

To: SWC
Concerns: Report of the SETAC Ecosystem Services Advisory Group (ES-AG)
From: Joke van Wensem, chair of the ES-AG
Date: 8 November 2011

The ES-AG was approved by SWC in April 2010. The Guidance Document is available at <http://communities.setac.net> (go to professional advisory group / topic communities).

Steering committee

At present the steering committee consists of Joke van Wensem (chair), Soil Protection Technical Committee (TCB), Netherlands; Lorraine Maltby, University Sheffield, UK; Tim Canfield, US-EPA; Ron Gouguet, Windward Environmental, USA; Michael Warne, Department of Environment and Resource Management Queensland, Australia and Peter Campbell, Syngenta, UK. Ron Gouguet serves as a liaison with the SNA ERAAG standing committee on ecosystem services.

Meetings

The last meeting of the ES-AG was held in Milano, see minutes (appendix). The AG will meet in Boston, Monday 10-11 AM.

Activities

Below ecosystem services related activities within SETAC are listed. Besides the session in Portland these activities were/are supported by (members of) the ES-AG.

- At the annual meeting of SETAC North America in Portland (7-11 November 2010) a session was held on 'The Emerging Global Concept of Ecosystem Services'. The session was on average attended by 103 participants.
- At the annual meeting of SETAC Europe in Milano the session 'Ecosystem services' was held on Thursday morning 19 May. Session co-chairs are Joke van Wensem, Lorraine Maltby, Sabine Apitz and Marlea Wagelmans.
- An ecosystem services platform session will be held at the SETAC-North America Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, Thursday afternoon, 17 November 2011. The global Ecosystem Services Advisory Group and the Ecological Risk Assessment Advisory Group – North America are cosponsoring a platform session entitled "Ecosystem Services: From Concept to Application". The purpose of this session is to provide SETAC membership with an overview of the science and application of ecosystem services, rapidly developing assessment tools, and case studies. A mixture of invited and submitted papers will cover a range of topics from the general (overview of ecosystem services) to the applied (e.g., how ecosystem services endpoints can be incorporated into ecological risk assessments and to facilitate selection of remedial alternatives in hazardous waste site decisions). Appropriate topics for contributions to this session include: tools to identify and assess the value of ecosystem services; experiences with ecosystem service markets such as mitigation banking, and carbon, nutrient, and biodiversity trading markets; examples of how projected changes in ecosystem services have influenced environmental decision making; and others. Session co-chairs are David Moore, Ron Gouguet, Anne Rea, and Wayne Munns.

The announcement of this session has also been forwarded to the membership of the ACES community (ACES = A Community on Ecosystem Services, ca 350 members mainly in the USA, <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces/index.html>).

- SETAC Europe organizes the 5th special science symposium, entitled Ecosystem services, from policy to practice. The symposium will be held on 15 and 16 February 2012 in

Brussels. See <http://sesss05.setac.eu> for a description and the program. Deadlines for early registration and poster abstract submission is 15 November 2011.

- For the 6th SETAC World meeting in Berlin, 20-24 May 2012, a session on ecosystem services is scheduled under the main theme risk assessment, risk management and regulation (see description below). Also under the theme ecotoxicology ecosystem services related sessions can be found. See for the list of scheduled sessions: <http://berlin.setac.eu/siteview/?contentid=497>. Deadline for submitting abstracts is 30 November 2011.
- Already online available and soon to see in print: the special issue of Science of the Total Environment on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services in environmental risk assessment. The special issue is mainly based on presentations held at the SETAC Europe meeting in Seville 2010. For an introduction see doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2011.08.012

Appendix

Minutes meeting SETAC Ecosystem Services Advisory Group (ES-AG), 16 May 2011 in Milano

The meeting was attended by 17 persons (see list below). Joke van Wensem (TCB, Netherlands) chaired the meeting. Discussion at the meeting was difficult due to background noise. Joke van Wensem, Bruce Vigon and Mary Sorensen addressed the participants with a report on the activities and requests for cooperation with other groups.

