

PRESS RELEASE

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PIANC ORIENTATION PAPER ON “ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE WATERBORNE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR”

PIANC, the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure has published an orientation paper on the use of the Ecosystem Services (ES) concept in assessment of waterborne infrastructure projects. To enable the design of more sustainable infrastructure works and their efficient, safe implementation and realization in environmentally sensitive areas, the concept of ecosystem services has become an increasingly important tool for integral evaluation of project effects (benefits or impacts). The concept can also be an essential element in achieving wide-ranging public support.

PIANC has looked into this topic regarding the navigation sector thereby developing an Orientation Paper: "Opportunities to apply the concept of Ecosystems Services to the Waterborne Transport Infrastructure sector". In an ecosystem services assessment, the main targets of projects and the wide variety of additional effects on nature and society are identified, quantified and expressed, occasionally even in monetary terms.

The paper explains briefly the concept of ES, the importance of it for the waterborne infrastructure sector and its connection with “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB) study. The paper also highlights future steps that can be taken in the navigation sector with regards to ES.

In addition, PIANC’s Environmental Commission recently initiated a new working group intending to prepare a report: "An Introduction to applying Ecosystem Services for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure Projects”. International experts on navigation, infrastructure and specialists on ecosystem management will be reviewing the applicability of ES in the navigation sector. The review will also highlight case studies.

The Orientation paper can be downloaded at <http://www.pianc.org/envicom.php>.

For more information contact.....

PIANC is the forum where professionals around the world provide expert advice on cost-effective, reliable and sustainable infrastructures to facilitate the growth of waterborne transport. Established in 1885, PIANC continues to be the leading partner for governments and private sectors in the design, development and maintenance of ports, waterways and coastal areas. PIANC brings together the best international experts on technical, economic and environmental issues pertaining to waterborne transport infrastructures.