Sub-Global Assessment Network

7th Annual International **Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP)** Conference

Local action for the common good

8th – 12th September, 2014

San Jose, Costa Rica

Pre-conference training session

In collaboration with partners from BirdLife International (Jenny Merriman and Isadora Angarita-Martínez), the SGA Network Secretariat convened a two-day pre-conference training session before the commencement of the 7th ESP Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica. This workshop took place on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September, 2014 at the Barceló San José Palacio Hotel. The training session provided an introduction to TESSA: the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment.

The training session was open to all, and we were delighted to welcome 20 participants to this event, covering all career stages from masters and PhD students to professors, and from many institutes including universities, NGOs and research organisations. The participants travelled from 14 different countries to join the training session; including: Lithuania, Belgium, Nepal, Taiwan, Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica (*please see the training session participants list at the end of this report*).

Objectives

The objectives of this workshop were to:

- Provide an introduction to, and raise awareness of TESSA;
- Provide an overview of the TESSA methods with some practical exercises;
- Provide some examples of the use of TESSA in order for participants to understand how, and be able to plan, to use TESSA in their study sites; and to
- Introduce the SGA Network, providing examples of what it sets out to achieve and some of the activities which are carried out under its work programme.

Programme

The training session incorporated a mixture of presentations, case studies, practical exercises and feedback sessions which were designed to provide an insight into what TESSA is, what it sets out to achieve, how it is implemented, and to showcase some results of its use. *Please see the training session agenda at the end of this report*.

Feedback

This TESSA training session was very successful, providing a good introduction to the TESSA toolkit and its functionality and use. Participant feedback reflected the positive reception of this workshop; some breakdown of feedback is presented below:

- 100% of workshop participants commented that they now have "reasonable", "good" or "very good" understanding of TESSA on completion of the workshop.
- 63.7% of workshop participants felt that the workshop content was either "well" or "very well" suited to their needs.
- 100% of workshop participants commented that the workshop content was delivered in a way that was "mostly" or "entirely" easy to follow.
- And, 54.6% of workshop participants commented that they are "quite likely" or "very likely" to use the TESSA toolkit in their future work.

Outcome

This pre-conference training session was effective in delivering an introduction to 20 individuals on the TESSA toolkit. The content was delivered effectively with all participants taking away much improved awareness, understanding and knowledge of its content, and many also making plans to use it in their ongoing work and studies. As such, this should be seen to have been a very productive and successful training event. However, this training session was delivered during a two-day period, and it is apparent from feedback received, that this type of training would benefit from being run over a slightly longer timeframe (36.4% of respondents selected "No, a bit longer would be good" in response to the question 'Do you think a two-day workshop provides enough time to understand TESSA sufficiently?', and 45.5% of respondents selected "Yes, but more time to have hands on experience would be good"). As such, any future events of this nature would likely have even better impact if delivered over a slightly longer timeframe.

Acknowledgements

The SGA Network Secretariat would like to extend thanks to Jenny Merriman and Isadora Angarita-Martínez of BirdLife International for their help in developing and presenting this training session; to Dolf de Groot and the ESP Secretariat for providing us with this opportunity and assisting with the organisation of the pre-conference session; and to all of our training session participants whose contributions and active participation and engagement made for an interesting, stimulation and productive two days of training. We look forward to providing more training sessions and events of this nature for our Network members and the wider ecosystem assessment community in the near future.

An Introduction to TESSA: the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment
---San Jose, Costa Rica, 6th & 7th September 2014---

Participant List

Title	Name	Country	Organisation	Email Address
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Miss	Silvie Daniels	Belgium	Hasselt University, Centre for Environmental Sciences	silvie.daniels@uhasselt.be
Mr	Uri Ramon	Israel	Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel - OLI- Open Landscape Institute	uriramon@bezeqint.net
Dr	Vytautas Narusevicius	Lithuania	Environmental Protection Agency	v.narusevicius@aaa.am.lt

An introduction to TESSA: the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment.
Presented by BirdLife International through an SGA Network and OPERAs training session
6th – 7th September 2014
Barceló San José Palacio Hotel and Conference Centre, San Jose, Costa Rica
7th annual ESP conference: pre-conference training session - AGENDA

Trainers	Jenny Birch (JB), BirdLife International, Global Secretariat, UK
	Isadora Angarita-Martinez (IAM), BirdLife International, Americas Secretariat, Ecuador
	Matthew Ling (ML), UNEP-WCMC, UK
	Mark Mulligan (MM), Kings College London, UK (remote)

Day 1

Saturday 6th	Introducing ecosystem services and the TESSA toolkit
8:30	Opening comments (ML)
8:45	Introductions and aims of the workshop (ML)
9:00	TALK: Introduction to the toolkit (IAM)
10:00	*Coffee break*
10:30	TALK: Planning an assessment and the Rapid Appraisal (IAM)
11:30	TALK: Understanding the alternative state (JB)
11:50	EXERCISE: Understanding the alternative state (JB, IAM)
12:30	*Lunch*
	Measuring services using TESSA
13:30	CASE STUDY: Parque Nacional Llanganates, Ecuador (IAM, JB)
	Discussion and general questions
14:30	Toolkit methods: carbon storage (JB)
15:00	PRACTICAL: Carbon data entry (in pairs) (JB, IAM)
15:30	*Coffee served – to be taken during practical session*
16:00	TALK: Economic valuation & biodiversity and ES assessment (JB)
16:15	DEBATE: how well does the valuation approach work for conservation? (JB, IAM, ML)
17:15	*End of day 1*
Evening	*Social event (TBC)*

