



## CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP ORGANISER'S REPORT

### *“Linking Ecosystem Services to Livelihood of Local Communities”*

*The opinions expressed and arguments employed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the OECD or of the governments of its Member countries.*

#### **Brief Description of what the conference/workshop was about**

The conference participants shared understanding of the importance of sustainable management and use of ecosystem services as a foundation for livelihoods of local communities, both rural and urban. The focus of the conference was governance systems linking ecosystem services to local livelihood. We aimed to learn the-state-of-the-art knowledge on governance of ecosystem services for livelihood. Second aim of the conference was to provide a platform for discussions on potentiality of ecosystem services for improving livelihood of rural communities among scholars, practitioners and public decision-makers.

#### **Participation – details of total number of participants, countries they came from, backgrounds (academia, industry, etc.)**

There were more than 84 participants at the conference not only from 10 OECD countries but also from 6 non-OECD countries. 20 speakers from Denmark (1), Sweden (1), Netherlands (1), Germany (1), UK (1), United States (2), Fiji (1), Australia (1), Japan (1), China (2), Philippines (1), Costa Rica (1), Laos (1), and Korea (5) shared their experiences and knowledge on how to link ecosystem services to local livelihood among the participants, and established networks of research and science-policy interface on the topic. There was also a poster session for junior researchers in which 8 speakers from Indonesia and Korea presented their research results.

The conference brought together scientists, students, policy makers, stakeholders and experts from international organisations. The representatives of ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization), Tropical Agricultural Research & Higher Education Centre, Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE), and Korea Forest Services took part in the conference. Participants were from both national and local government institutes such as ‘Korea Environment Institute’, ‘National Institute of Ecology’, ‘Korea Forest Research Institute’, ‘Korea Rural Economics Institute’, and ‘National Center for Agro Meteorology’. Non-governmental organizations such as ‘The National Nature Trust’, ‘Solidarity for life of Jirisan’, and ‘Citizen’s Coalition for National Park Conservation’ also participated in the conference. Furthermore, private forestry corporations, consultants, and a Buddhist temple participated also.

#### **Major highlights from the presentations**

The conference began by addressing the “science policy interface for ecosystem services”, and then continued to a forum on the relevance of traditional knowledge of local people to ecosystems management, provision of ecosystem services, and rural livelihood. The third area of the conference focused on the social systems of rewarding for ecosystem services. Payment for ecosystems being implemented in developed and developing countries were reviewed. The final sessions of the conference explored the role of stakeholders in the governance of ecosystems management for enhancement of ecosystem services and innovative approaches to develop governance of ecosystems management.



The conference was wrapped up in a panel discussion session, in which the key messages relevant for ecosystem services provision and improvement of local livelihood were synthesized, and lessons learnt arising from the presentations and open discussions for further research on the theme and dialogues in the science policy interface were summarized.

Furthermore, we had a dialogue with local stakeholders on local development linked with Jirisan National Park Ecosystem Services. This event was co-hosted by Seoul National University Ecological Economics Lab and a local non-governmental organization 'Jirisan National Park Conservation Network'. The post-conference tour participants are invited to the dialogue. In the dialogue a forestry corporation, local NGOs, Buddhist temples, and local community took part in.

Based on this conference, the following challenges and necessary conditions for good governance were identified.

### **Challenges faced in ecosystem management for local livelihood.**

1. Policies on ecosystem management do not yet incorporate the way that changes in the change patterns of natural and social systems are affecting ecosystem-human interactions.
2. The voices and interests of indigenous and local communities have not been fully accommodated in environmental management.
3. While there is general understanding that globalization is a problem, there is still very little knowledge about how globalization is actually impacting ecosystem services.

### **Necessary conditions and actions required for good governance**

#### *Related to Challenge 1-Changes in the change patterns of ecosystem-human interactions*

- Policies should be aligned with existing institutions, both statutory and customary
- Land rights (individual or communal) are necessary (but not sufficient)
- Local producers of ecosystem services must participate in problem identification
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#### *Related to Challenge 2-Voices and interests of indigenous and local communities*

- Governance of ecosystem services should first be local and context-based
- Management initiatives should be based on not only scientific but also indigenous and local knowledge
- The private sector must assume responsibility and benefit sharing must be realized

### **Major outcomes/conclusions in terms of policy relevance**

During and after the sessions of the conference, participants had several discussions about developing policy suggestions. Each of speaker participated actively in the process of identifying the main points of learning and key messages to policy makers concerning ecosystem management and local livelihood, based on their presentations and discussions. The policy brief formulated by speakers is placed at the end of this document.