Agenda

- Organisation
- Recent activities
- Plans for the future
- What is out there?
- Ecosystem services and sustainability
- AOB

Organisation

The ES-AG has approximately 75 members and a mailing list with approximately 100 addresses. The steering committee members are at present: Joke van Wensem (chair), Soil Protection Technical Committee (TCB), Netherlands; Lorraine Maltby, University Sheffield, UK; Tim Canfield, US-EPA; Ron Gouguet, Windward Environmental, USA; Michael Warne, Department of Environment and Resource Management Queensland, Australia and Peter Campbell, Syngenta, UK. Ron Gouguet serves as a liaison with the SNA ERAAG standing committee on ecosystem services. The SC needs 3 more members preferably from SNA/academia, SLA&SAP/academia and business and members of the group are requested to send nominations to Joke van Wensem.

Recent activities

Recent ecosystem services related activities within SETAC include:

- SETAC Europe 20th Annual Meeting, Seville 2010
 - Platform session “Methods for evaluating ecosystem functions, services and biodiversity in environment risk assessment” attended by 185 participants.
- SETAC North America 31st Annual Meeting, Portland 2010.
 - Platform session ‘The Emerging Global Concept of Ecosystem Services’ attended by 103 participants.
- SETAC Europe 21st Annual Meeting, Milano 2011
 - Platform and poster session ‘Ecosystem services’ will be held on Thursday morning 19 May. Session co-chairs are Joke van Wensem, Lorraine Maltby, Sabine Apitz and Marlea Wagelmans.
- SETAC North America 32nd Annual Meeting, Boston, 13-17 November 2011
 - ‘Ecosystem Services: From Concept to Application’ (Wayne Munns, EPA).
 - ‘The role of ecology in developing ecological production functions for ecosystem services assessment’ (Pieter Booth, Exponent).

Plans for the future

At every annual meeting there will be at least one ES session and a meeting of the ES-AG. The meeting of the ES-AG in Boston, November 2011, will be organised by Tim Canfield and Ron Gouguet.

A proposal for a SETAC Europe Special Science Symposium (SESSS) on Ecosystem Services has been approved by SE Council. The symposium is planned for February 2012 in Brussels and will be co-chaired by Joke van Wensem and Lorraine Maltby. A list of topics was presented as possible elements for the SESSS. The meeting had no additional suggestions for topics.

What is out there?

Two scientific communities may be interesting partners for the ES-AG:

- A community on ecosystem services (ACES), 350 members mainly in the USA <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces/index.html>, biannual meetings (next meeting in 2012), distribution list.
- Ecosystem services partnership (ESP), mainly European, agenda, next meeting 4-7 October 2011 The Netherlands, www.fsd.nl/esp.

Ecosystem services and sustainability

An ad hoc working group is developing a SETAC perspective on sustainability. The group is seeking for members of the LCA community and the advisory groups on Human Health Risk Assessment, Ecological Risk Assessment and Ecosystem Services to participate in this group. Bruce Vigon (SETAC scientific affairs manager) explained that the group is preparing a technical ('white') paper on how to include sustainability in assessment frameworks. For more information or expressions of interest to participate, please contact Bruce Vigon (email: bruce.vigon@setac.org).

AOB

- Mary Sorensen introduced the Ecological Risk Assessment Advisory Group and its standing committee on ecosystem services. She encouraged everyone to strive for cooperation between the different advisory groups.
- John Toll encouraged the ES-AG to publish in the Globe.

The meeting closed at 14.00 h.

Present at the meeting

Gertie Arts
Mirco Bundschuh
Peter Campbell (steering committee)
Tim Canfield (steering committee)
John Elliot
Udo Hommen
Lorraine Maltby (steering committee)
Rob Pastorok
Elena Redolfi
Jörg Römbke
Greg Rueb
Michiel Rutgers
Vernon Somerset
Mary Sorensen (chair SNA-ERAAG)
John Toll
Bruce Vigon
Marlea Wagelmans
Bo Weidema
Joke van Wensem (chair)

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