



Integrating ecosystem services into development planning (IES) – a stepwise approach for practitioners

Recognizing the correlation between development goals, human well-being and ecosystem services can mean the difference between a successful development strategy and one that fails because of unexamined consequences or changes in the flow of ecosystem services (WRI 2008). The stepwise approach aims to facilitate practitioners with a framework for integrating ecosystem services into development planning. This overview gives a first impression of the stepwise approach on how to recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystem services in order to integrate it into development planning. It is based on the findings of the TEEB studies and the TEEB approach, other studies and manuals (particularly WRI 2008, WBSCD/ WRI 2008 and WBSCD 2011) and the practical experience of GIZ projects and programmes.

Step 1: Defining the scope



Define the objective(s), the scope, and main stakeholders to be involved.

- › For which part of the development plan (projects, policy instruments, activities) would you like to conduct the assessment?
- › At what stage of the planning process are you going to run the assessment?
- › At what spatial scale might the assessment be conducted most effectively?
- › Who are the relevant stakeholders and how should they participate in the process? Which political level should be involved and how?
- › Which are process milestones and expected outcomes?
- › How are you going to communicate (messages and target groups)?

Step 2: Screening and prioritizing



Prioritize 3-6 ecosystem services based on the impacts and dependencies of your development plan. Identify users of the ecosystem services that may affect or be affected.

- › How do the development plan goals/measures depend on and impact ecosystem services? Specify which ecosystem services are essential for or affected by the development plan.
- › What parts of the society directly depend on these ecosystem services? Think about the economic activities and well-being of different stakeholders and identify who could be affected by a decline in the quality and quantity of the ecosystem service provision.
- › Which are priority ecosystem services that should be maintained and why?

Step 3: Identifying conditions and trends



Assess present state of ecosystem services, key drivers affecting change and possible trends to illustrate the cause-and-effect relationships within the selected scope.

- › What kind of relevant information related to the condition and trends of ecosystem services exists (e.g., scientific, indigenous and local knowledge) and what are information gaps?
- › What are the conditions and main trends in the supply of and demand for the identified ecosystem services?
- › What are the main drivers (direct and indirect) of change?
- › Are there any trade-offs between your development plan and the flow of ecosystem services or even among particular development goals?



Step 4: Appraising the institutional and cultural framework



Assess underlying causes for existing drivers and understand the incentives that drive management choices in the ecosystems in play.

- > What are relevant organisations and institutions related to the ecosystem services? Consider factors like mandate, reputation/credibility, capacity, interests etc.
- > What important policies, regulations and other positive or negative incentives currently exist affecting the condition of ecosystems (subsidies, taxes, command and control measures, norms and rules etc.)?
- > Are there any informal rules? Are they contradictory to the formal rules?
- > Which other kind of interests drive management choices regarding ecosystems (e.g. other economic and social aspects, cultural traditions and religious beliefs)?

Step 5: Preparing better decision-making



Based on identified ecosystem services risks and opportunities, appraise different policy options and identify entry points to key decision-making processes. Determine if an economic valuation of your priority ecosystem services could be a useful tool.

- > What risks and opportunities emerge in the scope as a result of changes to ecosystem services? Specify risks and opportunities based on the results of the prior steps.
- > Do you see the need for an economic valuation? If yes, how would you expect an economic valuation of the ecosystem services to contribute to the decisions you want to influence?
- > What are possible measures and activities to ensure and/or increase the flow of ecosystem services based on the (human and financial) resources available to you?
- > What kind of experience (positive and negative) related to the implementation of particular instruments and mechanism already exist in the region?
- > Which are policy options and entry points to key decision-making processes and which alternative/complementary approaches and measures (e.g. capacity building) should be considered?

Step 6: Implementing change



Define implementation strategy and working plan.

- > How well does the selection of agreed measures correspond to the results that are to be achieved?
- > What are the strategically most important measures? Is financing assured at least for implementing these measures?
- > Who is going to be involved in implementing and in what role? What role do private sectors and civil society play?
- > How is monitoring and evaluation supposed to be done in order to enhance an iterative process?
- > What are key messages and target groups for communication?

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