

Modelling Ecosystem services using Bayesian Networks – Walaa Adra and Catriona Morrison – 10/9/09.

The speakers gave the eagle as an example of biodiversity however; this is only one species and therefore not biodiversity. Each species will add to the biodiversity and provide an increased value of the ecosystem.

The speakers talked about using the cascade concept in order to connect ecosystem services and well being. However how do you define each stage in the cascade – where do we place the variables? How do we operationalise the framework?

Subdividing categories into smaller, more precise categories is useful for the thinking process, but are there examples of other developing fields where this occurred and one might learn from? (probably but unknown)

Why not use all 3 approaches? – habitat based, systems based and place based. You can use the other approaches to inform your chosen approach.

Where are the feedbacks in the cascade? Yes they are missing but its useful for the thinking process to categorise and agree on common terminology.

How can we benefit from biodiversity?

We have to know the characteristic of the landscape, how climate change affected this place and the ecosystem functions and services and their exports.

Why are you using the term belief?

In Bayesian statistics you can track how your belief changes with the more data you have.

How can we value ecosystem services if we can't fully understand them?

We do the best we can when deciding on priorities and valuing ES actually helps to protect the environment in practice.

How can you identify all ecosystem services? Assessments are difficult when you don't know how far into the future to look.

We have to make arbitrary decisions, it's all part of dealing with uncertainty.

How did you do the participatory approach?

One cases study and others have used other approaches. We met with all stakeholders to know and get the common management plan for the area. Different stakeholders have different views about the place and this is why participation is important.