

JIM UNUNUMA SUCCESS

19/MHS02/128

NURSING DEPARTMENT

ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES (EGS):

Fundamental to human activity. Farmers, Foresters, Fishers and many others make a living transforming and selling these goods. Ecosystem service provide social and health benefits such as education or recreation opportunities for example, the enjoyment that we get from taking a walk in the woods or parts. Natural ecosystem structures and functions produce goods and service that benefit people- ecosystems produce the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and recycle the nutrients that allow all things to grow. Impact from human activity on land and in the water can influence ecosystems profoundly. Climate change, ocean acidification, permafrost melting, habitat loss, eutrophication, storm water runoff, air pollution, contaminants, and invasive species are among many problems facing ecosystems. The cumulative effects of these problems, as well as numerous other pressures, can have serious impacts on ecosystem functions and the provision of EGS. Understanding the contributions that these service make to the well-being of those who benefit from them – the beneficiaries-is important for informed decision-making. Similarly, information on the availability or degradation of EGS is needed to properly assess and design policy responses to address ecosystem conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING

Human activity is having large and growing impacts on our natural environment. Environment degradation affects the quantity and quality of goods and service provided by ecosystems as a result of impacts on biotic and abiotic elements of ecosystem. With the ecosystem defined as the area where living species interact among themselves and with their environment. Although there is a lot of information on ecosystems and their conditions, this

information is not comprehensive and some data gaps remains. The goods and service that ecosystems generate are not well understood and measured, in part because many are taken as gifts from nature. For example, while there are markets for timber, wheat and other harvested commodities, there is no market for the air we breathe- it is not traded, has no market value and by implication may be taken for granted.

The development of ecosystem accounts requires that both the stock of ecosystems and the flows of EGS be systematically grouped using consistent concepts and classifications. However, applying these standards is particularly challenging because EGS are the outcomes of complex interdependent process within and across ecosystem.

