REPORT FROM PARALLEL SESSION 4

MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES – SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE
• This topic addresses the problems and challenges in the application of socio-cultural methods for mapping and assessment purposes and their potential to derive indicators for ecosystem services supply, flow and demand.
There were six presentations in the session. Different case studies and results from the implementation of different methods were reported:

- Participatory landscape assessment using focus groups;
- Conflicts emerging from the impact of land use and land management changes on cultural ecosystem services delivered by agro-ecosystems has been approached as a systematic literature review;
- Photo-elicitation assessment method and preference assessment method for assessment and mapping of spatial distribution of aesthetic ecosystem services;
- A GIS-based local model is implemented for ES valuation on municipality level;
- Biophysical assessment of habitat provision of forest ecosystems and analytical hierarchy approach to assess and quantify the preferences for management options;
- Survey analysis combined with analysis of ES and threats and use of Restoration Priority Index.
Main conclusions:

• Focus groups are a cost-effective tool to assess the state of ecosystem services. Observed asymmetries among stakeholders may generate conflicts in CES.

• Combine implementation of both assessment methods, photo-elicitation and preference survey, gives good knowledge about the AES potential of urban areas from different perspectives.

• The proposed GIS-aided model of spatial valuation of ES mainly serve as a benchmark for future valuation research to provide complete results.

• The selective (innovative) thinning could be a viable option for the forest management of the peri-urban forests.

• Possible way to connect land, community and culture.

• There is common need of more clear notion which methods provide best results for different social ES perspectives.

• Uncertainty and subjectivity persist in the results from most of over mentioned methods.