We are planning to distribute a policy brief including the major policy-relevant conclusions of the conference not only to the government institutions of South Korea such as Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs but also to other international organisations such as OECD, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

The outputs of conference including policy brief will be also sent to the members of the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) both international and domestic so that the conclusions and key messages of conference can be delivered to the policy makers of ecosystem management in Korea and beyond. The Korean Ecosystem



Services Network(KESNet), the Korean partners of ESP includes government agencies, public and private research organizations, NGOs, and universities.

### **Relevance to CRP theme(s)**

This conference related to the natural resources challenges in the following reasons. First, the main topic of this conference is how to design the governance of ecosystem services for improving livelihood of local communities. There are many stakeholders including land owners, local communities, urban residents visiting rural landscapes, farmers, commercial enterprises, and industries engaged in the production and consumption of ecosystem services. These stakeholders can influence the management of natural resources providing ecosystem services. In particular, the local residents and land managers can play a critical role in ecosystem management while urban citizens; scientists, politicians can exert a great influence to decision making related to ecosystem management. This is one of reasons why the values of ecosystem services provided by the rural communities have been appreciated are less than their real value in decision-making of ecosystem management. This under-valuation has led to under-investment in ecosystem management, depreciation or destruction of natural ecosystems. Policy makers have introduced a number of proposals for development of innovative governance of ecosystem services for local livelihood, especially incorporating local traditional knowledge, and innovative social systems rewarding local communities for ecosystem services to correct the problem of under-investment. This conference can provide rich opportunities to share knowledge, experiences, theories, and best practices from OECD member and non-member countries so that scientists and policy makers can develop strategies for the sustainability of natural resources and livelihood of local communities. The outcome of conference can also contribute to policy development in governance of ecosystem services and rewarding local communities for provision of ecosystem services.

Second, the sustainability of natural resources is precondition of efficient supply of ecosystem services. There have not enough efforts in incorporating the wisdoms of local traditional knowledge into the decision making of ecosystem management. This conference can contribute to learn the role of traditional knowledge in science policy interface and governance of ecosystem services.

### **Website for further details – please also indicate if the presentations are/will be available on the website**

We created VOD contents which recording the presentations of conference for developing the studies in university and contributing the intellectual and cultural growth. These were made available online for anybody and uploaded to the Seoul National University Library website.

[http://rosetta-app.snu.ac.kr:1801/delivery/action/collectionViewer.do?collectionId=43539589&operation=viewCollection&resetBreadcrumbs=true&displayType=list&pds\\_handle=17122015143454125771142444018332](http://rosetta-app.snu.ac.kr:1801/delivery/action/collectionViewer.do?collectionId=43539589&operation=viewCollection&resetBreadcrumbs=true&displayType=list&pds_handle=17122015143454125771142444018332)



## Policy Recommendation

### *Linking Ecosystem Services to Livelihood of Local Communities*

14th October, 2015, Seoul, Republic of Korea

The conference participants shared understanding of the importance of sustainable management and use of ecosystem services as a foundation for livelihoods of local communities, both rural and urban. Based on this, the following challenges, necessary conditions for good governance and recommended actions were identified:

#### ONE PAGE SUMMARY

#### **Challenges faced in ecosystem management for local livelihood**

1. Policies on ecosystem management do not yet incorporate the way that changes in the change patterns of natural and social systems are affecting ecosystem-human interactions.
2. The voices and interests of indigenous and local communities have not been fully accommodated in environmental management.
3. While there is general understanding that globalization is a problem, there is still very little knowledge about how globalization is actually impacting ecosystem services.

#### **Necessary conditions and actions required for good governance**

##### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 1-Changes in the change patterns of ecosystem-human interactions

- Policies should be aligned with existing institutions, both statutory and customary
- Land rights (individual or communal) are necessary (but not sufficient)
- Local producers of ecosystem services must participate in problem identification
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##### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 2-Voices and interests of indigenous and local communities

- Governance of ecosystem services should first be local and context-based
- Management initiatives should be based on not only scientific but also indigenous and local knowledge
- The private sector must assume responsibility and benefit sharing must be realized

#### **Recommendations**

##### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 1-Changes in the change patterns of ecosystem-human interactions





- Adopt a more spatially integrated and holistic approach in policy/decision making process, including not only rural and wilderness but also urban green space
- Support research into which ecosystem functions are required to get which services;
- develop standards for local livelihood appropriate business

