

Only the text in the *green italics* represents the consensus views of the SAB Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services and has been approved by the chartered SAB. All other text was provided by individual committee members and is offered to extend and elaborate the very brief descriptions provided in chapter 4 of the SAB Report, *Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Service* and to encourage further deliberation within EPA and the broader scientific community about how to meet the need for an integrated and expanded approach for valuing the protection of ecological systems and services.

## **Deliberative Processes**

Excerpt from draft SAB Committee report, Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services: *Deliberative processes, in which analysts, decision makers, and/or members of the public meet in facilitated interactions, can be useful in estimating and valuing the potential effect of EPA actions on ecosystems and their related services. Such processes can assist at several steps of an assessment, ranging from developing conceptual models and determining the ecosystem services on which the Agency should focus its assessment to valuing those services. For example, where the public is not familiar with key ecosystem services, deliberative processes can provide the public with expert information that may better enable them to identify what services are important to them. Similarly, where the public is not accustomed to valuing particular ecosystem services, deliberative processes may again help members of the public estimate the value that they would place on those services. Deliberative processes also can increase public understanding and acceptance of a valuation effort and, where appropriate, permit the public to play a more active role in shaping and analyzing options.*