

# ARIES:

*modelling the flows of ecosystem services  
from nature to society*

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# ARIES: Who's Involved?



**ARIES**

ARtificial Intelligence for Ecosystem Services

**bc<sup>3</sup>**

BASQUE CENTRE  
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE  
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**UNEP**



**WCMC**



*The*  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*of*  
**VERMONT**

CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL



**EARTH**   
**ECONOMICS**

# ARIES: What does it do?

- modelling & mapping
  - sources
  - beneficiaries
  - flows
- an online platform
  - interface, software, language

# ARIES: Which services?

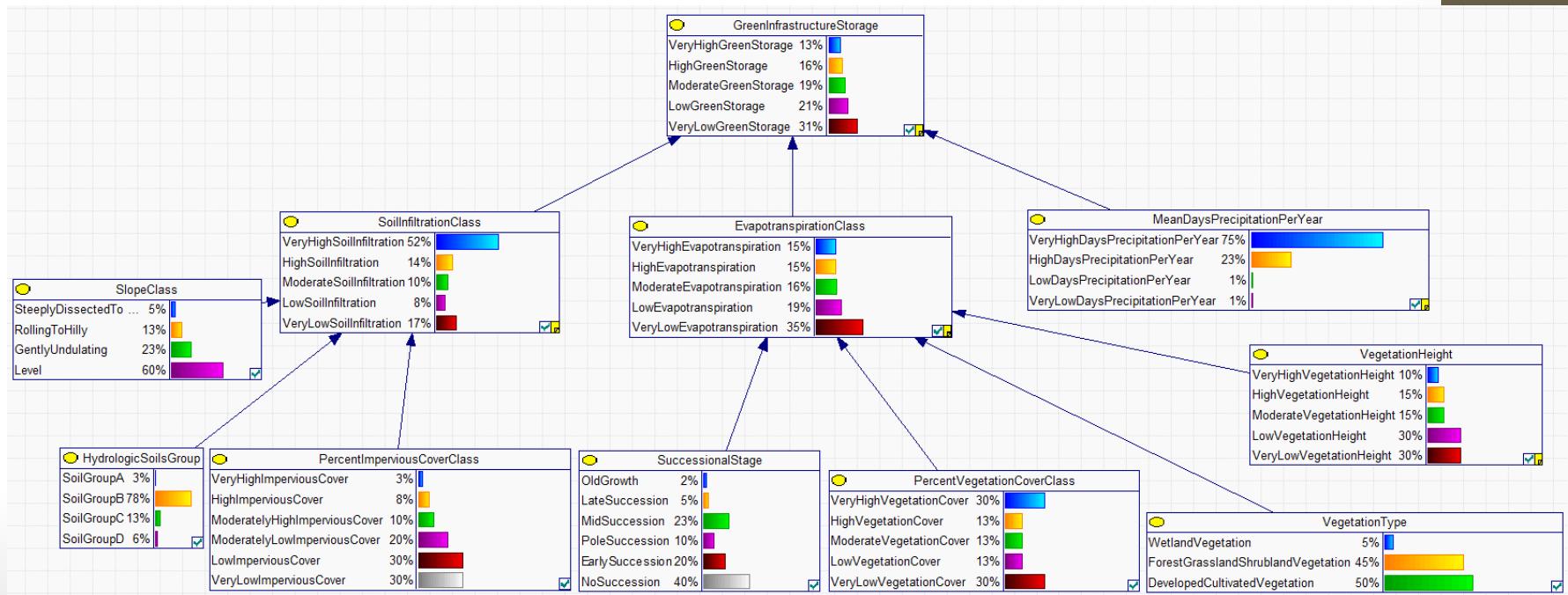
- Currently:
  - Carbon
  - Flood regulation (Rivers or Coastal)
  - Aesthetic views , Open space proximity, Recreation
  - Freshwater supply & Sediment regulation
  - Subsistence fisheries
- Theoretically: any

# Key concepts

- Identify beneficiaries  
who & where?
- Flows involve  
sources, sinks, and flow paths
- Services can be:  
provisioning - when flows are beneficial  
e.g. food, freshwater, views  
or preventive – of detrimental flows  
e.g. floods, pollution

# Source models

- deterministic process models
  - like InVEST models
- or probabilistic Bayesian Networks:

