

HIGHLIGHTS I/2023

Department of Human Dimensions of Global Change



We have not been twiddling our thumbs for the first half of the year – here are some highlights to show what we have been up to! The text includes external links, some to external websites, but the majority of them lead to our [blog](#) (shared with our new sister Department of Social-ecological Analysis). Our blogs are a bilingual mix. You can follow us to keep up to date on our projects, publications, events and other activities. You can also follow our [twitter account](#). Or both!

New Arrivals

Since the beginning of 2023, we have welcomed [Abhigya](#) and [Tereza Prášilová](#) in our midst (the office is starting to fit us a little tight!). [Vendy Kubušková](#) is also here with us in Prague making sure that our new HORIZON project runs just right. Abhigya's focus is regulation of agricultural pesticides in India and contestations around knowledge claims in agriculture, and she is working on our FoSTA-Health project. Tereza has recently finished her appointment focused on biodiversity at the Ministry of Environment for the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, and now she is involved in our SSH Centre project.



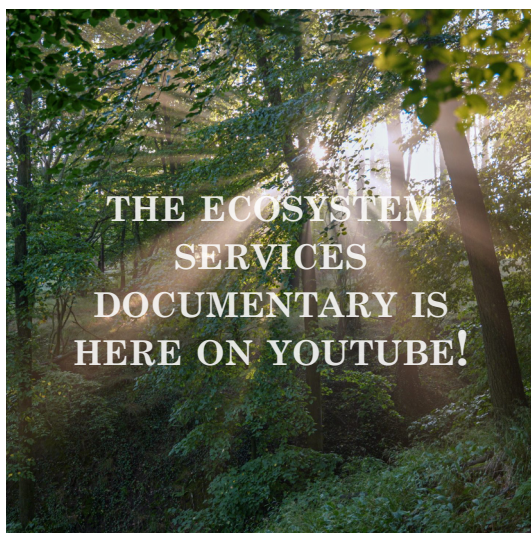
Project Highlights

ONE NATURE (JEDNA PŘÍRODA)

The first comprehensive [documentary film](#) (directed by Michal Gálik) that presents the concept of ecosystem services (ES) and the importance thereof using Czech landscape as an example is finished. The premiere [took place in April!](#)

We have also finished [the penultimate run](#) of our participative workshops on ES. The final round is ahead of us, so expect to hear about it at the end of the year.

The National Platform for Ecosystem Services gathered for the second time. More in [Science Policy](#).





PLUS CHANGE

We are coordinating a new Horizon Europe project! [PLUS Change](#) aims to create land use strategies and decision-making processes that meet climate, biodiversity and human well-being objectives of sustainability, and to develop interventions that leverage political, economic, societal, material and cultural contexts to achieve these strategies, by involving actors at multiple decision-making levels (individual, land management, planning, policy). We have successfully signed the grant agreement and the official kick-off took place in the third week of June in Prague.

SELINA

There was a three-day [thematic workshop](#) held in Sofia, which Davina Vačkářová and Helena Duchková attended, that brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss seeds of transformative change in the context of biodiversity and ecosystems.

SSH CENTRE

SSH CENTRE, aiming to improve the visibility and uptake of social sciences and humanities research in climate, energy and mobility, [has officially launched!](#) The project also [opened a call](#) to fund 30 new interdisciplinary collaborative teams.

Golf Vinoř



Malawi



GOLF VINOŘ - CITIZEN SCIENCE

Golf Vinoř, led by David Stella, [questions land use in suburban landscape](#) using Citizen Science. They are planning a 3rd questionnaire on biodiversity and the possibilities of using the golfing space for support thereof, and a workshop in the summer on best practices in sustainable golf management.

CULTES

This project focused on cultural ecosystem services successfully concluded at the end of 2022. Jan Daněk summed up its conclusions in Czech [on the blog](#).

FOSTA-HEALTH

Lenka Suchá from the Department of Social-ecological analysis, who works on this project with us, went on a [scoping trip to Malawi](#) in May to gain some necessary insight.

HODEZ

We are newly involved in a project led by UJEP focused on the assessment of organic and conventional agriculture in terms of their impacts on ecosystem services for support of strategic and decision-making processes. The kick-off meeting [was in January](#).



Publication Highlights

Julia Leventon collaborated on [a paper on practical wisdom and virtue ethics](#), which points to the kinds of skills we should be training and developing for sustainability science and contributes to better defining the discipline of sustainability science, or what it means to be a sustainability scientist.

Speaking of the CultES project, one of its outputs was [a paper co-authored by Jan Daněk](#), which provides an overview on the use of the focus group method in cultural ecosystem services research, but also includes some general recommendations which might be useful in other contexts.

Jan, with the help of a few of our department colleagues, also put out a paper on the perceived benefits and role of the ecosystem services framework in protected landscape areas in the Czech Republic – [this blog post](#) sums it up in Czech, but also includes a link to the original paper in English.

Science Policy

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Members of the department continue to take part in the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), the [IPBES Transformative Change Assessment](#) (Julia Leventon is involved) and the [IPBES Nexus Assessment](#) (Helena Duchková is involved). Helena attended the second author meeting in Kruger National Park, South Africa, in March, and an IPBES fellows' training in Nairobi, Kenya in April. During the training, fellows involved in the Nexus, Transformative Change and Invasive Alien Species assessments had a chance to exchange knowledge and discuss common issues across assessments while strengthening their network. The training was concluded by the 6th meeting of the IPBES capacity-building forum, which focused on youth and their engagement in science-policy platforms. It provided a space for learning, knowledge sharing and

exchange of participant's experiences while discussing solutions to current issues. Keep an eye out for a blog post in the near future!

In February the Transformative Change assessment opened for an external review, which is now done. Julia also travelled to Costa Rica to move things along in May and used [her latest blog post](#) to reflect on her involvement.

NATIONAL POLICY

The National Platform for Ecosystem Services (NPES) was established as part of the One Nature project as a national science-policy body with a vision to support and coordinate the development of policies and strategies focused on ecosystem services for nature conservation and biodiversity, as well as other sectoral policies. The first meeting of the platform [was held last year](#), and the second meeting took place on 13 June this year.

Upcoming

TRANSFORMATIONS CONFERENCE 2023

We are the organisers of this year's [European Hub of the Transformations conference](#)! The online registrations have reached capacity and are now closed. We are sure to come back with a blog post to let everyone know how it went.

INSIGHT WORKSHOPS

We are starting to plan workshops that would give others at CzechGlobe insight into the key topics, methods and ideas of environmental social science research and the human dimensions of global change. They should start with an initial workshop as part of the institute-wide series of seminars in the autumn, and then will be followed by individual workshops. There will be announcements about the how and when of these, so watch this space!