Workshop

Open data and models for mapping ecosystem services

Abstract

Ecosystem services (ES) are the benefits provided to humans by the natural environment, such as clean air, natural pollination, drought regulation, food from agriculture, climate regulation, etc. Providing Information about ES for decision-making is essential to preserve their supply and, consequently, their benefits to society. Making these services visible through the mapping of biophysical, social and economic indicators enables understanding of potential trade-offs and the design of conservation strategies. The provision of ES is influenced by land cover changes (LCC) and efficient land use planning is required for maintaining ES flow. Land use planning can be supported by ES-based modelling tools to estimate ES supply based on land cover. However, ES modelling requires extensive data acquisition, processing and modelling skills making the task to select which method to use arduous. Datasets and models for working with ES should be easily accessible through open platforms. In this workshop we explore available open data and models which can be used for ES modelling and mapping. This Information can be useful for data producers as well as for anyone working with environmental data.

Overall aim

This workshop will provide a perspective on existing open datasets and models to work with ES. It will also promote the importance of the ecosystem services concept for sustainability and human well-being.

Objectives

In the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Understand the ES concept and its importance for human well-being;

- Know where to find open datasets and models (e.g. InVEST) for assessing ES with GIS;

- Learn how to calculate ES indicators using InVEST;

- Know how to make geographical datasets available and ready for working with ES.

Targeted public

This workshop is aimed for:

- GIS experts;

- Students in GIS and environmental topics;

- Geographical Information Officers aiming to make their data available for ES modelling and analyis.

- General public with interest in sustainaility.

Key-words

WebGIS, Ecosystem Services, GIS, web services, spatial modelling

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