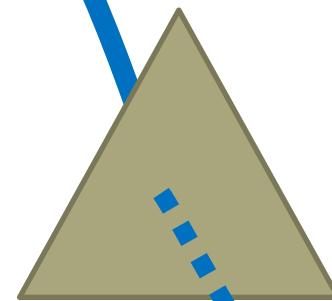


# Flows: SPAN models

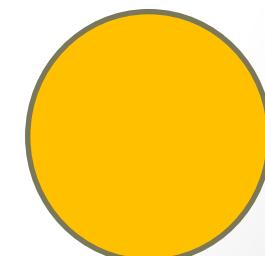
A source



Carrier flows on paths



Beneficiary

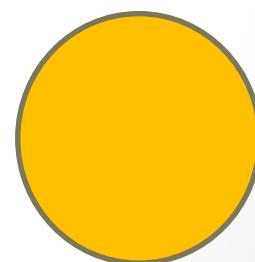
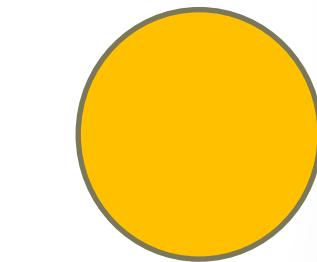


Sinks deplete or change flows



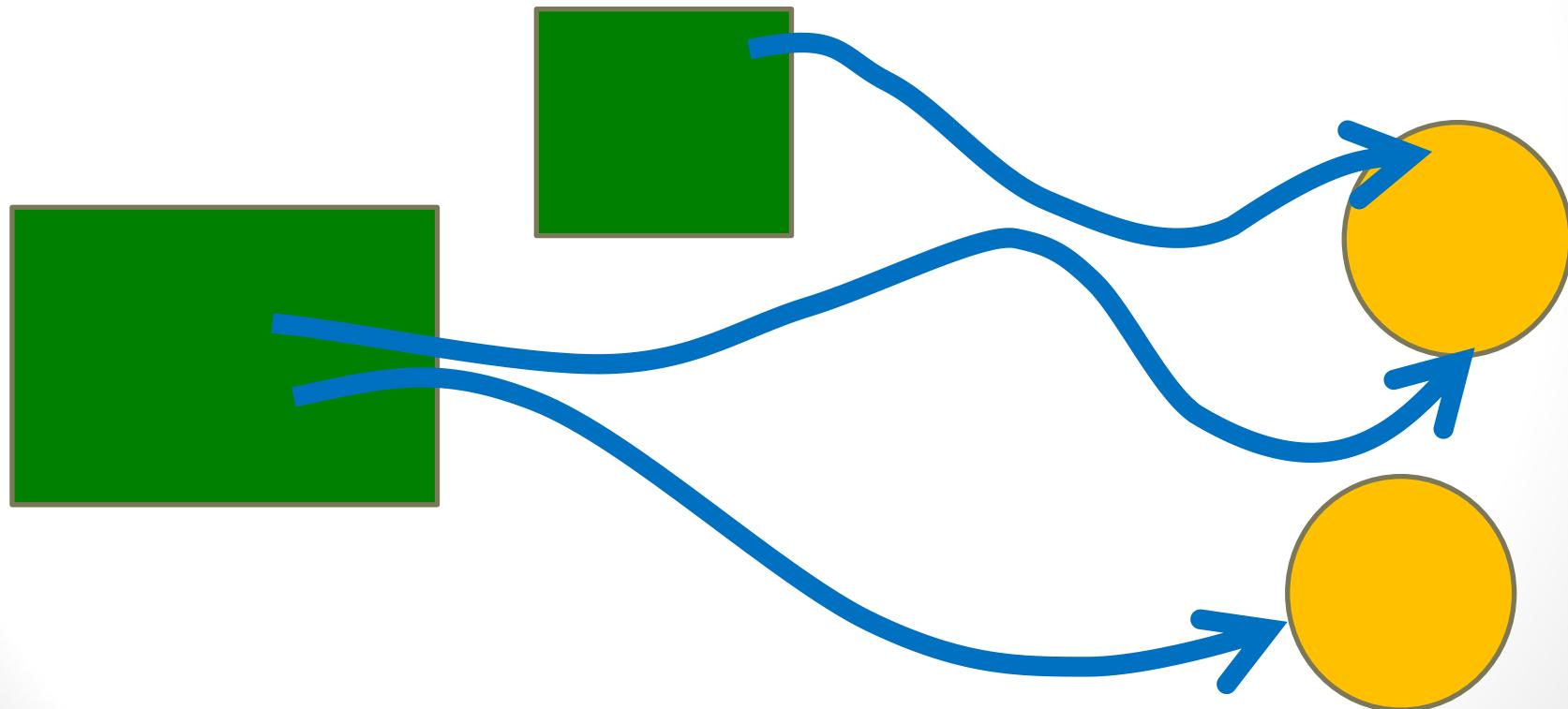
