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December 2011 Newsletter

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Editorial: Reflections on ESPA's 2011

By Paul van Gardingen, ESPA Director

As we approach the end of 2011, and the first full year of the ESPA Directorate's operation, I'd like to reflect on the ESPA programme and how it is helping to make the link between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation.

The ESPA programme has been increasingly active during 2011, as can be seen in our [newsletters](#) ^[1] and [blogs](#) ^[2].

With all this activity it's easy to forget that our current work builds upon a strong foundation of work starting with the UN's [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](#) ^[3] in 2005, which led to the commencement of the ESPA programme in 2007 with the commissioning of six [Situation Analyses](#) ^[4].

We have just produced a graphical [timeline for ESPA](#) ^[5] which lets you see the main components of the programme, including our plans for future calls.

During 2011, the Directorate concentrated on supporting projects through providing a strong [vision](#) ^[6] for the programme which includes links to strategies for [Knowledge](#) ^[7], [Impact](#) ^[8] and [Communication](#) ^[9]. We also ran workshops on [valuation](#) ^[10] and [poverty](#) ^[11].

Early in 2012 we will publish new guidelines on understanding and researching poverty in ESPA, along with a new strategy for putting ESPA's research into use. There will also be a full programme of events during the year, designed either to assist projects in their research or to help ensure that ESPA's research is used to improve the lives of the world's poor.

The last year has also been busy with calls for new ESPA research; the major ESPA Consortia through a process administered by the [ESPA Secretariat](#) ^[12] at [NERC](#) ^[13] and the much smaller [Evidence and Impact Research Grants \(EIRGs\)](#) ^[14] administered by the ESPA Directorate. The results of both calls will be announced early in 2012. We will also be announcing details for additional calls in 2012 including a series of ESPA Large Projects (expected in March 2012), ESPA Integrative Projects (provisionally in October 2012) and another round of the Directorate's Evidence and Impact Research Grants which will be designed to respond to evidence challenges emerging from next year's [Rio+20 conference](#) ^[15].

The highlight of my year has been the opportunity to interact with ESPA researchers and people already using ESPA's research. Some of these have been described in our newsletter, blogs and our new [Making an Impact](#) ^[16] series. I'd like to highlight a few that illustrate what ESPA means for me.

ESPA's research is already changing lives as can be seen in our [Swahili Seas](#) ^[17] project and its impact note '[Mangroves to Market](#)' ^[18] which describes how our researchers are demonstrating the use of carbon markets to restore a coastal ecosystem and generate local livelihoods. Many **ESPA projects are developing innovative new methodologies** as I saw during my visit to Bolivia and our project [What types of investment can most cost-effectively ensure ecosystem service provision? A randomized program evaluation](#) ^[19]. This project is using methods borrowed from experimental economics to test the effectiveness of small-scale payments for ecosystem services as described in our impact note '[Do ecosystem conservation projects work](#)' ^[20]?. When I visited Botswana in July, hosted by Professor Moses Chimbari for the University of Botswana and a member of ESPA's [International Programme Advisory Committee](#) ^[21], I was made aware of the challenges of generating benefits for local people from ecosystem-based tourism. This illustrated how **ESPA projects need to contribute to some of the most challenging issues linking ecosystem services and poverty alleviation.**



Visiting the University of Botswana field station in the Okavango Delta hosted by Professor Moses Chimbari

The ESPA programme needs to link with key policy processes both internationally and at national and local levels. The 2011 conference of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Durban in early December, saw some progress in global efforts to address the challenges of future climate change.

What did Durban mean for ESPA? Most people seem to agree that there has been progress on the REDD+ agenda. One of [CIFOR's recent Blog entries](#) ^[22], by Michelle Kovacevic, gives a good introduction to what Durban achieved on REDD, as well as highlighting some of the future challenges that research programmes such as ESPA will need to address.

Another theme of relevance to ESPA which was discussed at Durban relates to [Land use, land-use change and forests](#) ^[23] which was the topic of a [Global Land Project meeting that I attended in Brazil recently](#).

