

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

31-Jan-2013

English - Or. English

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems

CGDD-OECD SEMINAR ON THE ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ITS USE FOR PUBLIC POLICIES

Draft Agenda

1 FEBRUARY 2013, OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE

Participation is upon registration only. Interested participants who do not have access to OECD EMS registration system are requested to send their details (name, organisation, title, email, telephone number) to sarka.svobodova@oecd.org by Monday 28 January 2013.

For further information please contact:

Xavier Leflaive, Tel. +33 (0) 1 45 24 92 94; email: xavier.leflaive@oecd.org

JT03333860

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

CGDD-OECD SEMINAR ON THE ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ITS USE FOR PUBLIC POLICIES

1 February 2013, OECD Conference Centre

Objective and scope

The objective of this one-day seminar will be to examine the link between assessment of ecosystem services and the design and enforcement of public policies at national and local levels. It will provide examples of success and failure of the use of valuation in public policy and use them as a base for discussion between country experts involved in the policy making and enforcement process. In addition to the general issue of ecosystem assessment, a particular focus will be on valuation of watershed ecosystems.

Background

The OECD Environmental Outlook 2050 clearly highlights that biodiversity loss is one of the major environmental issues of the 21st century, alongside water and climate change. However, while public opinion and decision makers are well aware of the climate change and water challenges and their implications for everyday life, it is far from being the case for biodiversity depletion. The biodiversity issue is generally underestimated, and is often considered an intricate technical matter, with little direct implication for human beings and social welfare. The result is that there tends to be an imbalance in the focus of environmental policies, with climate change arguably being very high on the national and international agendas relative to policies to address biodiversity loss. This is often reflected in the types and size of funds attached to biodiversity policies. Policies are often predominated by command and control measures such as the establishment of natural reserves, which generally lack appropriate funding.

It is thus urgent to raise awareness on the issue of ecosystem valuation among policy makers and in public opinion, in order to make them more ambitious when needed (i.e. more efficient) and to broaden the range of policy approaches used to halt biodiversity loss. As biodiversity entails local, regional and global public good characteristics, it is necessary that awareness of the values inherent in biodiversity be raised at all these levels so that it can be managed appropriately.

One way of addressing this goal is to assess the value of ecosystem services that society benefits from. The international community has conducted a number of studies in that respect, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), and several countries have either undertaken or are now embarking upon National Ecosystem Assessments. There is a need for countries to pool recent experience in this area to improve the methods, provide information for countries that are starting such processes, and increase the use of the outcomes by policymakers.

As part of its 2013-14 Programme of Work and Budget, the OECD is undertaking a project on biodiversity and water linkages under the responsibility of the Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems. This project recognises the important relationship between biodiversity and water and is

aimed at providing policymakers with a better understanding of how the design and implementation of policies in both areas can be improved. The valuation of ecosystem services provided by watersheds is a key issue in this regard and has been the subject of both private and public initiatives in recent years.

Key questions for the seminar

Organised jointly by the OECD and CGDD, the Seminar would address the following questions:

- What contribution can the physical and monetary assessment of ecosystems provide to public policy making?
- How can physical and monetary assessment of ecosystems be an input in public debates involving stakeholders and serve as tool to build a consensus on environmental policies, at national and local levels?
- To what extent are physical and monetary assessments complementary?
- What is the experience with the use of policy instruments in implementing recommendations based on ecosystem assessments?

Audience

The seminar will allow both policy makers and experts to share their experience, focusing on the way they have used ecosystem assessment in policy development and implementation as part of the:

- evolution of public policies on water and biodiversity in their country;
- progressive integration into national accounts of ecosystem values;
- process of increasing the budget dedicated to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; and the
- process of raising awareness of the public, policy-makers and decision-makers at all levels.

The Seminar is planned to be open to any expert from OECD and key partner countries.

Registration to the Seminar

Participation is upon registration only. Interested participants who do not have access to OECD EMS registration system are requested to send their details (name, organisation, title, email, telephone number) to sarka.svobodova@oecd.org by Monday 28 January 2013.

AGENDA OECD HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, FRANCE 1 FEBRUARY 2013

	9:30	Introductory remarks
		Simon Upton, OECD Environment Director
		Jean-Paul Albertini, General Commissioner for Sustainable Development (France)
1.	10:00- 11:15	Session 1. Experience with national assessments • Experiences and lessons learned from the development of National Ecosystem Assessments and their Role in Policy-Making, by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Claire Brown, WCMC) Respondents: the UK (Helen Dunn, Defra), Portugal (Vania Proenca, Universidade de Lisboa), Spain (Marina Garcia Llorente, Madrid Autonomous University) Discussion with the floor
	11:15- 11:30	Coffee break
2.	11:30- 13:00	 Session 2. How ecosystems valuation can influence policy making Taking account of biodiversity in infrastructure projects: the French approach (Christine Lagarenne, CGDD) Czech experience with ecosystem services assessment (Jana Frelichova, CzechGlob) Integrating the replacement cost of biodiversity in the truck road toll in Switzerland (Christina Hürzeler, Office fédéral du développement territorial) The experience of the private sector (Will Evison, PWC, building on WBCSD Water Valuation work and additional expertise) Discussion with the floor
	13:00- 14:30	Lunch break
3.	14:30- 16:00	 Session 3. How to better use valuation for environmental policy making Using valuation to justify financial incentives to the development of organic agriculture in water supply catchment areas: the case of Eau de Paris, by Anne Le Strat, President of Eau de Paris Xavier Bonnet, Head of the department of Economics & Evaluation of the French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development Messages heard and opportunities for the OECD, Arthur Eijs, co-Chair of the OECD Working Party on Biodiversity Water and Ecosystems Discussion with the floor