# Theoretical

- **SOURCES** and **BENEFICIARIES** or needs,  
without considering flows



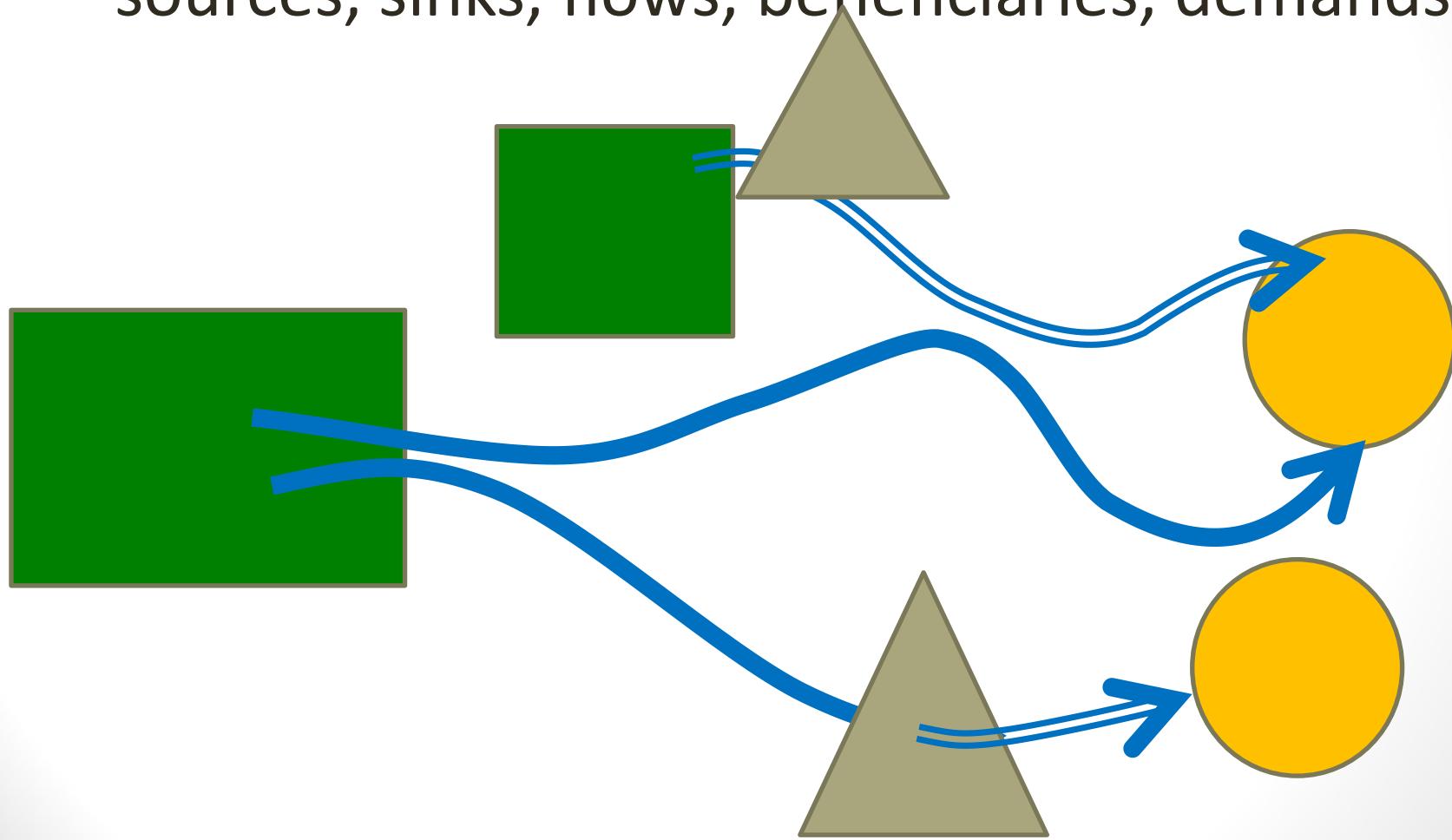
# Possible

- maximum possible flows,  
without considering sinks



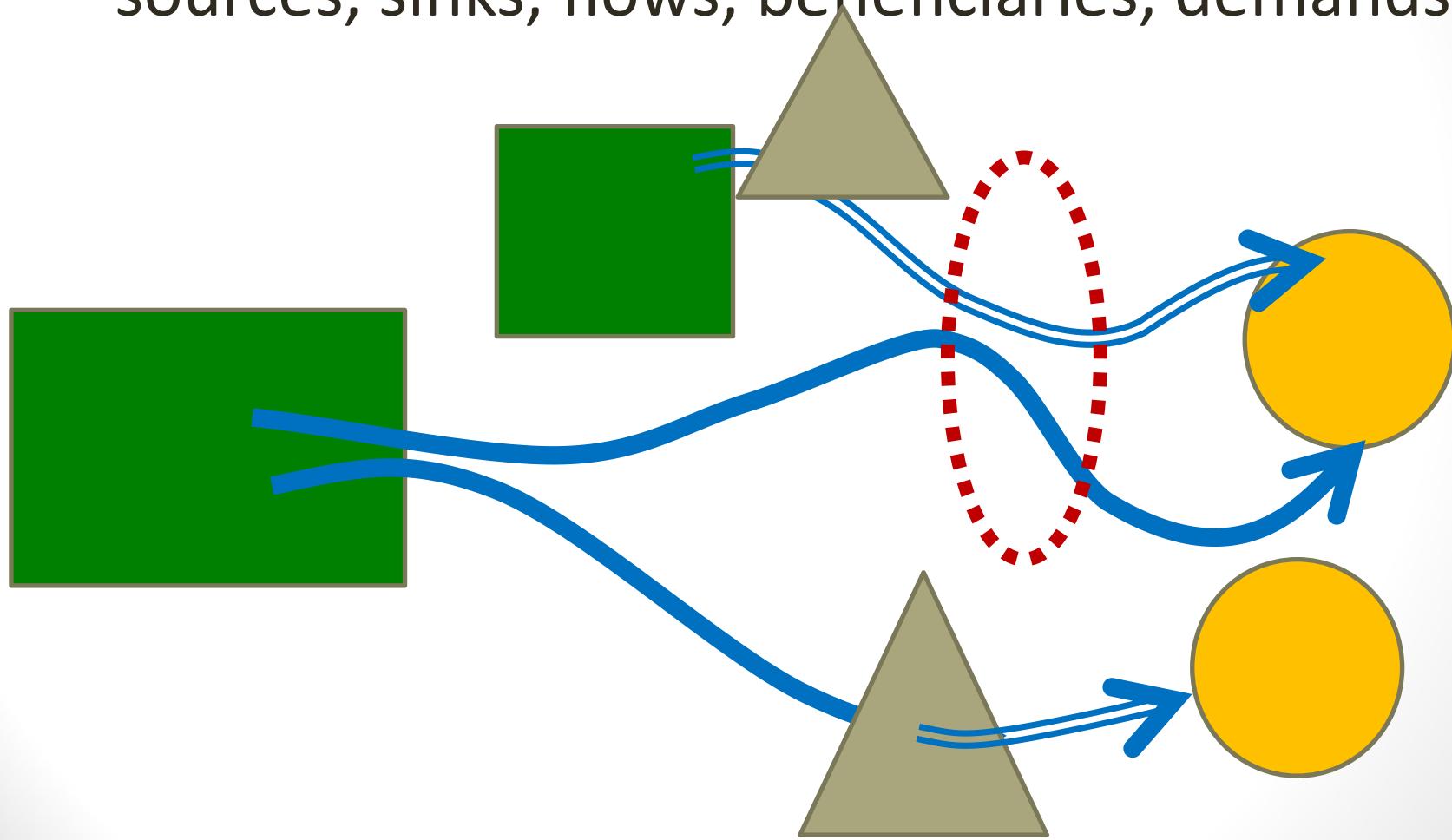
# Actual

- sources, sinks, flows, beneficiaries, demands



# Actual

- sources, sinks, flows, beneficiaries, demands



# Input / Output

- **Input:**
  - Varies depending on the ecosystem service being modelled.
  - Minimum requirements but can incorporate additional information
- **Output:**
  - Maps of sources, sinks, and flows.
  - physical units or other values

