

sDiv working group meeting summary

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

Applicant's feedback

The first workshop of sTeleBES took place in Leipzig from 28 November to 2 December 2016. The 16 participants came from the U.S., Israel, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. The meeting was financed by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ.

The meeting focused on the development of a conceptual framework on interregional flows of ecosystem services based on the concept of telecoupling.

On day 1 we listened to short presentations of the participants' work to get a grasp of the breadth of concepts and terms being used in different fields. Presentations were on telecoupling (Jack Liu), migratory animals (Laura López-Hoffman), spatial ecosystem accounting and modelling (Joachim Maes, Matthias Schröter, Ken Bagstad, Rob Alkemade), demand for ecosystem services (Sarah Wolff, Nynke Schulp), relationships between different societal actors (Berta Martín-López, Karin Frank, Jule Schulze, Meidad Kissinger, Carsten Meyer) and the impacts of telecoupling on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Alexandra Marques, Thomas Kastner, Sebastian Arnold). These presentations reflected the broad interdisciplinary background of the participants from ecology and conservation, ecological economics and the emerging field of ecosystem service mapping and assessment. Discussions helped to arrive at a joint understanding of the topic.

In the afternoon started to discuss a synthesis framework of the topic of telecoupling and agreed on terms and definitions. The sketch for the framework had been prepared beforehand by the PIs. We also refined the plan for the coming days. Days 2 and 3 were dominated by parallel group work on different components of the framework, and regular reporting back in joint group discussions. We discussed a typology of interregional flows of ecosystem services and interrelated factors that cause these flows. Joint work on pre-structured Google documents was appreciated by the participants and increased efficiency. We continued to develop the framework and supported it by theory from the different disciplines. A prepared draft was further developed in writing break-out groups.

On days 3 and 4 we identified and agreed upon next steps towards the second workshop. We identified knowledge gaps and research frontiers. In parallel breakout groups we focused on the refinement of the flow typology, different aspects of coproduction of ecosystem services and options for sustainable governance of telecoupling. In the iDiv seminar, Jack Liu presented his work on telecoupling, focusing on the Giant Panda loan scheme that connects a Chinese nature reserve to zoos around the world.

Future work was discussed and is likely to lead to guidelines on how to measure and account for interregional flows of different ecosystem services.

The social activities were very much appreciated by the participants. Activities included a guided tour through Leipzig and a visit to the Christmas market, next to a variety of restaurants. The setting and working atmosphere at iDiv was also appreciated.

Participants

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