

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### Conservation and ecosystem-service value

**Integrating the conservation and ecosystem-service value of Australia's catchments. (2009-2013)**

ILWS Strategic Research Area Ecosystems Services

**Funding:** ARC Future Fellowship

**Investigators/researchers:** Associate Professor Gary Luck

#### Description:

Land has intrinsic and utilitarian values that are often viewed as conflicting, not complementary. Sustainable land management requires integrating these values. The ecosystem-service concept could potentially marry conservation and development, but has emphasized monetary values and failed to deliver promised conservation benefits. This project will develop new, integrated valuation methods that link intrinsic and utilitarian values of land in Australia's catchments through novel application of ecosystem services. It will identify management priorities through a dynamic framework that optimises return on investment. This project addresses the priority goal of sustainable use of biodiversity by linking the intrinsic value of biodiversity and supporting ecosystems with the services they provide to humanity (e.g. carbon storage and nutrient cycling).

It will employ a comprehensive, innovative approach to integrating conservation, market and non-market values of land holdings in Australia's catchments using the concept of nature's services.

#### Outputs:

Expected outputs are journal articles, conference presentations and reports.

#### Outcomes:

The major outcomes of the study will be:

- 1) new approaches to assessing the conservation and ecosystem service value of land holdings, and to integrating ecological, economic and social values of land;
- 2) an innovative management framework that identifies land protection and management priorities based on the most economically efficient approach to maximising conservation gains and human well-being; and
- 3) improved recognition of the contribution of conservation to human development.



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