During 2012 ESPA will be looking to contribute to [Rio+20](#) ^[15], to the [11th Conference of Parties](#) ^[24] to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD](#) ^[25]) and to the establishment of [IPBES](#) ^[26], the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

I'd like to end this Editorial by saying how much I have enjoyed working with the ESPA community this year in building a platform for the future success and impact of the programme. As an international programme covering most regions, cultures and religions of the world, I'd like to wish those of you who celebrate Christmas a very Merry Christmas, and for those of you who observe the Gregorian calendar a happy and productive New Year.

To everyone, I look forward to working with you as part of the growing ESPA community during 2012.

Highlight: Placing ecosystem management within the discourse of addressing world problems

By Dr Richard Munang, Policy Advisor and Programme Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation & Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The world's ecosystems that provide the essential 'life support', or ecosystem services, on which we all depend are currently being degraded at an alarming rate. This is occurring at a time when we face an increasing human population resulting in greater demand for food, water and other natural resources.

Biodiversity is being lost and we face the uncertainty of how climate change will impact upon us. This is a problem that affects all of humanity because ecosystems underpin all economic activity and are the foundation for human well-being.

Without secure, healthy and fully functional ecosystems, all sections of society, rich and poor, will face substantial detriment in the future, through loss of ecosystem services and the collapse of economies. To get out of this malice, a cost effective approach is crucially needed. This should be an approach that not only better manages the ecosystems but also provides benefits like poverty alleviation and climate change regulation as well as underpinning the transition to a sustainable Green Economy.

This approach is called the Ecosystems Management approach with core ingredients that helps to integrate social dimensions into the development of appropriate stimulus mechanisms that aim to achieve social equity and environmental protection. This has the potential to ensure a transformational change from the current socially inequitable, environmentally damaging wealth creation based society to one which demonstrates equitable well-being and sustainable maintenance, one where we develop within the limits of Earth's ecosystem services capacities.

The Ecosystem Management concept can serve as a key medium to integrate across scales to facilitate local and global objectives. It can also serve as a model for social inclusion by incorporating individual, civic, national and international responsibilities for environmental stewardship to become a central consideration in political and economic processes. We then explore the changes needed to administrative frameworks, governance and institutional structures, economic models and political economies to include the Ecosystem Management approach.

Given the rising trends of global temperature, hunger, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, compounded by a global population of 7 billion, which is to hit 9 billion in the next 40 years, the need to look for sustainable solutions to address these crises has never been so urgent.

According to a recent study entitled '[Ecosystem Management: Tomorrow's Approach to Enhancing Food Security under a Changing Climate](#)' ^[27], global food security under a changing climate is possible if the vital role of healthy ecosystems is recognized. The researchers suggest that an ecosystem-based approach must be integrated with other measures to tackle food security under climate change, to protect ecosystems and to supply the essential services on which humanity depends.

Our economy operates on an unsustainable basis as it does not fully account for environmental externalities. We need a transition to an economic system that reflects the environment; one based on ecosystem services.

Currently there are severe pressures on the health of our ecosystems and the decline in the health and quality of services is occurring at an alarming rate. Without fully reflecting the value of natural assets and sharing the benefits of ecosystems more equitably, human interaction with them will remain unsustainable and degradation is likely to accelerate, leading to the potential collapse of important ecosystem functions and

services. This threatens the security of all sectors of society, regardless of political ideologies, cultures or stages of development. In a paper entitled '[Restoring the natural foundation to sustain a Green Economy](#)' ^[28], a focus on what to do in the transition period of the next 20 years after Rio+20 is crafted.

A range of solutions using the Ecosystem Management approach to tackle the many pressures we are facing is highlighted in the paper. Considering the fundamental basis for life on Earth, it is inconceivable that we cannot progress without maintaining the health of Earth's diverse ecosystems. It thus falls to all people, as individuals, communities, the private sector and representatives of nations, to face up to the challenges ahead and to utilize the best available solutions with commitment and understanding, to ensure a stable transition to a green economy.

For more information, contact:

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Ecosystem Services: land use change and a tale of two ecosystems

By Paul van Gardingen, ESPA Director

Last month I visited Brazil as a guest of the ISCU Global Land Project (GLP). I was attending a workshop marking the transition of their International Programme Office from Denmark to the Brazilian [National Institute for Space Research](#) ^[30] (INPE) just outside São Paulo. The workshop had the theme of Land Use Transitions in South America and I took the opportunity to share ESPA's approach with researchers involved in the GLP.

