



4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORLD CAFÉ: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Location · Month Year



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

DEFINITIONS

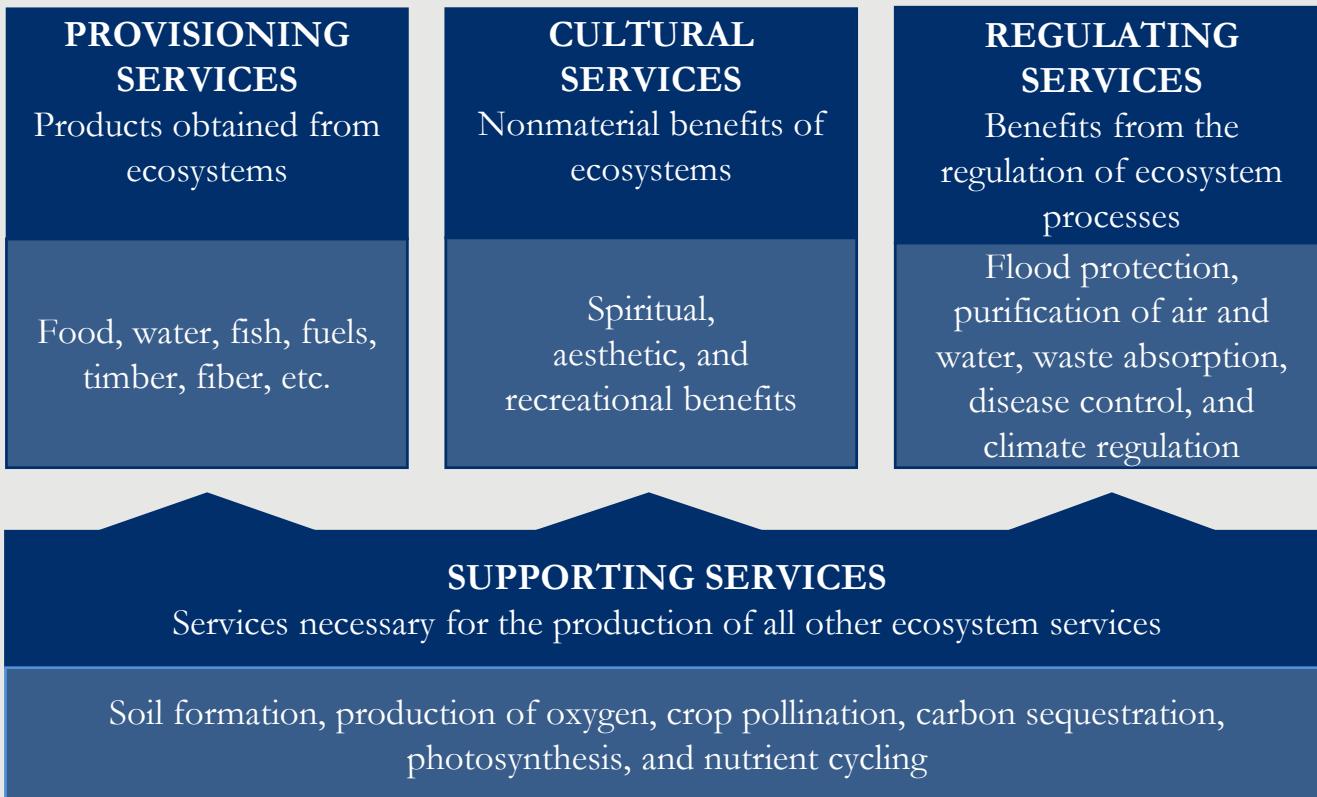
- **Ecosystem:** The biotic community and its abiotic environment
 - Species
 - Physical and chemical characteristics
- **Ecosystem Function:** Processes resulting from species interactions (e.g., primary production)
- These processes result in goods and services that benefit humans (or any other species)





ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The benefits people derive from ecosystems



IMPORTANCE

- Ecosystem function depends on species and physical/chemical characteristics
 - Biodiversity
 - Pollution
 - Land use
 - Climate
- Understanding dependencies and impacts on ecosystem services is critical to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process and environmentally sound development
- An ecosystem service review can strengthen EIA process by drawing out important **trade-offs** worthy of consideration

