

Upper Mississippi River Basin Ecosystem Services Project Workshop (UMRBESP)

Venue: Institute on Environment (IonE) University of Minnesota, St Paul Campus

Address: 1954 Buford Ave, St Paul, MN 55108

Dates: August 3-4, 2023

Principal Investigator: Nfamara K. Dampha, Research Scientist for Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services, IonE UMN, Cell: 6128143930, damph002@umn.edu

Workshop organizing team

1. Brian Stenquist - facilitator
2. Nfamara Dampha - PI and co-facilitator
3. Steve Polasky - Co-PI
4. Libby Kula (agenda and logistics support)
5. Shawn Ramberg (admin support)

Reference materials

1. Project [statement of interest](#) submitted to Midwest CASC USGS
2. Project [scoping workshop proposal](#) submitted to USGS

Workshop Facilitator: Brian Stenquist, Director, Meeting Challenges

Workshop Objectives:

1. Bring together scientists, students, scholars, and practitioners working on ecosystem services and nature-based solutions to share existing knowledge, research gaps, and implementation challenges
2. Develop an outline for a full research proposal on monetary and non-monetary case for nature focusing on the Upper Mississippi Basin area
3. Build new relationships and strengthen partnerships between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers

Research Objectives

1. The research will showcase the monetary and non-monetary potentials of critical ecosystem services for reducing exposed populations' socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change impacts (floods and droughts) and building ecological and infrastructure resilience.
2. The research case studies will extend current work on ecosystem services/ nature-based solutions to incorporate climate change impacts and equity consideration on different income groups.
3. The research will particularly focus on the potential benefits to low-income and minority groups, including people of color.
4. The case studies will demonstrate applications of various methods for valuing nature – both monetary and non-monetary terms as appropriate for different socio-cultural settings.

STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED GAPS AND BENEFITS OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

1. *“Every conservation decision has tradeoffs, but we rarely have the data to inform [prioritization] decisions in a more rigorous way. This project will help fill that gap by evaluating how monetary and non-monetary ways of valuing nature can be brought into those decisions.” “TNC has many on-the-ground conservation projects across the Mississippi River Basin, and the ecosystem benefit calculations from this project will help quantify the different ecosystem services and hopefully cultural benefits of the actions taken... This can help build the case for why this work is important and bring more and different funding sources to the table to aid in conservation and climate adaptation actions.” **The Nature Conservancy***
2. *“Economic and monetary value is often undefined for many culturally significant foods, materials, and resources used by the [LLBO]. The importance of many native and non-market organisms has often been overlooked and they have been mismanaged, removed, and neglected by outside agencies unaware of their ecological and cultural value.”. “Addressing [these gaps] will help remedy the issues caused by siloed management perspectives and reinforce healthy ecosystems. Including tribal perspectives and traditional knowledge will support tribal sovereignty and encourage wider adoption of thought processes that include non-monetary value of nature.” **Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe***
3. *“Two major linked gaps in our capacities to advance nature-based solutions at scale, in response to the climate crisis are (1) inadequate local stakeholder involvement in dialogue about their relationship with nature and nature’s value for climate adaptation and mitigation and (2) economic inequalities and structured power imbalance that generate profound dissonance and disappointment if and when diverse perspectives to come into one space to discuss nature’s value.” “Responding to the gaps above benefits all of us.” **Rainbow Research***

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1. August 3 - Institute on Environment Building, St Paul Campus, UMN

Time	Activity	Presenter	
8:00-9:00	Informal meet and greet - coffee and bagels with poster presentations on ecosystem services and nature-based solutions	NatCap Researchers / All	
9:00-9:30	Introductions: innovative icebreaker exercises	Nfamara and Brian	
9:30 – 9:40	Agenda overview & workshop outcomes	Brian Stenquist	
9:40-9:50	Welcoming Remarks – Executive Director, IonE	Jessica Hellmann	
9:50-10:00	Opening Remarks – Acting Federal Director, Midwest CASC	Olivia LeDee	
10:00-10:05	High-level project overview	Steve Polasky	
10:05-10:15	Presentation on the proposed research – UMRBESP	Nfamara Dampha	
10:15 – 12:15	1st World Café Experience: Viewing Climate Change, Nature-based Solutions, and Ecosystem Services through three “organizational and world-view lenses”	Small Groups	
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch Break		
1:00 – 1:15	Participants write down responses to questions in their workshop workbook	All Participants	
1:15 – 1:20	Lightning Talks: case studies	Nfamara Dampha	
1:20-1:30	Urban LTER project: policy implications	Eric Lonsdorf	
1:30-1:40	Connecting climate-responsive conservation and ecosystem services	Peter Hawthorne	
1:40-1:50	Mississippi: lessons learned from stakeholder engagement	Natalie Warren	
1:50-2:00	Linking ecosystem service and economics: land-use change and conservation leakage	Justin Johnson	
2:00-2:10	Gross Ecosystem Project (GEP) Chinese Case Study	Tong Wu	
2:10-2:30	Questions, Perspectives, Discussion	All Participants	
2:30 – 2:45	Break		
2:45 – 4:00	2nd World Café Experience: Viewing Interesting Research Questions through three “organizational and world-view lenses”	Small Groups	
4:00-4:15	Participants write down responses to questions in their workshop workbook	All Participants	
4:15-4:45	Quick round: final thought for the day	Each Participant	
4:45-5:00	Plans for the Evening; Expectations for Day 2	Nfamara Dampha	
Social gathering			
5:00-7:00	Dinner at City House on the river in St. Paul		

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 2. August 4 - Institute on Environment Building, St Paul Campus, UMN

Time	Activity	Presenter	
8:00-9:00	Informal meet and greet - coffee and bagels with poster presentations on ecosystem services and nature-based solutions	NatCap Researchers / All	
9:00-9:10	Welcome to Day 2	Nfamara Dampha	
9:10-9:20	Overview of Day 2	Brian Stenquist	
9:20-9:40	Snapshot of the Burundi Project	Nfamara Dampha	
9:20 – 10:30	Marketplace of Possible Research Ideas	Small Groups	
10:30-10:45	Break		
10:45-11:05	Emergent Workshop Perspectives	Notetakers	
11:05-11:45	Final thoughts from the Participants “A Highlight from the Workshop” (participants complete the immediate feedback sheet)	All participants	
11:45-12:00	Next Steps and Final thoughts from Workshop Hosts	Nfamara Dampha and Steve Polasky	
12:00	Before leaving, participants will turn in their workshop workbooks to the workshop hosts (workshop hosts will return workbooks to participants after their information has been “harvested;” should take less than two weeks. Make sure your name and contact information is on the front cover of your workbook.)	All	