

sDiv working group meeting summary

" Telecoupled use of biodiversity and ecosystem services: synthesis of concepts, methods and evidence

sTeleBES"

The second sTeleBES meeting welcomed 17 participants from Europe and North America to continue our work on interregional flows of ecosystem services.

During the second meeting of the working group we focused on developing guidelines for assessing different types of interregional flows. We collected methods and indicators for assessing flows and developed criteria to evaluate these. We furthermore agreed on a data-driven synthesis of interregional flows for a case study. Open questions relate to the complexity of methods (tiers) for assessing interregional flows and to overcoming data gaps with proxy indicators for telecoupling.

Compared to the first workshop there were only a few presentations during the second workshop. These focused on recent work of participants on quantifying interregional flows, with a focus on national ecosystem assessments, for instance for Israel (by Meidad Kissinger and Dor Fridman) and China (by Jianguo Liu).

During the group work we focused on a guidance paper evaluating indicators for interregional flows. The structure for this paper was outlined by the PIs and circulated amongst participants for feedback before the actual workshop. In addition we planned a data-driven synthesis for a case and a perspective paper on interregional flows. A follow-up meeting for a global data synthesis is currently under discussion.

As compared to the first meeting, we had considerably less conceptual discussions, as we worked with terms and concepts agreed upon during the first meeting. This conceptual baseline from the first workshop was perceived as very helpful, leading to an efficient and productive second meeting. Hence we had more time to focus on group work. This group work focused on identifying methods and indicators for different groups of ecosystem services and for different types of interregional flows.

The general working atmosphere was relaxed and productive. This was facilitated nicely by the sDiv support. A guided tour on a warm and sunny autumn afternoon through the riparian forest of Leipzig, and several dinners were welcomed by the participants.

Next steps include finishing the paper of the first workshop (currently under review), as well as work on the guidance, data and perspective paper, all supposed to be submitted early to mid-2018. A follow-up meeting for a global data synthesis is currently under discussion.