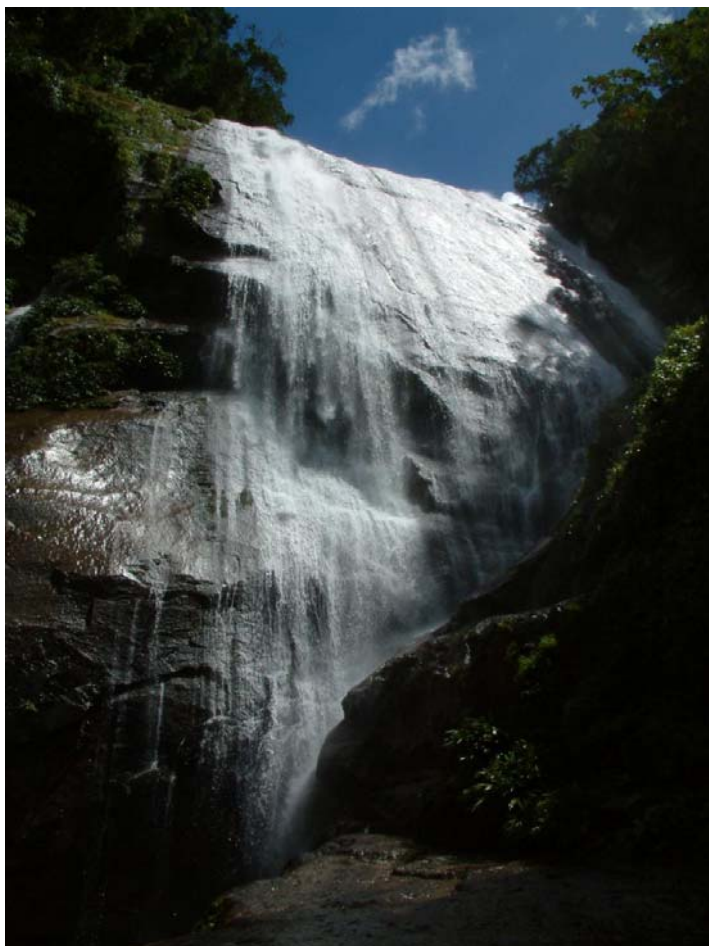
Anyone who has heard me speak about ESPA and its approach to impact won't be surprised by my message that researchers need to put people and their well-being at the heart of both their research and the intended impact. The approach to research needs to be fully interdisciplinary linking the social, natural and economic sciences. None of that will be new to anyone associated with the ESPA programme.

During my visit, the thing that excited me was the discussion about the potential benefits that can be delivered by sharing experiences between major research programmes, looking for synergies and complementarity and ways that we can share new approaches or results. I certainly took home some new ideas and shared some of ESPA's innovative approaches with others at the workshop. It also helped to reinforce the importance in my mind of a shift in emphasis in the ESPA Directorate in the coming year.

Over the last year the Directorate has seen an emphasis on building partnerships within the ESPA programme, between ESPA projects and between projects and the immediate users of their research. In the next year, my priority in terms of building partnerships will be to look outside of the programme and to build links with other relevant programmes to enhance the reach of ESPA's research, and so that ESPA researchers can benefit from the experience and expertise from other programmes. This approach will also help our researchers to reach a broader pool of users of research.

During the workshop in Brazil, I found myself broadening the range of UK-funded research programmes that I mentioned as being relevant to the GLP and by extension to ESPA researchers. These included the recent [Foresight Project on Land Use Futures](#) ^[31], NERC's programmes on [Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Sustainability](#) ^[32], the [Valuing Nature Network](#) ^[33] and the Defra-DFID funded [Darwin Initiative](#) ^[34]. One of my priorities for the coming year is to look for ways that we can bring together results and researchers from these programmes (and others) to provide a more coherent and comprehensive set of evidence for critical debates and policy processes linking the environment and human well-being.

