

CNAES HQP Research & Collaborative Exchange Funding *Visit report*

1. Exchange information

Visitor: **Dalal Hanna, PhD Candidate, McGill University, CNAES Project III-6**

Supervisor: Elena Bennett

Conference: **Ecological Society of America (ESA) Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 6th to 11th 2017**

2. Objective/Purpose

The purpose of attending this conference was to participate in the special symposia organized by CNAES Principal Investigator, Marie-José Fortin, about Aquatic Ecosystem Services. During this symposium, I joined other CNAES Principal Investigators and leading researching in the field of aquatic ecosystem services to present my research investigating the quantification of riverine ecosystem services.

3. Description of the visit

The annual Ecological Society of America conference provides a fantastic opportunity for ecologists from around the world to meet, share results about their research, and exchange ideas. During my visit I gave a 25-minute presentation in the special symposia on Aquatic Ecosystem Services about the first chapter of my thesis, which is a review evaluating how the ecosystem service literature has quantified riverine ecosystem services. I then participated in the panel following the symposia, which was a general discussion about aquatic ecosystem services. This presentation provided me with a unique opportunity to meet leading researchers in my field, present in front of a large audience, receive feedback on my work, and foster deeper connections with the participating CNAES members. Building off the comments provided after my talk I also brought modifications to my work, which has since been accepted for publication at the Journal of Applied Ecology. The remainder of the visit provided a fantastic opportunity to connect with other ecologists and participate in the series of presentations about ecosystem services, which were all very relevant to future research.

