ECOMPRIS

Comprehending the impact of environmental information in local governance processes to increase quality of life: the case of ecosystem services

Informational Govenance

WAGENINGEN **UR**
For quality of life

This project aims to increase the understanding of how knowledge can be made actionable to improve the capacity of local communities to adapt their environment.
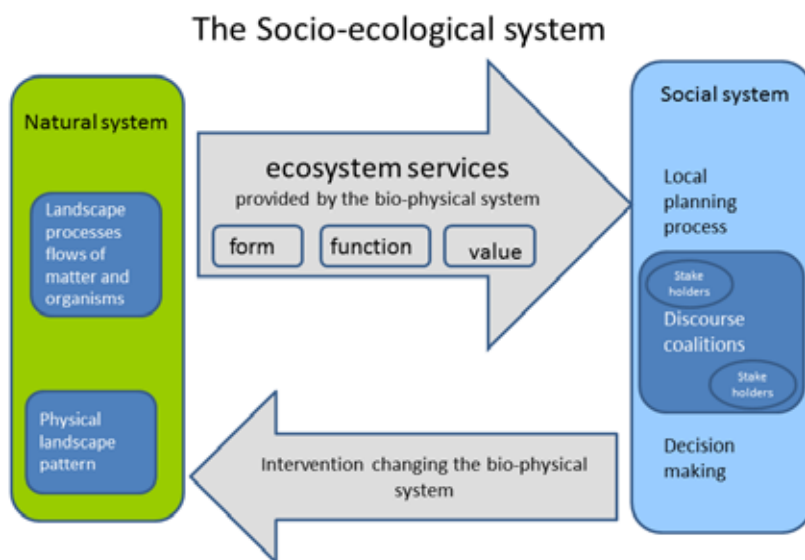
Background

The ECOMPRIS project focuses on the understanding how knowledge on ecosystems and ecosystem services can be made actionable to improve the capacity of local communities to adapt their environment for a more sustainable land use. Alternative ways of presenting and framing information on ecosystem services are compared.

Informational governance: the impact of science in society

To have a greater effect in society, science should be attentive to the values, norms and frames that drive social change. We aim to increase the understanding of how knowledge can be made actionable to improve the capacity of local communities to adapt their environment. We focus on the comparison of alternative ways of presenting and framing information on environmental benefits and the willingness and capacity of local actors in the social system to adapt their environment based on this information.

The concept of ecosystem services connects the functioning of natural systems with benefits to humans. ECOMPRIS focuses on how information about this relationship influences the mind-set and behaviour of human actors in landscape change.

Highlights project

- Developing a conceptual framework about the role of both ecological and social sciences in building adaptive capacity in socio-ecological systems.

- Analysis of case studies: What frames are used by the provider of information on ecosystem services and how is this information valued by the different stakeholders?

- Experiment on the impacts of different ways of framing ecosystem services on the acceptance and actions taken in landscape planning.
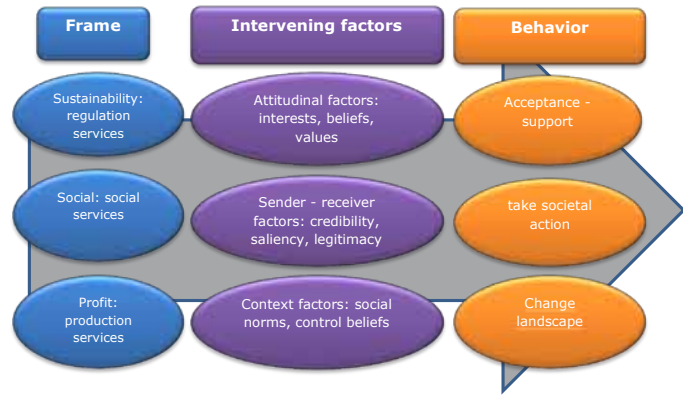
Approach

Experiment

A framing experiment is carried out to test the effect of different ways of framing ecosystem services on landscape planning behavior. We test whether the different frames are accepted and to what extent the response is influenced by individual attitudinal factors. Three different frames on ecosystem services provided by Green Infrastructure are compared:

- A biomass production frame, where green infrastructure contributes to the production of biomass. A profit oriented frame corresponding with the Production Services of ecosystems.
- A recreation frame, where green infrastructure contributes to the attractiveness of the landscape and its species. A value oriented frame corresponding with the Social-cultural services of ecosystems.
- A water regulation frame, where green infrastructure contributes to the management of water. A sustainability oriented frame corresponding with the Regulation Services of ecosystems.

Case study analysis

Several case studies are being analysed, illustrating the role of framing ecosystem services in community based landscape planning. Research questions are: what frames are used by the provider of information on ecosystem services? What is the response of different stakeholders on this information? To what extent is this response influenced by intervening factors such as attitudinal factors, sender-receiver factors and contextual factors?

Analytical framework for the relationship between sent information about ecosystem services and the behavioural response of receivers in a landscape planning context. Intervening factors are supposed to interact with the framed information about ecosystem services and filter and transform the information. This may eventually result in one or several behavioural responses.

Green Idea Cafe.