



PROJECT PROFILE:

CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE BEAVER HILLS BIOSPHERE

QUANTIFYING THE CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF ECOSYSTEMS

This project investigated how to identify, inventory and assess cultural ecosystem services (both traditional and western knowledge) associated with the management of wetlands within the biosphere landscape.

PROJECT LEAD

Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association (BHBRA)

OVERVIEW

The concept of cultural ecosystem services (ES) has emerged as a means to capture the life-enriching and life-affirming contributions ecosystems make to human well-being. Of great importance to individual and community well-being, cultural ecosystem services are difficult to capture and quantify in biophysical or non-monetary terms, which has limited their integration into land use management processes. In this report, writer Jon Weller investigated how to conceptualize, and methods of assessing, cultural ecosystem services associated with wetlands within the landscape of the UNESCO designated Beaver Hills Biosphere.

OUTCOMES

The report outlined several recommendations that support the inventory and incorporation of cultural ES into the wetland conservation and stewardship efforts underway in the Beaver Hills Biosphere, including:

- Developing a clear understanding of and framework for the identification, assessment and valuation of cultural ES.
- Identifying other, non-monetary forms of valuation for cultural ES.
- Engaging a variety of stakeholder groups in a discussion of how to inventory, assess and incorporate cultural ES.
- Incorporating cultural ES within the foundation of strategic planning and operations.

THE ESN CONNECTION

To support the conservation and stewardship of wetland ecosystems in the region, the BHBRA works with the concept of ecosystem services to understand the myriad ways that people benefit from the environment and design innovative solutions for protecting this unique area.

LEARN MORE

About the biosphere at beaverhills.ca.

About the ESN at ecoservicesnetwork.ca and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn