

## APPLYING THE ESII TOOL

The ability to identify and assess the benefits provided by nature on a given site quickly and inexpensively is necessary if businesses and society are to bring the value of nature into their decisions. The Ecosystem Services Identification & Inventory (ESII) Tool was developed by The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and EcoMetrix Solutions Group (ESG) to provide decision makers with an unprecedented ability to include these natural values in their management decisions, thus realizing potential cost savings and improving social, economic, and ecological outcomes for their organizations and their surrounding community.



The ability to bring ecosystem services into our daily decision making has long been limited by the complexity and difficulty of the task. Quantifying ecosystem services requires a multistep, multi-disciplinary analysis of complex ecosystem interactions (shown in the graphic to the left) which has created a barrier to the application of the ecosystem services concept. Decision makers have not had systems or tools that were easy to use until now. The ESII Tool fills that gap.

The ESII Tool is designed to help planners, engineers, site managers, and others in the early stages of decision making, and can play a vital part in site planning, impact assessments, and cost/benefit studies. The ESII Tool will help you narrow the scope of your study to the most suitable alternative or design approach, economically and efficiently. You'll be able to compare alternatives and design scenarios to determine which will provide the best set of outcomes, given your project objectives.



The ESII Tool provides planning-level information; it is not intended for analyses that require decimal point precision. Because it has been designed for use by both experts and non-experts, the ESII outputs will necessarily incorporate some uncertainty. The ESII Tool tracks and reports this uncertainty in the modeling results, enabling the manager to decide the level of reliance to place on the results. Even with less experienced data collectors, the results can still be used in most planning contexts because ESII has been designed and calibrated to account for variations in experience levels.

The ESII Tool requires field-collected data, and data collection has been made as user-friendly as possible.