

Special Session on Ecosystem Services, BES Annual Meeting, 4 September 2008

The British Ecological Society and UK BRAG have been working together since early to develop a session on ecosystem services at the 2008 BES annual meeting.

The joint BES – UKBRAG session at the annual meeting will provide an opportunity to update the ecological community about work which Defra has been undertaking to develop and operationalise a holistic approach to considering whole ecosystems within policy-making. It will also provide a chance to update members on developments which have taken place, in both research and policy, since the 2006 joint BES – Defra workshop on this issue. You can access the notes from this workshop at www.britishecologicalsociety.org/articles/publicaffairs.

Broadly, the functions of the session are:

- To facilitate connections between the scientific community and policy –makers and to stimulate discussion.
- To introduce the interdisciplinarity inherent in the Ecosystem Approach, involving economics and social science, to a wide audience and to highlight the benefits of interdisciplinary working to younger ecologists.

Outline programme (please note that the programme is a draft. The titles of presentations are subject to change):

Presentation		Time
Introduction from the Chair	Professor Georgina Mace (Imperial College London)	14.10
Policy Context		
The 2006 BES – Defra Workshop: An overview of progress made	- Dr Peter Costigan (Chair, UKBRAG) - Dr Peter Carey (BES)	14.20
Defra's Action Plan for Embedding an Ecosystem Approach	Professor Roy Haines Young and Dr Marion Potschin (University of Nottingham)	14.30
The need for a UK Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	Professor Edward Maltby (Director, SWIMMER)	14.40
Scientific Presentations		
Mapping Ecosystem Services across the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania	Dr Ruth Swetnam (Conservation Science Group, University of Cambridge)	14.55
The Role of Biodiversity	Professor Alastair Fitter	15.10

in Ecosystem Services	<i>(Chair, EASAC Working Group</i>	
The Importance of Ecosystem Services for Humanity	Professor Andrew Watkinson <i>(Chair, Programme Advisory Board, ESPA)</i>	15.40
Refreshments		15.40 – 16.00
Applying the Science		
Living with Environmental Change	Dr Dan Osborn <i>(NERC)</i>	16.00
Working Together: The Benefits of Interdisciplinarity	Dr Gunther Tress and Dr Baerbel Tress <i>(University of Aberdeen)</i>	16.15
Panel Discussion		16.15 – 16.55
Closing Remarks	Professor Georgina Mace	16.55 – 17.00
Informal Wine Reception		17.00 – 18.00