

Project acronym: ACES

Project title: Developing a Qualitative Methodology for Assessment of Cultural Ecosystem Services

Project leader: Daniel Orenstein, Technion, Haifa, Israel

Discipline: Earth Sciences & Environment

Station(s): Cairngorms (Scotland, UK), Hyytiälä Forest Research Station (SMEAR II) (Finland)

The study is part of a 4-year program intended to develop and evaluate a comprehensive framework for identifying, characterizing and valuing cultural ecosystem services (CES). It follows previous research on ecosystem services previously done by the research group at the Cairngorms location (2012).

The study that would take place at the Cairngorms station aims to evaluate and compare qualitative methodologies for the assessment of cultural ecosystem services (CES). To do so, it will compare two qualitative methodologies for assessing CES: in one we will conduct interviews with locals and tourists in the area, while showing them photographs of the natural landscape. In the other, we will use a new methodology in which the researcher interviews participants as they walk in the natural area studied (walking interview), using techniques of "focusing" to reach deeper levels of non-verbal thoughts, feelings and emotions, as developed by Eugene Gendlin (1996) and adapted by Donata Shoeller (2016) and Ram Eisenberg (2016) to evaluate CES.

The proposed study will be conducted in the desert area of Machtesh Ramon (autumn 2018), Israel, Texel Island, Netherlands (Spring, 2018), and, as proposed in the application, in the sub-arctic national parks of Hyytiälä, Finland (winter, 2018) Cairngorms, Scotland (summer, 2018).