RELATED TO CHALLENGE 2-Voices and interests of indigenous and local communities

- Respect indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) and build synergies with science
- Continue to support Integrated Cross-and Trans-disciplinary Science
- Provide resources to improve fair and equitable co-operation and 'learning together'

RELATED TO CHALLENGE 3 - understanding how globalization is impacting ecosystem services

- Conduct impact assessments of globalization on ecosystem services
- Document best and poor practice of management impacts on local livelihoods
- support research on communication and motivation to inform long term policy

TWO PAGE DETAIL

**Challenges faced in ecosystem management for local livelihood**

1. Policies on ecosystem management do not yet incorporate the way that changes in the change patterns of natural and social systems are affecting ecosystem-human interactions.
  - A. Changing interactions between rural and urban areas have not been taken into account in planning policies and research on ecosystem services.
  - B. The social importance of ecological functions and the complexity of not being able to make clear distinctions between culture, livelihood and function are not taken into account in policies and research on ecosystem services.
  - C. Little consideration has been given to generations-to-come in policy making.
  - D. Motivations behind the use and conserving of ecosystem services are often poorly understood.
2. The voices and interests of indigenous and local communities have not been fully accommodated in environmental management.
  - A. The importance and complexity of local and traditional ecological knowledge for ecosystem management has been overlooked in policy.
  - B. And also in research and education, and so has not been included in the curriculum of conventional modern education.
3. While there is general understanding that globalization is a problem, there is still very little knowledge about how globalization is actually impacting ecosystem services.
  - A. Differences between impacts in tropical, temporal and artic regions are not well understood.



- B. Understanding of the drivers and potential solutions to globalization related loss of ecosystems services is still very limited.

### **Necessary conditions and actions required for good governance**

#### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 1-Changes in the change patterns of ecosystem-human interactions

1. Government policies on ecosystem management and local livelihood should be in aligned with policies in other sectors and existing institutions, both statutory and customary.
2. Properly defined and understood land rights (either individual or communal) are a necessary (but not sufficient) condition for most environmental policies to be effective and equitable.
3. The needs of local producers of ecosystem services, including their need to ensure their livelihood must be respected: meaning, local people must participate not only in decision-making processes but also in problem identification and in the design of value adding ecosystems services projects.

#### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 2-Voices and interests of indigenous and local communities

1. The governance of ecosystems and the services these provide should first be local and context-based; scaling up and linking this to national and international governance has to be done with great care, and with the involvement of local stakeholders.
2. Not only scientific but also traditional knowledge have to be incorporated to build synergies between safe guards for nature and the supporting of local livelihoods:
3. Ecological management initiatives must be combined with both indigenous and local culture and knowledge, and indigenous and local management approaches already in use.
4. The private sector must assume responsibility for honoring the importance of ecosystem services and the livelihood of local communities and learn how to be ethno- cultural- social and ecological sensitive in making their business investment plans and in conducting their business.
5. Benefit sharing distribution mechanisms that are simple, practical, transparent, equitable and fair must be put in place and implemented.

### **Recommendations**

#### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 1-Changes in the change patterns of ecosystem-human interactions

- Adopt a more spatially integrated and holistic trans-ecosystem and cross-sectoral approach in policy/decision making process: land holders, resources owners, resource users and resources managers of habitats and ecosystems are governed by many different institutions at different levels.
- Include not only rural and wilderness but also urban green space and green areas as target areas for biodiversity conservation.



## Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems

- Support research into which ecosystem functions are required in order to get which ecosystem services, so that motivations for management are clear and decision-makers understand clearly what is being protected, for what reasons, in order to get back what returns.
- Develop standards for local livelihood appropriate business investment plans and private sector business conduct.

### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 2-Voices and interests of indigenous and local communities

- Respect indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) and invite the local and indigenous communities to policy and decision making process such that synergies between the best modern science and established ILK can be discovered.
- Continue to support Integrated Cross-and Trans-disciplinary Science in research and education, including providing resources to improve fair and equitable co-operation and learning together between indigenous and local knowledge holders and modern science.

### RELATED TO CHALLENGE 3 - understanding how globalization is impacting ecosystem services

- Conduct impact assessments to determine what are the main impacts globalization on ecosystem services and what are the main differences across regions.
- Document best practice and poor practice examples of the impact of ecosystem services management on local livelihoods.
- Support research into questions of communication and motivation that can inform policy focused on the long term.