



Reflections on the governance of Ecosystem Services

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Ecosystems are complex interactive systems of living and non living entities

- Flows of matter and energy that are difficult to demarcate – interdependencies (e.g., biodiversity and ES)

Ecosystem services - a concept and a perspective

- Create a (new) **political agenda** by focusing on SERVICES - seeing nature through the lenses of human use
- Governance is an integral part of management – by and for people

Policy and governance

Paul Wheelhouse (2013): *"...consideration of ecosystem services must be part of how we plan all policies that impact on the natural environment"*

We are used to think about policies as a set of state regulations – increasing emphasis on markets / payments – still embedded in regulatory frameworks

Role for governance - process of making priorities between competing or conflicting aims and interests + granting power & resources to make priorities materialize

Resource regimes are necessary for management

Basic units of governance systems are resource regimes

- Rights and agent structures
- Rules concerning the interaction between rights holders, for example farmers, other private owners and government / public lands

But, many Ecosystem Services are difficult to delimit – common pool resources (pollination, wildlife / birds) and management is contentious and politically influenced

Coastal realignment – the role of governance

Effective stakeholder involvement essential successful
implementation & good governance

- Private lands – property rights issue

Understand legitimate concerns and interests

- Explain and convince people of a scheme's merits
- Manage expectations
- Develop stakeholder ownership



Inner Forth 'Futurescape' – questions to be addressed

A key question – *“To what degree is managed realignment supported or compromised by relevant policy instruments”*

- What are those policies (Market-based, regulations)?
- Who participates (Design, Implementation)?
- **Trade-offs** (Ecological, Socio-economic) how are they accounted for?
- **Values** (What values, whose matter more?)



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