

Brief summary of the Cultural Ecosystem Services Workshop - 2-3 June 2014 at UNEP-WCMC

The two day workshop had as an objective to identify a suitable approach for assessing and evaluating cultural ecosystem services that could be included into the Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessment (TESSA). The workshop was attended by 15 experts (see attached participants list) in cultural ecosystem service from both academia and NGOs.

The first day started with introductions and presentations on; how TESSA is structured and applied; challenges of assessing cultural services; and three different experiences and approaches to assessing and evaluating cultural services (done by three participants). The afternoon focused on a role play activity where participants were divided into three groups and were given three different examples where they were tasked to assess cultural services. This was later presented in plenary and the identified methodological approaches discussed.

In the morning of the second day, the different methods were discussed and it was communally decided which of these methods should be included into TESSA. The participants then got to choose which of the four methodological approaches (mapping, survey, creative and participatory methods) they wanted to join to discuss further and write some guidance notes for. This was later presented and discussed in plenary.

The outcome of the workshop was very positive, as the objectives of the workshop were achieved. Furthermore, the participants provided us with positive feedback of their experience and design of workshop. Two of the four identified outputs from the workshop are close to being achieved as a first draft of the new TESSA module is scheduled to be sent for review by the end of September to the workshop participants. Following this, work on the scientific publication will follow which all participants shared an interest in being involved in.

The workshop's minutes provide a more in depth description of all the activities and outcomes of the workshop.