Immediately after the formal workshop I spent a day exploring a remnant of the Atlantic Forest on the island of Ilhabela off the coast of the state of São Paulo. The Atlantic Forest ecosystem is relatively poorly known outside of Brazil which of course is normally associated in people's minds with the much larger Amazon.



The Atlantic Forest ecosystems are under much more immediate threat than the Amazon with less than 10% of the ecosystem remaining and much of what is left being degraded and under threat of loss and destruction. The forest at Ilhabela was a contrast, being well protected and valued both by local communities and by the wider public. The island and its natural ecosystems are seen as being important, are well protected, and provide important tourism income for the local people as well as the direct environmental services of clean water and soil protection for all those living on the island.

I had to ask: why did this work at this location, whilst elsewhere in South America there are all too many examples of ecosystem degradation? I also reflected on lessons learnt from a review I had done previously for the Darwin Initiative on the [conservation of biodiversity on islands](#) ^[35].

I concluded that there were several factors relevant to the way that people valued ecosystems and their services for the Atlantic Forests on Ilhabela. The first was the availability of alternative sources of income. The State of São Paulo is one of the economic powerhouses of Brazil. People don't need to exploit the forest to generate income. The second is that islands do have the advantage of having a natural boundary that makes it easier to monitor any 'illegal' activity. Having only one place from where ferries can leave the island makes it difficult to hide any illegal products leaving the forest. It was only when I left the island, that I saw the third factor that helped people to recognise the 'value' of the environment. Every car leaving the island was required to pay a charge for the environmental services.

As I left the island, I reflected that those three points could contribute to success in many ESPA locations:

1. Providing alternative income sources that reduce the need to exploit and degrade ecosystems
2. Good governance and systems of monitoring and enforcement that prevent illegal activities degrading ecosystems
3. Effective, transparent and visible systems of payments for ecosystem services

I also needed to question: what about impact? Does it work? As the Director of a programme designed to link the sustainable provision of ecosystem services with human well-being and poverty alleviation, I had to look for evidence both of the sustainable provision of ecosystem services and of the link to people's income, health and well-being. The human dimension was easy to see. People living on the island derived much of their livelihoods from the maintenance and sustainable management of the ecosystem and they also benefited directly from services such as the provision of clean water and flood protection. In terms of the sustainable provision of ecosystem services, I could compare what I saw in Ilhabela with what I had seen in the Santa Cruz valleys in Bolivia a few months earlier.



In Bolivia I visited the water supply for a municipality in the valley at the base of a water fall. I was told how the loss of forest and land degradation in the catchment had meant that the flow of water over the waterfall and into the supply for the city had declined drastically as forest had been converted into pasture over recent decades. In Brazil, where the forest had been protected, I saw that the water supply had also been protected, providing a service to all people living on the island and the many thousands of visitors coming to enjoy the natural environment each year. Of course, there was no evidence of cause and effect, but the stories that people told me were compelling and consistent with evidence from other regions providing a research question relating to understanding the links between forest ecosystems and the provision of clean water for people. The links the Forests and Water themes of ESPA, whilst my earlier observations about incentives to protect ecosystems and the services they provide fall under ESPA's political economy theme.

The second part of my visit to Brazil involved the lead up to Rio+20 next year in June. The ESPA programme sees that the Rio event is a major opportunity for research evidence to influence global debates, policy and practice linking environment, economic growth and human well-being. ESPA is working with other research programmes and representatives of other UK, Brazilian and International organisations to make our science relevant and accessible in the lead-up to Rio and any follow-up activities.

We now have [a page on our website about Rio+20](#) ^[15] and will use this to let ESPA projects know how we will be working to ensure that ESPA science contributes to Rio+20.

New Journal: *Ecosystem Services* – Scheduled Launch 2012

Elsevier is launching a new journal, *Ecosystem Services* ^[36], in 2012. The journal is associated with the *Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP)* ^[37].

Ecosystem Services is an international, interdisciplinary journal that deals with the science, policy and practice of Ecosystem Services in the following disciplines: ecology and economics, institutions, planning and decision making, economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry and outdoor recreation, and all types of ecosystems.

