

A CIWEM – CMS Conference

Valuing Water and the Environment in Practice

Integrating Costs, Benefits and Ecosystem Services

22 September 2010: SOAS London

This conference will explore the emerging lessons from the recent water planning cycle (PR09 & WFD) on the use of economic decision support tools and to consider this in the light of the emerging practice from projects using ecosystem services. It will aim to identify and clarify important issues in order to inform the development of these tools for future project and planning appraisal.

Sponsors

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Sponsorship: If you are interested in sponsoring this event please contact Lauren Goozee lauren@ciwem.org or Justin Taberham justin@ciwem.org or ring them on 0207 831 3110

Please circulate to colleagues who may be interested

A conference organised by CMS - Communications and Management for Sustainability
in partnership with CIWEM

Valuing Water and the Environment in Practice September 22nd, 2010 SOAS, London

Introduction The water sector has been at the forefront of the use of economic decision support tools in the recent round of water planning for the Periodic Review (**cost benefit analysis - CBA**) and WFD (**cost effectiveness analysis – CEA**). These tools have been applied to hundreds of projects, schemes and measures in a practical and transparent way which has been viewed as being largely positive and constructive. There are however a wide range of views about the use of these tools and this meeting will review our understanding of the lessons learned and stakeholder concerns arising from the recent water planning process.

Ecosystem services Over the last few years there has been a growing recognition, flowing from the desire for more sustainable outcomes, of the need for more holistic approaches to identifying environmental impacts and valuing these; this is now manifesting itself in a wider debate and application of ecosystem services to project appraisal. There are a growing range of practitioners applying ecosystem services to project delivery and this meeting will hear from practitioners who have used this approach and the lessons emerging.

Issues There are a range of issues that will be addressed by this meeting which are particularly timely including:

- Given the underlying similarities between CBA/CEA and ecosystem services how does their application overlap? How can ecosystem services be used to support CBA/CEA? When is it appropriate to use these approaches?
- There are challenges of assigning a monetary value to the wide range ecosystem goods and services affected by projects – can these be better resolved in future?
- Although these tools are often portrayed as 'objective' in practice there can be considerable scope for subjective assumptions and expert judgement. Is there a need to refine guidance?
- The link to decision making – *CBA is only an aid to decision making but the impression is that, it's the only thing that counts* - what other issues are key to decision making?
- There is a concern that CBA/CEA is being used as a cursory screening device prior to any more formal decision making process – is this the case? What would a more formal decision making process involve?
- The economic appraisal of schemes with multiple objectives and benefits is a particularly important area of developing work (e.g. catchment projects, surface water management). Are these tools fit for purpose in this context?

This conference will explore the emerging lessons from the recent water planning cycle (PR09 & WFD) on the use of economic decision support tools and to consider this in the light of the emerging practice from projects using ecosystem services. It will aim to identify and clarify important issues in order to inform the development of these tools for future project and planning appraisal.

The objectives include:

- To hear range of views on recent work, guidance and reviews on Cost Benefit Analysis and Cost Effectiveness Analysis and their application in the wider water and environmental sector
- Looking at recent applications of the ecosystem services approach at a practical level
- Exploring how the application of CBA/CEA could embrace more effectively the thinking embodied in the ecosystem services approach, not least in multi-objective – multiple benefit projects
- It will identify and clarify important issues in order to inform the development of these tools

Who should attend?

- Practitioners who have to use CBA/CEA and ecosystem service approaches
- Practitioners using these techniques in the water (flooding, resources, quality), biodiversity, coastal and marine, and environmental sectors
- Regulators who commission this work
- Decision makers who have to use valuation project outcomes to facilitate decision making

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Programme

The slots are at this point are mainly 15 mins for presentation and 10 mins for Q&A

9.00 **Registration and refreshments**

9.45 **Welcome to the conference and introduction** Chairman: **Ian Walker** WRC

9.50 **Economic decision making, water and the environment: An introduction and case study**
Professor Ian Bateman University of East Anglia

10.30 **Combining ecosystem services and economic valuation for policy and project appraisal**
Ece Ozdemiroglu effec

11.00 **UKWIR review of the application and experience of CBA and economic valuation for PR09**
Allan Provins effec

11.25 **Is money the correct currency for valuing the environment? Experience from financial and economic planning in the water sector**
Jolyon La Trobe Bateman MWH Global

11.50 First break

Session 2 Chairman: **Andrew Ball** RPS - Aquaterra

12.35 **Economic decision making and WFD – A Defra perspective** – Kevin Andrews Defra TBC

13.00 **The Defra/CRP WFD benefit values and their uses in policy, RBMPs, and Periodic Reviews**
Bill Baker NERA
Paul Metcalfe London School of Economics

13.25 **Views from Nature Conservation/biodiversity/ecosystem perspective**
Stewart Clarke, Principal Specialist Water Natural England

13.50 Second break

Session 3: Chairman: **Ruth Allen** Director RSK Group Plc

14.30 **Applying the ecosystems services approach in practice** **Mark Everard** Environment Agency

14.55 **Combining CBA and ecosystem services to promote delivery of multiple objectives and benefits - with reference to Flood and erosion guidance and offshore aggregates**
Teresa Fenn RPA - Risk & Policy Analysts

15.20 **What are the outstanding issues and how might these be taken forward and resolved?**
Bruce Horton Environmental Policy Consulting

One of the key objectives of the event is to highlight outstanding issues and begin to identify ways forward – this participative and interactive session will build on issues highlighted by the speakers and audience during the conference.

16.00 Closing Remarks

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BOOKING FORM

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is an independent professional body and registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environment management for a clean, green and sustainable world. www.ciwem.org

The Venue: The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists; there will be ample space to accommodate the anticipated delegate numbers.

Accommodation: There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

The Organisers: The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS), in partnership with CIWEM.

Conference fee: (VAT at 17.5%)

Conference fee	£160	VAT £28.00	£188.00
Concession rate*	£130	VAT £22.75	£152.75
Group Rate (3 or more paying together)	£140/person	VAT £24.50	£164.50 each
Full time Post Graduate student/ Retired CIWEM members	£45	VAT £7.87	£52.87

*Our aim is to make the conferences as inclusive as possible. The concession rate applies to individuals and organisations that clearly work from limited budgets in the academic or voluntary sector. We will review this on a case by case basis and place individuals and organisations on a register for future reference. Please contact us first by email to bob.earll@coastms.co.uk **before booking** if you think you qualify.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

Conditions:

- Payment may be by cheque, BACS, credit card or online at www.coastms.co.uk
 - Cheques (made payable to 'CMS') should be sent to: **CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU**
 - For BACS payments please **return the booking form first** for an invoice to be raised
 - Invoices will be issued as the standard response
 - Confirmation of registration will be acknowledged on receipt of booking form
 - Receipts will be issued on payment
 - Payment should be completed **BEFORE** the event; otherwise entry may be refused
 - Payment is due for all cancellations within ten days of the meeting. Refunds (less £20 administration charge) will only be issued for cancellations more than ten working days before the meeting; substitutes are permitted
- Further details from Bob Earll: Phone/Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: www.coastms.co.uk or Email: bob.earll@coastms.co.uk
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