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THE ECONOMIC VALUATION OF “WET” ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BODIES – HOW TO OBTAIN A FIRST APPROXIMATION, HOW TO OBTAIN AN IN DEPTH VALUATION AND HOW TO INTEGRATE IT INTO THE TDA/SAP PROCESS.

Economic valuations can be resource-intensive, and significant expert’s knowledge is needed to conduct an analysis "from scratch" (i.e. to conduct an "original valuation study").

The training session will present a guidance that follows a tiered approach on how an economic valuation of “wet” ecosystem services in a transboundary project context can be implemented and how the economic valuation can be integrated into the TDA/SAP process to inform decision making.

For projects where resources and knowledge are limited (tier one projects) the training will demonstrate and enable participants to apply the “benefit transfer” method to obtain and estimate the economic values for ecosystem services that cannot be valued otherwise. In this interactive training a step by step approach (identification of relevant ecosystems services, guidance on how to obtain local market prices, guidance how to use the repository of original studies and guidance on how to effect the transfer of values from the original study to the project context) to obtain a first approximation of the ecosystem services will be presented.

For tier two projects with more resources at hand, i.e. projects which can dedicate sufficient funds for an original valuation of ecosystem services, participants will be presented with methods and approaches developed by IUCN, UNEP and others to assess the economic value of freshwater and marine ecosystem services.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Project managers or Chief Technical Advisors, who want/have to implement an economic valuation of ecosystem services as part of their projects or activities.

WHAT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD HAVE

Either a good background in natural resource management or in environmental economics. Interested participants can familiarize themselves with the guidance documents of the GEF IW:LEARN web-site:

<http://iwlearn.net/learning/manuals/economic-valuation>

and www.iwlearn.net/valuation

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING WITH TO THE TRAINING

Willingness to learn and to become actively engaged and work in this interactive training and a device of their choice to take notes (laptop computer would be best).

ABOUT YOUR TRAINERS

Christian Susan works as an Industrial Development Officer with UNIDO's Department of Environment since 2008. He holds a MSC in integrated natural resource management and civil engineering from the University of Applied Life Sciences Vienna and a MSC in environmental economics from the Imperial College London/School of Oriental and African Studies London. In 2012 he was faced with the challenge to prepare and economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Services. Building up on previous cooperation in water related economic valuations with Eduard Interwies, this has resulted in the first application of the benefit transfer approach in a GEF IW project. This approach has been replicated in other IW projects and retained by IW:LEARN. As part of the portfolio managed by Christian he is the project manager for the component on economic valuation under the GEF IW:LEARN 4 project.



Eduard Interwies, the Director of InterSus - Sustainability Services, is a renowned water economist and has practical experience with trainings, environmental and socio-economic impact assessments, cost-benefit analyses of policies and projects, analyses of infrastructure investments, pricing and cost-recovery strategies. In his work, he combines his strong background as an economist and political scientist with multi-disciplinary research and policy consulting approaches in the economic, social and environmental domains. He has been the lead consultant for the development of the economic valuation guidance presented here and will be the main trainer for this event (based on his expertise and experience with such trainings).