The aims of the journal are:

1. to improve our understanding of the dynamics, benefits and social and economic values of ecosystem services
2. to provide insight in the consequences of policies and management for ecosystem services with special attention to sustainability issues
3. to create a scientific interface to policymakers in the field of ecosystem services assessment and practice, and
4. to integrate the fragmented knowledge about ecosystem services, synergies and trade-offs, currently found in a wide field of specialist disciplines and journals.

Detailed information, including the online submission system, can be found at www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoser ^[36].

[Register](#) ^[38] now and receive an alert when the first issue is live on ScienceDirect.

If you have any questions please contact [Sandra Broerse](#) ^[39] at Elsevier.

[Submit your paper](#) ^[40].

UNEP's Ecosystem Services Economics Working Papers: Now Available Online

The UNEP Ecosystem Management sub-program helps countries use the ecosystem approach to enhance human well-being and adapt to challenges of climate change. UNEP is pleased to provide a forum for disseminating working papers reflecting the broad range of research activities on economics of ecosystem services. Papers in this series are not formal publications of UNEP. They are circulated to encourage thought and discussion and make results of some ecosystem services economics related research available to other economists, scientists and policy makers working in this area.

[Download UNEP's publications from here.](#) ^[41]

A list of the working papers available is given below:

- Revisiting the Relationship between Equity and Efficiency in Payments for Environmental Services
- Making Payments for Ecosystem Services Work
- Valuing Ecosystem Services: Benefits, Values, Space and Time
- Managing Trade-offs in Ecosystem Services
- The 'Ecosystem Service Framework': A Critical Assessment
- Evaluating the Economic Impacts of Water Harvesting in Burkina Faso
- Accounting for Regulating Services
- Valuation of Ecosystem Services in Coastal Ecosystems: Asian and European Perspectives
- European Forests and Carbon Sequestration Services: An Economic Assessment of Climate Change Impacts
- Institution and Ecosystem Functions: The Case of Keti Bunder, Pakistan

- Towards a Unified Scheme for Environmental and Social Protection: Learning from Payments for Environmental Services and Conditional Cash Transfer Experiences in Developing Countries
- Are The Amounts of Payments for Environmental Services Enough to Contribute to Poverty Alleviation Efforts in Developing Countries?
- Cost-Benefit Analysis in the Context of Ecosystem Services for Human Well-Being: A Multidisciplinary Critique
- Exploring the Potential of Payments for Ecosystem Services for in-situ Agrobiodiversity Conservation
- The Precautionary Principle and Global Environmental Change
- The provision of international environmental public goods
- Paying for International Environmental Public Goods

Recent ESPA Blogs

In case you missed any of [the recent ESPA blogs](#) [2], please visit the ESPA website to catch up.

Recent posts have included one by [Tim Daw, PI of one of the ESPA Programme Framework Grants](#) [42] ([Participatory Modelling Frameworks to Understand Wellbeing Trade-offs in Coastal Ecosystem Services: NE/I00324X/1](#) [43]). Tim's blog looks at what is needed for the concept of ecosystem services to be relevantly applied to poverty alleviation.

In another blog, Paul van Gardingen writes about the [importance of being ready](#) [44] to talk and work with potential users of ESPA research, being ready to capture new opportunities for research, to adopt new approaches and to grasp unexpected and unplanned opportunities to gain impact from ESPA research.

Senior Researcher Vacancy: Forest Team, IIED

IIED is recruiting a **Senior Researcher** to its Forest Team. This is a full-time, permanent post and its purpose is to help develop and steer a programme of policy research on tree-based enterprise, on- and off-farm, to meet growing demands for food, fodder, fuel and fibre within sustainable and equitable landscapes.

Full details, including the job description and application form, can be found on the [IIED website](#) [45].

The closing date for applications is **Friday 13 January 2012**. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 31 January 2012. Please send all enquiries and applications to humanresources@iied.org [46].

UNDP's Poverty in Focus

The UNDP's [International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth \(IPC-IG\)](#) [47] published the latest issue of its [Poverty in Focus magazine](#) [48] to mark the opening of [the 17th Conference of the Parties \(COP17\) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\) in Durban](#) [49].

The issue focusses on 'Growth, Gender, Poverty and Environment: Dimensions of Inclusive Development'.

