
Session 3: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Land through Scientifically Integrative Approach

Biodiversity and Human Well-Being

Patricia Balvanera

Professor, Research Center on Ecosystems, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

As human enterprise has increasingly been fostering biodiversity loss there is an urgent need to understand how such loss will be having and will further have consequences on human well-being. Biodiversity is the key component of ecosystems that allow for their functioning and thus the provision of services, or benefits to society. In this talk I will: i) present a framework for understanding the relationship between biodiversity and human well-being, ii) present the evidences to date on the nature of the relationship between biodiversity, the provision of ecosystem services, and human well-being at different spatial and temporal scales, and iii) outline the key challenges remaining on this matter for scientific research. Scientific evidence to date strongly supports the fact that biodiversity loss is having, and will have further negative consequences on human well-being. Thus a precautionary approach is recommended to ensure biodiversity conservation for sustaining human well-being. Yet, the available evidence is largely limited to local and short-term scales, temperate systems, primary producers, and a few ecosystem services. Further research efforts are then needed to better understand the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well being at multiple spatial and temporal scales, for a variety of ecological and social contexts, and a variety of stakeholders. Such information will be most valuable to guide decision making through interactions between scientists and policy-makers in the context of the International Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other global, regional and local initiatives.



Patricia Balvanera

Professor, Research Center on Ecosystems, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

1999 Ph.D., in Ecology Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico
1990 Master of Sciences Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico
1984 Bachelor degree in biology Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Iztapalapa, Mexico

Field of Study

Ecologist - Links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services