

The Brisbane Declaration on Ecosystem Services and Sustainability in the Oceania Region

We the participants of the Oceania Ecosystem Services Forum having met in Brisbane, Australia (27th – 31st March 2017), reaffirm for the universal call to action to ‘end poverty, protect the planet and ensure people enjoy peace and prosperity’ as agreed by nations signatory to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (UNDP 2016).

The Brisbane Forum provides a platform for our community of practice (ACES), and symbolises ‘the spirit of partnership and pragmatism’ necessary to respond to sustainability challenges in the Oceania region (UNDP 2016).

We the participants of the Brisbane Forum recognise the fundamental role that ecosystem services play in sustainability; and identify the following challenges to sustainability in the Oceania region: mitigating and adapting to climate change and climate variability; reducing species loss and meeting Aichi Biodiversity Targets; ensuring food security through productive ecosystems; addressing global chronic health issues; transcending disciplinary thinking and information sharing; and existing policies, plans and regulatory frameworks.

We the participants of the Brisbane Forum call for governments, international and regional programs/platforms, academic and philanthropic organisations, and those with authority and capacity to enact the following Actions to increase the use of ecosystem services approaches to address sustainability in the Oceania region.

Actions

1. Data quality should not stop action on climate change
2. Technical and methodological support is required to:
 - a. Develop a common language
 - b. Develop/implement environmental-economic accounts
 - c. Develop/communicate maps and spatial infographics
 - d. Report on state and trends in environmental assets
3. Respect and support participatory/action research
4. Actively incorporate indigenous and local knowledge
5. Support youth skills development and empowerment
6. Support forums for ongoing dialogue across sectors.
7. Build the capacity of existing networks and community of practices
8. Support businesses’ shift in thinking about ecosystem services
9. Support the banking and finance sector
10. Provide aid to support linking ecosystem services and Sustainable Development Goals.



The Oceania Ecosystem Services Forum (the Forum) brings researchers, practitioners, decision makers and knowledge holders from different sectors (e.g. government, business and industry, communities, indigenous, academia) together into A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES). Through the Forum, those mentioned above discuss, workshop, present and brainstorm innovative approaches and state-of-the-art methods to using ecosystem services concepts to address sustainability challenges in the Oceania region (i.e. Micronesia, Polynesia, Australasia, Melanesia).

From 27th – 31st March 2017, 176 members of the Forum met face-to-face in Brisbane, Australia, to discuss *healthy ecosystems for resilient communities* (www.oceaniaesforum.com). The Brisbane Forum brought some of the best ecosystem services research, practice and knowledge from around the world to the Oceania region; and showcased some of the best ecosystem services research, practice and knowledge occurring in the Oceania region to the rest of the world. The next face-to-face meeting of the Forum will be held in 2019.

The Brisbane Declaration derived from the Brisbane Forum provides a call to action of all persons and organisations with authority and capacity to implement the 10 Actions prescribed by participants.