and assessments tailored.

1 go to www.aboutvalues.net

2 go to **Methods Navigator**



3 click **Follow Methods Navigator**



9 download **full method descriptions**

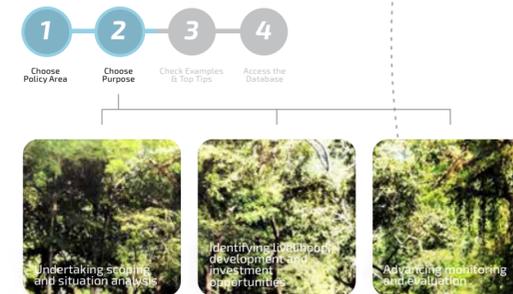


METHOD PROFILE
Participatory economic valuation methods
 Methods to incorporate stakeholder perceptions, preferences and value categories into ecosystem service valuation approaches.
In a nutshell
 There is no clear definition of participatory economic valuation methods. Two common features can be identified: a concern with reflecting stakeholders' own perceptions, preferences and categories of value, and efforts to ensure that ecosystem service users and beneficiaries are directly involved in the

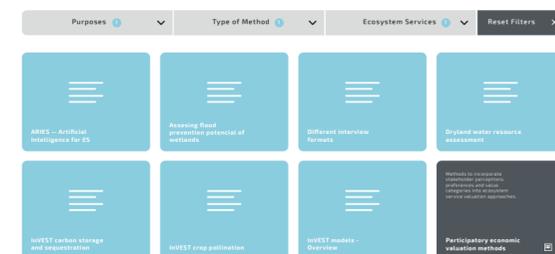
4 choose **Policy Area**



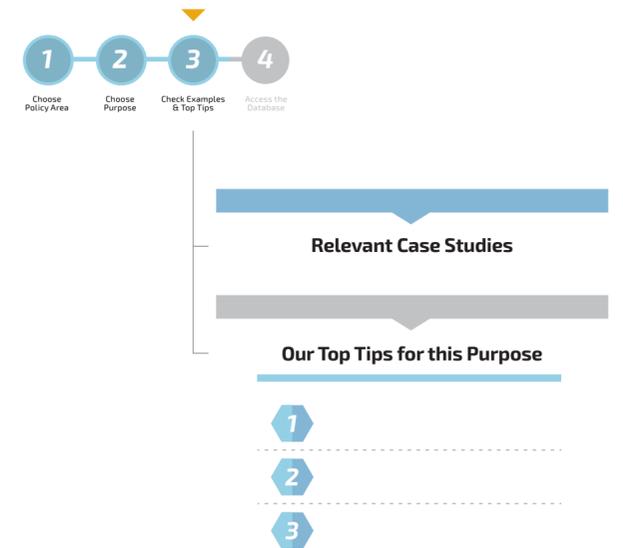
5 identify **purpose of intended assessment**



8 get an overview of **potential methods**



find **Case Studies and Top Tips** for each purpose



refine search by choosing **type of methods and ecosystem services** to be assessed