Western Washington:  
Carbon, Flood & Sediment  
regulation, Aesthetics

Southern  
California:  
Carbon,  
Flood  
regulation

Southeast  
Arizona:  
Water supply,  
Carbon,  
Recreation,  
Aesthetics

Veracruz:  
Water  
supply

Vermont:  
Carbon,  
Recreation

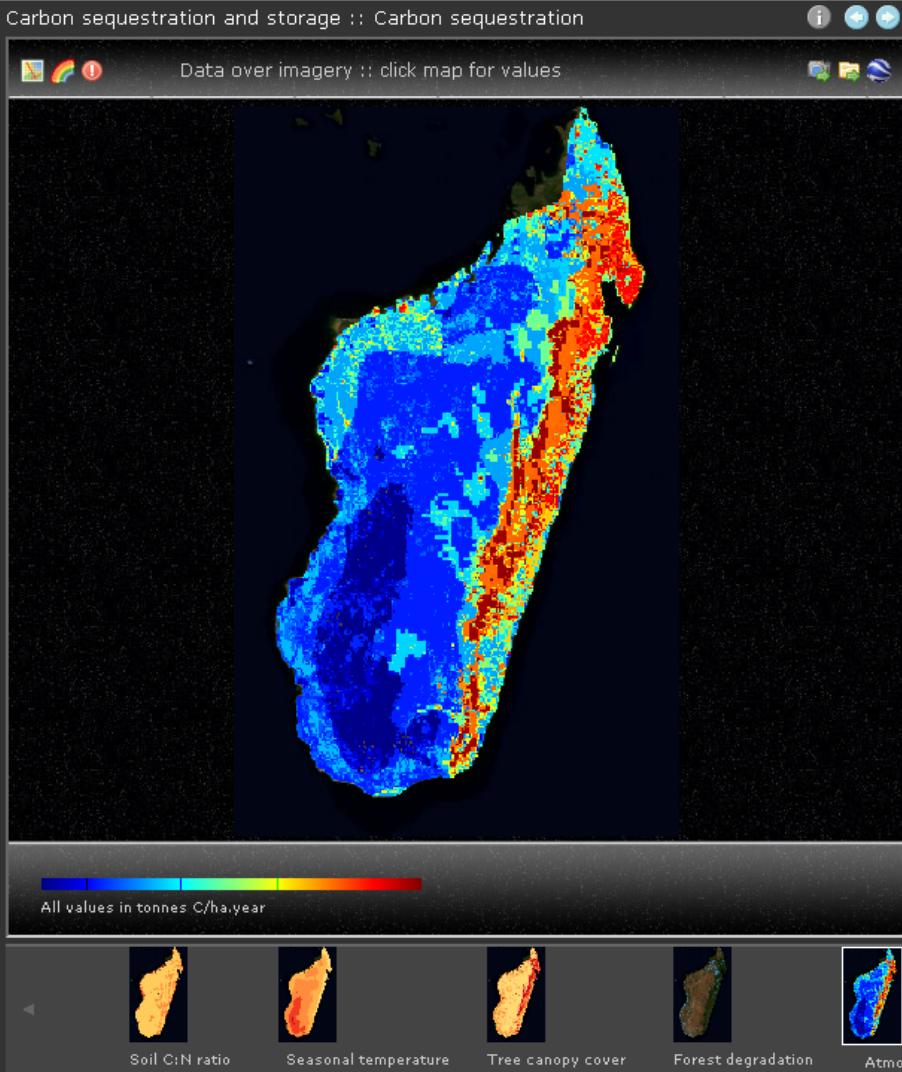
Colorado:  
Carbon, Water supply,  
Sediment regulation, Viewsheds

Dominican  
Republic:  
Sediment  
regulation

Tanzania:  
Water supply

Madagascar:  
Carbon,  
Sediment  
regulation,  
Subsistence  
fisheries, Coastal  
protection

- AESTHETICS: VIEWSHEDS
- AESTHETICS: OPEN SPACE PROXIMITY
- COASTAL FLOOD REGULATION
- SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES
- SEDIMENT REGULATION
- FLOOD REGULATION
- RECREATION
- ▼ **CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND STORAGE** 
- Carbon sequestration and storage  
- The values associated with 



CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered. The amount of carbon taken up by vegetation and soils and added to biotic and soil carbon stocks. This is the quantity available for mitigating anthropogenic carbon emissions.

### Role in models

The value of the area in mitigating the adverse effects of rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is indicated by the amount of carbon sequestered by vegetation and soil.

### Representation

Data are in physical units of tonnes of carbon sequestered per hectare per year. As the output of the models is probabilistic, each point contains the probability distribution of the amount of carbon. The distribution can be visualized by clicking on the map; the mean value and the coefficient of variation are reported along with the probabilities.

### Source

Carbon model details from the ARIES website  
[IPCC website](#)

**Data source:** MODIS net primary productivity data.  
**Funding:** U.S. National Science Foundation.

**Q: Is ARIES the best tool for  
mapping ecosystem services?**

**A: In theory – Probably  
In reality – Not yet**