The new IPC-IG magazine looks at linking dimensions of inclusive growth with sustainability and particularly with social sustainability, as pointed out by [Mr Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNDP Assistant Administrator, in his op-ed article published by Al Jazeera English](#) [50].

Stay connected with the all the latest news from the IPC-IG Rural and Sustainable Development team through their [Press Room](#) [51], [Twitter](#) [52], [Facebook](#) [53] and [YouTube](#) [54] channels.

Articles of interest to the ESPA community

- [Rio+20 Policy Brief: Biodiversity and ecosystems for a planet under pressure](#) [55]

This is one of nine policy briefs produced by the scientific community to inform the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

These briefs have been commissioned by the international conference *Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions* (www.planetunderpressure2012.net [56]).

[Access the other briefs in the series online.](#) [57]

- [Read a UNEP policy series paper on restoring the natural foundation to sustain a green economy](#) [28]
- [Aid for trade and the green economy in Africa](#) [58]
- [New research to reduce poverty](#) [59]

Seventeen new research awards have been made as part of a joint 'poverty alleviation' research programme from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

- [Improving the public's access to DFID's research](#) [60]

DFID's commitment to making all of the research that it commissions on international development freely available, takes another step forward.

Other News and Information of interest to ESPA

[Andrew Mitchell Speech: Beyond Aid](#) [61]

Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, delivered a speech at the Wellcome Trust on 11 November 2011 called 'Beyond aid', setting out how aid - although important - is only one of the tools that Britain should be using to fight poverty.

A holistic approach to development would see DFID officials judged 'not just by how well they administer British aid, but by how effectively they collaborate with colleagues across Whitehall in shaping UK Government policy, across a range of issues, to be as effective as possible in promoting poverty reduction'.

Andrew Mitchell praised Britain's track record in scientific research on development, particularly in the areas of health and climate change. He reserved particular praise for innovations in clean energy, improvements in treatment for sleeping sickness, the eradication of Rinderpest in cattle and the Met Office Hadley Centre, described as 'the world's premier body for climate research'.

Technologies, solutions and ideas developed through research have been catalysts that have 'driven growth and stability in other countries and economies', according to the secretary of state. He affirmed the government's role in recognising, celebrating and supporting the important work of researchers, so that they can 'ramp up their efforts'.

Andrew Mitchell's full speech can be found on the [DFID website](#) ^[61].

Durban talks both good and bad for REDD+, says CIFOR's leading climate scientist ^[62]

The U.N. climate change talks in Durban resulted in a mixed bag for REDD: progress on how to set reference emissions levels, progress on defining how to measure emission reductions stemming from forestry initiatives, a weak decision on social and environmental safeguards for the program, and no advances on sources of long-term funding, according to CIFOR's leading climate scientist.

REDD+ biggest success in climate change talks, says Norway's Environment and International Development Minister ^[63]

Norway's Environment and International Development Minister said that REDD+ is the biggest success story so far in global climate change negotiations but he called for countries to be 'more daring' in their efforts to cut emissions and slow global warming.

World Bank: More donors supporting REDD+ ^[64]

Financial support for REDD+ projects to safeguard forests in developing countries is increasing with new countries pledging to get involved and existing donors stepping up their commitments, a World Bank official said.

'Forests cannot be sustained if people are hungry': future climate change negotiations likely to include agriculture ^[65]

Agriculture will most likely be included in future negotiations on global warming, experts said at the U.N. climate change talks in Durban, which may help address one of the top drivers of deforestation amid a spike in demand for farmland.

New CIFOR map gives first global overview of REDD+ ^[66]

CIFOR is putting REDD+ on the map with the launch of an interactive tool designed to give a global overview of how forest-rich countries are developing policies and projects aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation.

'Carbon debt' created by some biofuels must be considered in sustainability debate, new study shows ^[67]

Despite being heralded as a green alternative to fossil fuels, a new study by CIFOR has found that carbon emissions generated from land conversion for biodiesel production may take decades to hundreds of years to reverse in some cases, raising serious questions about biodiesel sustainability. This large variation is the result of the type of land converted and the productivity of the feedstock crop.

