

Advanced Course

VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Zaragoza (Spain), 9-13 May 2022

1. Objective of the course

Ecosystem services provide substantial benefits to human well-being and sustainable development. However, these benefits are not widely recognized and integrated into socio-political decisions and their potentials are underestimated, leading to a continued loss and degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Recently, a series of global initiatives are highlighting the importance of valuing ecosystem services in decision-making for sustainable development and conservation and use of biodiversity (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, etc.).

It is necessary to change the prevailing culture in how nature is valued and managed. Valuations must be carried out in an integrated manner, combining ecological, socio-cultural and economic perspectives. Besides, an appropriate institutional framework and a more plural approach to valuing nature are increasingly seen as critical to improve decision-making in different social contexts.

Additionally, there are other significant challenges for valuation, associated with defining and quantifying ecosystem services, with their uniqueness and distinctiveness according to different contexts, and with the appropriateness of valuation methods in each case.

The course will provide a plural valuation approach of ecosystem services, a view of existing policy assessment frameworks and a critical review of valuation methods and instruments, highlighting the importance of their integration.

At the end of the course participants will:

- better understand the pertinence and purpose of valuing the services provided by ecosystems;
- be aware of the role of ecosystem service valuation in diverse decision contexts and for different objectives;
- appreciate the necessity of adopting inclusive, relevant, transparent, diverse and effective valuation approaches;
- be familiar with the main existing methods and tools for ecosystem service valuation, their applicability and limitations;

- be able to identify and select key value methods under different social, cultural, economic and environmental contexts;
- have developed a critical understanding about the opportunities and challenges of ecosystem service valuation for practical application in policy.

2. Organization

The course is jointly organized by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (CIHEAM Zaragoza), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the European Forest Institute (EFI), through the EFI's Mediterranean Facility (EFIMED).

The course will take place at CIHEAM Zaragoza and will be given by highly qualified lecturers from research centres, universities, and international organizations, firms and associations in different countries.

The course will be held over a period of 1 week, from 9 to 13 May 2022, in morning and afternoon sessions.

3. Admission

The course is designed for 30 professionals with a university degree. It is intended for decision-makers, public sector agents, technical advisors, researchers, and other professionals dealing with natural resources management or landscape planning, and involved or interested in ecosystem service valuation.

Given the diverse nationalities of the lecturers, knowledge of English, French or Spanish will be valued in the selection of candidates, since they will be the working languages of the course. CIHEAM Zaragoza will provide simultaneous interpretation of the lectures in these three languages.

4. Registration

Candidates can apply online at the following address:
<http://www.admission.iamz.ciheam.org/en/>



Applications must include the *curriculum vitae* and copy of the supporting documents most related to the subject of the course.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **18 March 2022**.

The deadline may be extended if there are free places available.

Applications from those candidates requiring authorization to attend the course, may be accepted provisionally.

Registration fees for the course amount to 500 euro. This sum covers tuition fees only.

5. Scholarships

Candidates from Mediterranean countries and from ICARDA Middle East and North Africa partner countries, may apply for scholarships awarded by the organizing institutions covering registration fees and for scholarships covering full board accommodation and/or cost of travel.

Candidates from other countries who require financial support should apply directly to other national or international institutions.

6. Insurance

It is compulsory for participants to have medical insurance valid for Spain. Proof of insurance cover must be given at the beginning of the course. Those who so wish may participate in a collective insurance policy taken out by the Organization, upon payment of the stipulated sum.

7. Teaching organization

The course requires personal work and interaction among participants and with lecturers. The international characteristics of the course favour the exchange of experiences and points of view.

The programme has an applied approach. Lectures are complemented with applied examples and debates. During the whole course, participants will work in groups on case studies, in parallel to each lecture session, to put theory into practice, closing with plenary sessions for feedback and discussion.

Furthermore, participants will simulate different techniques in group-based roleplay to “integrate” or “bridge across” different value types using various approaches, and then will discuss in a plenary session how each of these approaches can work.

8. Programme

1. Why do we need valuation of nature? (2 hours)

- 1.1. Nature degradation and its impact on human well-being
- 1.2. Failures in decision-making

1.3. The potential of valuation: advantages and limits

1.4. Existing policy assessment frameworks

2. The context of valuation (3 hours)

- 2.1. The goals of valuation
- 2.2. Scale challenges
- 2.3. Decision-making processes and governance
- 2.4. Social context of valuation
- 2.5. Discussion

3. Values of nature (4 hours)

- 3.1. Value definitions and typology. Different types of value held by different people
- 3.2. Broadening the picture
 - 3.2.1. Ecosystem services approach
 - 3.2.2. Nature's Contribution to People and other advancements
- 3.3. Discussion

4. Valuation as a process (9 hours)

- 4.1. Purpose of the valuation
- 4.2. Overview of major valuation method families
 - 4.2.1. Biophysical
 - 4.2.2. Sociocultural
 - 4.2.3. Economic
 - 4.2.4. Integrated approaches
- 4.3. Practical work: role game to integrate or bridge-across different values using various valuation methods
- 4.4. Choosing the right methods according to different purposes and contexts

5. Valuation and policy instruments (5 hours)

- 5.1. Introduction: different types of instruments and scales
- 5.2. Examples of application
 - 5.2.1. Biodiversity conservation and the legal context for protection
 - 5.2.2. Payment for ecosystem services
 - 5.2.3. Conservation of traditional practices
 - 5.2.4. Valuation for Natural Capital and Ecosystem Accounting

6. Practical group work based on case studies (11 hours)

- 6.1. Introduction to the group work
- 6.2. Work sessions
 - 6.2.1. Work session 1: Case study analysis and identification of challenges
 - 6.2.2. Work session 2: Setting the context of valuation
 - 6.2.3. Work session 3: Identification of ecosystem services, values and conflicts
 - 6.2.4. Work session 4: Choice of suitable valuation methods
 - 6.2.5. Work session 5: Decision-making processes and applicable policy instruments
- 6.3. Presentation of results and discussion of each work session

7. Closing remarks and lessons learned (1 hour)

GUEST LECTURERS

D.N. BARTON, NINA, Oslo (Norway)

I. INIESTA, FRACTAL, Madrid (Spain)

S. JACOBS, INBO, Anderlecht (Belgium)

E. KELEMEN, ESSRG, Budapest (Hungary)

M. LAGO, Ecologic Institute, Berlin (Germany)

F. SANTOS MARTIN, Univ. Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid (Spain)

M. SCHAAFSMA, Vrije Univ., Amsterdam (the Netherlands)

S. WUNDER, EFIMED, Barcelona (Spain)