

Looking Ahead for Policy Planning

One of the great strengths of the ARIES framework is its use of probabilistic models to describe the state of the human and environmental systems in the study area. This allows the system to smoothly integrate with technologies for decision making under the real-world condition of uncertain outcomes. After ARIES has made an initial assessment of the ecosystem services in your area, it can easily allow you to input descriptions of a number of different planning scenarios that are likely to affect the production of or access to these services. The system can then probabilistically simulate the state of these services under each of your planning scenarios and allow you to compare the likely distribution of outcomes directly. Alternatively, by first specifying your preferences as to which factors in the system you value more or less highly, ARIES can calculate the overall utility to you for each service-affecting scenario, thereby providing a more explicit ranking to aid your comparison.