The ISSC-Belmont Forum ^[68]

The ISSC-Belmont Forum agenda setting workshop, held on June 8th and 9th, 2011, brought together an international and interdisciplinary group of over 60 social sciences scholars representing academia, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental institutions, science policy makers and social science funding agencies from 25 countries. To ensure broad and balanced disciplinary coverage, geographic reach, gender representation, and research interests, the ISSC invited key regional social science bodies to nominate social science scholars (including at least one early career social scientist) working both within and outside of the field of GEC. Participants were selected from amongst the nominations by the Workshop Organising Committee, alongside additional representatives of the international social science community such as the IHDP.

[This document](#) ^[68] summarises the discussions at this consultative event, as well as drawing on written submissions from participants received in advance of and subsequent to the workshop. It is not exhaustive and represents the different points of view raised by participants rather than an ISSC agenda or strategy position: no attempt has been made to fully reconcile conflicting views. This report is also intended as a resource document – providing input for a range of initiatives beyond the Belmont Forum, including the Climate Change Design Project, and the work of the Global Alliance Transition Team developing the ESSI.

From the World Resources Institute: a Q & A on the legal aspects of the Durban platform text ^[69]

At the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP-17) in Durban, Parties agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on a Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (AG-DP). The AG-DP has the [mandate](#) ^[70] to develop 'a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties.'

The AG-DP will start its work 'as a matter of urgency' in the first half of 2012. It will complete it no later than 2015, with the outcome to be adopted at COP-21 and to come into effect and be implemented from 2020. The content of AGDP's workplan will focus, in particular, on 'enhancing mitigation ambition to identify and to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap with a view to ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties.'

What are the legal implications of the Durban Platform text, and what could the different legal options mean for the UNFCCC? [This webpage looks at some possible questions and answers.](#) ^[69]

Useful ESPA Documents

Many useful [ESPA related documents](#) ^[71] are held on the ESPA website.

Of particular interest to current ESPA researchers are the [ESPA Knowledge Strategy & Research Framework](#) ^[72], the [ESPA Impact Framework](#)

[73] and the [ESPA Communications Strategy](#) [9] documents.

The [ESPA Knowledge Strategy & Research Framework](#) [72] document is intended to provide a starting point to conceptualise ESPA's research. It builds upon the figure presented in the 2010 Announcement of Opportunity, which was modified following feedback from the ESPA research community during early workshops in support of the call.

The [ESPA Impact Framework](#) [73] offers our researchers advice on how to design their 'Pathway to Impact', to ensure that their research delivers real pro-poor benefits. It describes how to conceptualise useful impact, how to create that impact and how to communicate work to different audiences.

The [ESPA Communications Strategy](#) [9] provides an opportunity for the ESPA Directorate and the ESPA community of stakeholders to add value to the work of the ESPA programme in poverty alleviation through ecosystems services. The key challenges for ESPA are to ensure it can deliver robust, innovative and ground breaking scientific research and a body of new knowledge. It is as equally important to ensure that the findings from this research can be used to inform policy decisions and further research development as well as provide practical lessons for alleviating poverty across the globe and that this growing body of new knowledge remains accessible and can be built on. The ESPA communications strategy supports these challenges by telling the ESPA story and supporting ESPA beneficiaries to do the same.

Videos on the ESPA website

Please visit the ESPA website to see an archive of videos which might be of interest to ESPA readers [74].

Currently available to view are three videos: '[Branching out for a Green Economy](#) [75]', '[Forests - Nature at Your Service](#) [76]', '[Your Invoice](#) [77]' and [Ecosystem services and well-being](#) [78].

These videos highlight some of the ecosystem services that we all depend on.

If you have any videos of interest that we can share on the ESPA website please send details to Ruth Swanney (admin@espa.ac.uk [79]) for consideration.

ESPA Adverts from Projects

This section of our Newsletter will be devoted to adverts and requests from ESPA projects (e.g. adverts from projects requesting data or information on a particular topic or a simple request for some specific help/advice from the ESPA global community).

If you would like to post an advert or a request please let the ESPA Directorate Administrator, [Ruth Swanney](#) [79], know and it will feature in a future Newsletter.

In the meantime, please post a link to the ESPA website on your website: our web link is www.espa.ac.uk [80]

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- [6] <http://www.espa.ac.uk/vision>
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