Day 2

Sunday 7th	Measuring services using TESSA (*continued*)
8:30	Feedback from Day 1 (ML)
9:00	TOOLKIT METHODS: WaterWorld & other water methods (JB, MM)
11:00	*Coffee break*
11:30	TOOLKIT METHODS: nature-based recreation (IAM)
12:00	PRACTICAL: Nature-based recreation data entry (in groups) (IAM, JB)
13:00	*Lunch*
14:00	TOOLKIT METHODS: harvested wild &cultivated goods (JB)
14:30	CASE STUDY: Nepal Community Forestry (JB)
15:30	*Coffee break*
16:00	TALK: Presenting Toolkit Results/The Importance of Distribution of Benefits (JB)
16:30	Workshop feedback (pass the parcel) - All
17:00	*Workshop close*

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<u>**Special session**</u>

On Wednesday 10th September the SGA Network Secretariat convened and facilitated a 'special session' at the 7th annual international Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The two-hour session focussed on 'bringing local assessments and experiences to bear on decision-making and human well-being at larger scales'. This session brought together five presenters (Nelson Grima (Alpen-Adria University), Chiho Kamiyama (United Nations University), Alon Lotan (Hamaarag - Israel's National Nature Assessment Program), Simone Maynard (Australian National University), and Odirilwe Selomane (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Arfrica)) whose abstracts had been selected for this session, and two additional invited presenters (Isadora Angarita-Martínez, BirdLife International Americas Secretariat, and John Dymond, Landcare Research, New Zealand).

The presenters were asked to draw upon the lessons learned and experiences gained from local assessments and how these have been utilised to bring about influence on decision making at larger scales, delivering their core messages in 10-minute presentation slots. The presentations that were delivered were as follows:

- New Zealand National Ecosystem Assessment – Ecosystem services in NZ: conditions and trends (*John Dymond*)
- Israel's National Ecosystem Assessment: Some preliminary findings (*Alon Lotan*)
- Non-market food provisioning services through self-production and communal sharing networks in Satoyama socio-ecological production landscapes, Japan (*Chiho Kamiyamal*)
- A methodology for integrated ecosystem service assessments across multiple scales (*Simone Maynard*)
- Characterization of PES schemes to identify their potential to be successful (*Nelson Grima*)
- A case study - Parque Nacional Llanganates, Ecuador (*Isadora Angarita Martinez*)
- What can existing datasets tell us about the contribution of nature to human wellbeing? (*Odirilwe Selomane*)

<u>Objectives</u>

The objectives of this special session were to:

1. Increase participants' awareness of the SGAN and its role in supporting sub-global assessment activities;
2. Highlight examples of best practice in local level activities which have benefits for decision-making and human well-being at larger scales; and examine opportunities for replication, adaptation or up-scaling of these initiatives;
3. Consider the range of tools available to support local-level assessments;
4. Discuss how the SGAN could better support local level initiatives, and facilitate the exchange of information/experiences and lessons between and amongst these initiatives; as well as between local level initiatives and activities/processes at larger scales (e.g. IPBES); and
5. Promote exchange and networking amongst practitioners (at the session) involved in assessments at the local scale, as well as between local scale assessments and larger scale initiatives.

<u>Facilitated plenary session</u>

Following on from the presentations, there were two periods of 'question and answer' in order for the audience to pose questions to the presenters and gain a deeper understanding of specific points of interest. Finally the session concluded with a facilitated discussion session whereby Keisha Garcia posed a number of points and questions to the audience, in order to facilitate a discussion amongst the audience centred on the experiences and lessons learned from conducting and being involved in various ecosystem assessment processes. Some of the main discussion points arising from this session are set out below:

New insights coming out of the workshop:

- There are a number of factors which may contribute to the success of PES schemes across the world, e.g.:

  - Clearly defined ecosystem services
  - Local scale, and longer-term (10 – 30 yrs) focus
  - Buyers and sellers are private with no intermediaries
  - Strong in-kind contributions (e.g. capacity building)

- Non-market food services (shared through communal networks) are important in certain parts of Japan for increasing food security, strengthening social relations and improving community resilience

  - Opportunities for up-scaling and transfer?

- Reinforced: It is possible to use existing data/ information in new and innovative ways to meet the needs of various ES processes (examples presented from South Africa)

- Reinforced: There is need for a common framework for undertaking assessments (especially at larger scales), although it is understood that there will be adaptations of this framework to address different policy questions and considerations

- The UK NEA framework has been successfully adapted in other countries undertaking assessments in a manner that allows them to answer their own policy-relevant questions (examples from New Zealand and Israel presented)

Plans for the SGA Network:

- The SGA Network will continue to provide a supporting mechanism for new and existing ecosystem assessments and assessment practitioners.

- The SGA Network will seek to provide better links (and support) between ongoing national level assessments.

- The SGA Network will continue to develop new approaches to supporting new and existing members and early career stage ecosystem assessment practitioners.

- The SGA Network will seek to engage more with its members in order to provide more opportunities for support and capacity building initiatives.

Acknowledgements

The SGA Network secretariat would like to extend many thanks to all of the presenters listed above for joining us in this special session and sharing their experiences and lessons learned with the audience. In addition, special thanks also go out to all participants of this workshop for joining us and contributing to an engaging and interesting session.