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Panel : How to Integrate the Value of Ecosystem Services Into Decision-Making?

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Seminar on the Value of Ecosystem Services of Mexican Protected Areas
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Three Examples of the Integration of Ecosystem Services into Decision-Making

1. The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Area Conservation (NAWPA Committee) – Work of the Valuing Ecosystem Services Working Group
2. Measuring Ecosystem Goods and Services (MEGS) – Ecosystem Services Case Study -Thousand Islands National Park
3. Thaidene Nene – A National Park Proposal



NAWPA Committee – Valuing Ecosystem Services Working Group

- Committee consists of the Mexican National Commission on Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, USDA Office of Environmental Markets and Parks Canada.
- In 2011, working group received direction from Agency Heads to create a brochure for elected officials and senior government policy advisors to explain and demonstrate the value of ecosystem services provided by wilderness and protected areas.
- Efforts focused on North American water resources - Ecosystem Services: Our Life Support System
- Brochure, tri-fold business card and poster produced in English, French and Spanish – will be available on the Internet at nawpacommittee.org
- Poster recently used during a session at The 10th World Wilderness Congress (October 4-10, 2013 – Salamanca, Spain).
- Agency Heads direction to continue the communication work and focus working group efforts on the ecosystem services most relevant to the public.



MEGS - Ecosystem Services Case Study – Thousand Islands National Park

- Canadian federal government policy initiative (2011) to develop experimental ecosystem accounts with the key objective of supporting policy needs related to the valuation of ecosystem goods and services.
- Measuring Ecosystem Goods and Services (MEGS) involved a partnership between Statistics Canada and Environment Canada as well other federal departments and agencies such as Parks Canada.
- MEGS geodatabase and related statistical infrastructure created.
- MEGS project supports work on the development of new ecosystem accounting concepts compatible with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA – UN Statistical Commission), The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES).
- Ecosystem Services Case Study at Thousand Islands National Park was a unique opportunity to showcase the value of ecosystem services from a small fragmented national park in densely populated Southern Ontario.
- Ecosystem service values will be used to inform policy and the public at large.



Thaidene Nene – A National Park Proposal

- Proposed new national park located on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake in Northwest Territories.
- Study area (35,000 sq km) includes the traditional lands used by the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation to sustain their way of life (barren-ground caribou critically important).
- Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment directed toward the identification of potential non-renewable and renewable resources was completed for the study area.
- Parks Canada contracted a study to integrate the results of the MERA and to better understand costs and benefits of potential park establishment.
- Typical park establishment have been more limited in scope and are concerned with estimating economic impacts of an agreed to operational park scenario and the associated park and visitor expenditures.
- Current study employs Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK), an ecosystem services approach and the Total Economic Value (TEV) framework to assess benefits from national park establishment.
- Ecosystem service values estimated from First Nation's relationship with study area landscape .
- Ecosystem service values will inform park planning processes and final boundary decisions.