EBIND - The contribution of ES science to policy: are we addressing the right questions?

It seems that there is a disconnect between the scientific world and policy makers: the research often does not reach policy, nor do decision makers directly interact with researchers. Three presentations will set the scene on how we, ecosystem services scientists, can make our research more policy relevant. The presentations are half an hour, and will be followed by a moderated discussion with the participants based on some challenging statements.

Marta Pérez-Soba (Senior Policy Officer at the Joint Research Centre JRC, ISPRA), Leon Braat (Co-Editor-in-Chief of Ecosystem Services), and Theo van der Sluis (E-BIND project) will reflect on the role of Ecosystem Services for policy, vice-versa. We will focus on our experiences with the EU Directorate General for the Environment and DG Agriculture as two most relevant policy DGs.

To have a more focused discussion we will in particular discuss ES in relation to the Nature Directives which are most relevant for ES: the Birds and Habitats Directives as well as the EU Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which has targets and programs to be evaluated by 2020.

How can our work as scientific community reach policy makers to ensure better uptake of ES into e.g. spatial planning? On the other hand, how can ‘policy’ better steer the Ecosystem Services research agenda, resulting in more policy-relevant research? This will be even more relevant in view of Timmermans’ European Green Deal, to be developed before February 2020. Here Ecosystem Services may become very important for future research and policy.

The outcome of this discussion may provide guidance on how the application and integration of ES into policy can be improved, the results will be reported to DG-Environment. This session is organized in the framework of the ‘Evidence-Based Improvement of the Nature Directives’ Project E-BIND.