

The term “ecosystem services” has first been established by Ehrlich & Ehrlich (1981)<sup>1)</sup> as a metaphor to communicate the value of nature and its components for human societies. A later and much referred to definition of ecosystem services (ES) was set by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) as: “The benefits that people obtain from ecosystems” (Reid 2005)<sup>2)</sup>. The TEEB (2010)<sup>3)</sup> Initiative defines them as the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being. The EU-wide Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services, MAES, refers to these definitions (Maes et al. 2014)<sup>4)</sup>. Burkhard et al. (2014)<sup>5)</sup> extended the definition to “the contributions of ecosystem structure and function – in combination with other inputs – to human well-being”. Harrington et al. (2010)<sup>6)</sup> extended on the MEA definition: “Ecosystem services are benefits that humans recognise as obtained from ecosystems that can support, directly or indirectly, their survival and quality of life”.

*In Italy, France as well as in Germany there are official national definitions of ES that are in line with the MAES approach. The AlpES project also refers to the MAES definition.*

### AlpES project

1)

Ehrlich, P. R. & Ehrlich, A. H. (1981): Extinction. The causes and consequences of the disappearance of species. New York, NY: Random House.

2)

Reid, W. V. (Ed.) (2005): Ecosystems and human well-being. Synthesis; a report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, MEA - Millennium Ecosystem Assessment & WRI - World Resources Institute. Washington, DC.

3)

TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) (2010): Ecological and Economic Foundations. Chapter 5: The economics of valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity.

4)

Maes, J.; Teller, A.; Erhard, M.; Murphy, P.; Paracchini, M. L.; Barredo, J. I. et al. (2014): Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services. Indicators for ecosystem assessments under action 5 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 : 2nd report - final, February 2014. Luxembourg: Publications Office (Technical Report, 2014-080).

5)

Burkhard, B.; Kandziora, M.; Hou, Y. & Müller, F. (2014): Ecosystem Service Potentials, Flows and Demands – Concepts for Spatial Localisation, Indication and Quantification. In: Landscape Online 34, p. 1–32.

6)

Harrington, R.; Anton, C.; Dawson, T. P.; Bello, F. de; Feld, C. K.; Haslett, J. R., et al. (2010): Ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. Concepts and a glossary. In: Biodiversity and Conservation 19 (10), p. 2773–2790.

From:

<http://www.wikialps.eu/> - **WIKIAlps - the Alpine WIKI**

Permanent link:

[http://www.wikialps.eu/doku.php?id=wiki:ecosystem\\_services\\_alpes&rev=1519647164](http://www.wikialps.eu/doku.php?id=wiki:ecosystem_services_alpes&rev=1519647164)

Last update: **2018/02/26 13:12**

