

Editorial on Ecosystem Services

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Editorial Note

Ecosystem services have numerous and different benefits to humans provided by the natural and from healthy ecosystems. Such ecosystems include agro ecosystems, forest ecosystems, grassland ecosystems, and aquatic ecosystems. These ecosystems, functioning in healthy relationship, offer services like natural pollination of crops, clean air, and extreme weather mitigation, human mental and physical well-being.

Collectively, these advantages are becoming known as 'ecosystem services', and are often integral to the provisioning of clean drinking water, the decomposition of wastes and resilience and productivity of food ecosystems. While researchers and environmentalists have discussed ecosystem services implicitly for decades, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) in the early 2000s popularized this study. There, ecosystem services are divided into four categories:

- Provisioning: production of food and water;
- Regulating: control of climate and disease;
- Supporting: nutrient cycles and oxygen production and
- Cultural: spiritual and recreational benefits.

To help inform decision-makers, many ecosystem services are being evaluated in order to draw equivalent comparisons to human engineered infrastructure and services. Detritivores like this compost creepy crawler help to transform creature squanders into natural material that can be reused by essential makers. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) report 2005 characterized ecosystem services as benefits people obtain from ecosystems and distinguish four categories of ecosystem services, where the so-called supporting services are regarded as the basis for the services of the other three categories.

Provisioning Services

The following services are also known as ecosystem goods

- Food, crops, wild foods, and spices
- Genetic resources
- Biogenic minerals
- Raw materials (including lumber, skins, fuel wood, organic matter, fodder, and fertilizer)
- Energy biomass fuels, (hydropower)
- Water purity
- Ornamental and
- Medicinal resources (including pharmaceuticals, chemical models, and test and assay organisms)

Supporting Services

These include services such as nutrient cycling, habitat provision primary production, soil formation and pollination. These services make it possible for the ecosystems to continue providing services such as food supply, flood guideline, and water purification.

Regulating Services

- Predation regulates prey populations
- Carbon sequestration and climate guidelines
- Purification of water and air
- Flood protection
- Pest and disease control
- Waste decomposition and detoxification

Cultural Services

- Science and education (including use of natural systems for school excursions, and scientific discovery)
- Cultural (including use of nature as motif in books, film, painting, folklore, national symbols, advertising, etc.)
- Therapeutic (including ecotherapy, social forestry and animal assisted therapy)
- Spiritual and historical (including use of nature for religious or heritage value or natural)
- Recreational experiences (including ecotourism, outdoor sports, and recreation)

Pivotal cultural values attaching to the natural/cultivated environment rely on an area's unique character that cannot be addressed by methods that use universal scientific parameters to determine ecological structures and functions. If a cultivated environment has symbolic meanings and cultural values the object of these values are not ecosystems but shaped phenomena like lakes, forests, mountains and, mainly, symbolic landscapes. Cultural values do result not from properties produced by ecosystems but are the product of a specific way of seeing within the given cultural framework of symbolic experience. The Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) is a classification scheme developed to accounting systems, in order to avoid double-counting of sporting services with others provisioning and regulating services.

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