

28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IAIA08 Session Chair's Report

Session number and name: CS7.11 Valuation of Ecosystem services

Day: Friday **Date:** 9 May **Time:** 08.30 – 10.00 **# Persons attending session:** around 70

Name(s) of Session Chair(s)

Arend Kolhoff

Contributors

- Geoff Kerr; Francis Karanja; Uzoma Ojike; Sarah Clement

(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes discussed in this session

1. The use of ecosystem services to provide insight in the interrelated changes between the natural and the human environment. It is therefore considered as a valuable approach for an integrated approach of assessment.
2. A variety of valuation tools were presented to value the use of ecosystem services by the different user groups who are benefitting from the different services.
3. In the discussion the application of ecosystem services in combination with the valuation of the use of these services was considered as an emerging approach that has the potential to provide the decision-makers with the information they would like to have. Especially good applicable in SEA.

(b) One or more emerging trends

Not yet a trend because application of the approach in impact assessment is rather new.

(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:

As stated above during the discussion application of this approach was considered as having in potential large impact because the changes / impact have been valued.

(i) dimensions of IA effectiveness (i.e. what are the characteristics of effective IA?)

No information yet to early to assess.

(ii) challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness

Not applicable.

(iii) how these barriers might be overcome

Not applicable.

(d) Comments on the Art and Science of Impact Assessment (i.e. the relative importance and interplay between science and values/politics/subjectivity in impact assessment)

As stated above this valuation of ecosystem services approach has the potential to bridge the gap between science and politics. Politicians prefer to see impacts / changes translated into € Euros or another currency and this approach provides that opportunity and secures the scientific soundness of the information.