

Interdisciplinary exchanges: natural resource management research in the 21st century

HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF SHEFFIELD, NEWCASTLE AND LEEDS

Welcome to the Interdisciplinary Exchanges Newsletter. This newsletter provides an overview of our next ESRC funded seminar within the series on 'Payment for Ecosystem Services'. Our aim is to stimulate dialogue between academic disciplines and practitioners within the fields of conservation, climate and environmental change and international development. This dialogue is vital to developing novel frameworks to study socio-ecological dynamics and successfully link knowledge to both policy and action.

Payment for Ecosystem Services

19th January

University of Leeds

10am-4pm

Conservation initiatives are increasingly recognizing the value of ecosystems and the services they provide (e.g. carbon sequestration). Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, which aim to fuse economic development and environmental conservation by compensating local communities for resource management practices that maintain ecosystems and their services, are rapidly being implemented over the world. Despite their widespread implementation and promotion, there are few long-term case studies evaluating their success. Furthermore, there remain several uncertainties about the ability of PES schemes to effectively offset local opportunity costs, sustain long-term stewardship of resources once payments cease, and incorporate less tangible or complex values such as cultural values or biodiversity. This seminar will review current knowledge, consider current theoretical and interdisciplinary gaps, and discuss ways to successfully implement PES programmes.

Workshops in the series:

Community-based natural resource management (Jan 2014, Sheffield)

Payment for Ecosystem Services (Leeds, Jan 2015)

Food security, poverty and biodiversity (April 2014, Newcastle)

Natural resources and environmental conflicts (Sheffield, March 2015)

Local adaptations to climate change (Leeds, Sept 2014)

Final review and strategic planning (Location tbc, July 2015)

Workshop Speakers:

Mark Reed
(Birmingham City University)

"Best Practice in Developing PES Schemes: Evidence from Defra's PES Pilot Scheme"

Niall Marriott
(Carbon Plus Capital LLP)

"Distributing Risk and Benefit between Multiple Stakeholders in Sustainable PES Design and Implementation"

Rosalind Bark
(Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy)

"Non Traditional Payments for Ecosystem Services"

Payments for Ecosystem Services - Discussion

Theme 1: Moral Dilemmas in PES

- How do we deal with conflicting or incommensurate values and value systems?
- How can PES promote environmental justice?
- Can we have payments for ecosystem services without incentivising ecosystem degradation?
- What are the implications of privatising public ecosystem services?

Theme 2: Practical Implementation of PES

- How do we deal with time lags between action implementation, service provision, and payment?
- What are the opportunities and challenges in paying for services received compared with conservation actions taken?
- How do we establish baselines and identify additionality (and do we need to)?

Resources and reading

- Adams, W. M. (2014). The value of valuing nature. *Science*, 346 (6209), 549-551.
- Brockington, D. (2011). Ecosystem services and fictitious commodities. *Environmental conservation*, 38(04), 367-369
- Pascual, U., Phelps, J., Garmendia, E., Brown, K., Corbera, E., Martin, A., & Muradian, R. (2014). Social equity matters in payments for ecosystem services. *BioScience*, biu146
- Costanza, R., de Groot, R., Sutton, P., van der Ploeg, S., Anderson, S. J., Kubiszewski, I., & Turner, R. K. (2014). Changes in the global value of ecosystem services. *Global Environmental Change*, 26, 152-158.

Please tell us about other themes and questions that you think are relevant to your work on Payments for Ecosystem Services. We will incorporate them into the structure of the workshop later this month. Please email feedback to either Chasca Twyman (C.Twyman@shef.ac.uk) or Johan Oldekop (joldekop@umich.edu)

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