

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORLD CAFÉ: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Location · Month Year





DEFINITIONS

- Ecosystem: The biotic community and its abiotic environment
 - Species
 - Physical and chemical characteristics
- Ecosystem Function: Processes resulting from species interactions (e.g., primary production)
- These processes result in goods and services that benefit humans (or any other species)





ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The benefits people derive from ecosystems

PROVISIONING SERVICES

Products obtained from ecosystems

Food, water, fish, fuels, timber, fiber, etc.

CULTURAL SERVICES

Nonmaterial benefits of ecosystems

Spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational benefits

REGULATING SERVICES

Benefits from the regulation of ecosystem processes

Flood protection, purification of air and water, waste absorption, disease control, and climate regulation

SUPPORTING SERVICES

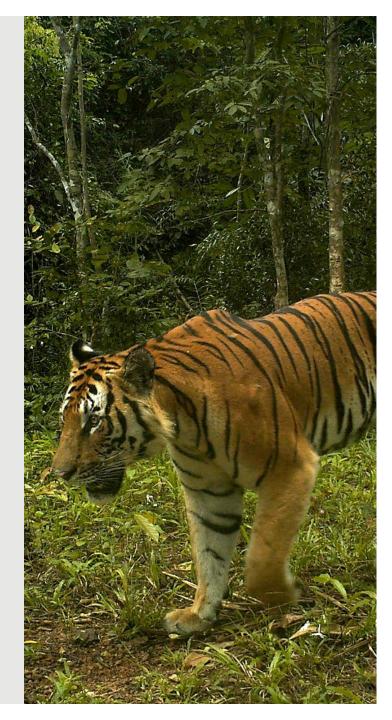
Services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services

Soil formation, production of oxygen, crop pollination, carbon sequestration, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling



IMPORTANCE

- Ecosystem function depends on species and physical/chemical characteristics
 - Biodiversity
 - Pollution
 - Land use
 - Climate
- Understanding dependencies and impacts on ecosystem services is critical to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process and environmentally sound development
- An ecosystem service review can strengthen EIA process by drawing out important trade-offs worthy of consideration



5/21/2018 World Café