

Welcome to the special issue of our newsletter!

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the IUCN-CEM Ecosystem Governance Thematic Group, we would like to invite you to participate in the research on the meaning of ecosystem governance. At this moment, IUCN defines ecosystem governance (EG) as "*the interactions among structures, processes, and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say in the management of natural resources – including biodiversity conservation*". However, we feel that this definition has its limitations and that, in order to make it a functioning governance concept, EG requires more detailed description.

The survey is conducted via an online questionnaire. The aim of this questionnaire is to establish what is EG in the eyes of practitioners and will help develop more specific framework of ecosystem governance applicable in practice.

Link to the questionnaire: <https://bit.ly/34AH94s>

Feel free to spread the word about this questionnaire, the more responses we receive, the more accurate our results will be. **The deadline for the final submission of your responses is 30. April 2020.**

This questionnaire is voluntary, will take 5-15 minutes of your time, you can skip questions you do not wish to answer, and there no anticipated risks to participants resulting from participating or withdrawing. You can choose to participate either completely anonymously with no identifier (Category II) or confidentially by providing your e-mail at the end of the questionnaire (Category I). If you decided to add your e-mail, note that you can at any time let us know if you want to withdraw your questionnaire answers and once the results are published, you will receive

a copy of the publication (Category II participants wishing to receive final results of this research can contact us by e-mail at later date). Participants from both categories can also withdraw at any time by closing the browser before submitting the questionnaire.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Research Ethics Board at Brock University [19-162]. If you have any comments or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Ethics at +1-(905) 688-5550 Ext. 3035; reb@brocku.ca.

Thank you for your participation!

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DISCLAIMER: By participating in this research, you consent for anonymized data to be processed for purposes of research and publication and retained indefinitely on a password protected database. Personal identifiers (e-mail addresses) will be stored up to 1-month after publishing of results. Neither identifiers nor unprocessed data will not be shared with third parties. For inquiries about this research (including 'opt-out' issues), please use either of the following e-mail address: tomzuklin@qq.com or lvasseur@brocku.ca.

Please note that the questionnaire is Google-based, thus falling under the USA Patriot Act.