



**Incorporation of Ecosystem Services Values in the Integrated Management of Irish Freshwater Resources**



Newsletter compiled by Hugh Feeley (hugh.feeley@ucd.ie)

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## Introducing ESManage

**ESManage** is a 3-year project (February 2015 to January 2018), funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency. The overall project objective is to ***harness the knowledge and tools required to embed the ecosystem services approach into policy and decision-making for sustainable management of water resources, as required by the Water Framework Directive (WFD).***

Introducing an ecosystems approach into decision making in relation to water management takes account of the strong link between human well-being and ecological health. The approach provides a sustainable pathway to achieving the objectives of the WFD, by building a framework for taking into consideration all of the benefits derived from our freshwater resources, including the less tangible ones, such as recreation and cultural heritage. However, it raises many challenges including how to value (monetary and non-monetary) the full range of services.

**ESManage** aims to:

- i. Use scenario analysis to show how changes in drivers (land-use) affect inputs to rivers and associated physical and chemical water quality stressors.

- ii. Analyse existing and new biological data to investigate biological responses to stressors/drivers and links to selected ecosystem services. The results will be combined with the scenario analysis to illustrate change in ecological condition/ecosystem service provision.
- iii. Estimate the economic impact of future changes to the provision of key aquatic ecosystem services in Irish rivers.
- iv. Recommend how the ecosystem services approach can best be embedded into policy and decision-making for sustainable management of water resources.

The ecosystem services approach facilitates environmental decisions that recognise that we humans are a part of natural systems (ecosystems) and that our activities do impact the goods and services (so called ecosystem services) they deliver and on which we depend for survival and well-being. It is a strategy for integrated management of natural resources that values conservation and sustainable use.

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Click [here](#) for more details

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### For more information click the icons



## Workshop on freshwater ecosystem services in Ireland

In August we held a workshop (see photos below) in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science, University College Dublin on ecosystem services in Irish freshwaters. Over 60 stakeholders from a wide variety of interests attended. The objectives of this workshop were to introduce the project objectives, and to seek stakeholders view on (i) what are the key ecosystem services delivered by freshwater ecosystems in Ireland and (ii) how

alternative future land-use and other pressures, and management responses might impact the delivery of freshwater ecosystem services. The output from this workshop will contribute to the project's overall objective to harness the knowledge and tools required for incorporating the ecosystem services approach into policy and decision-

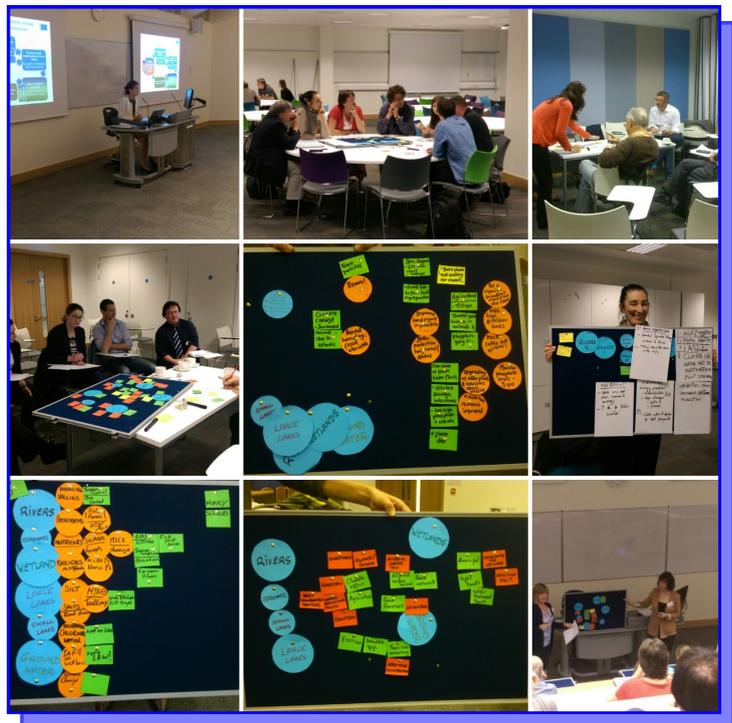
making for sustainable management of water resources. The ESManage Project will certainly benefit enormously from the information, interest, feedback and discussion provided. We will shortly produce a report which will be circulated to all stakeholders for feedback. More photos and links to workshop presentations can be found [here](#)

### ESManage Guest Speaker

In July last we had the privilege of a visit from Dr Louise Gallagher of the [Luc Hoffman Institute](#) based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Louise, a graduate of UCD, presented a brief history of her former work with the World Wildlife Fund and her ongoing work at the newly established Luc Hoffman Institute. She is a key member of the [LIVES Project](#) which is examining the intimate relationship between people and their environment in China, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos in South East Asia, and how linking ecosystem service with pressures and management of the Mekong River Basin can improve the lives of the local people.

Louise's presentation can be found [here](#)



Selection of photographs from our stakeholder workshop in UCD on 31st August.



Dr Louise Gallagher  
Luc Hoffman Institute,  
Geneva, Switzerland.



Iascach Intire Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland



Specialists in Environmental Economic Research

