



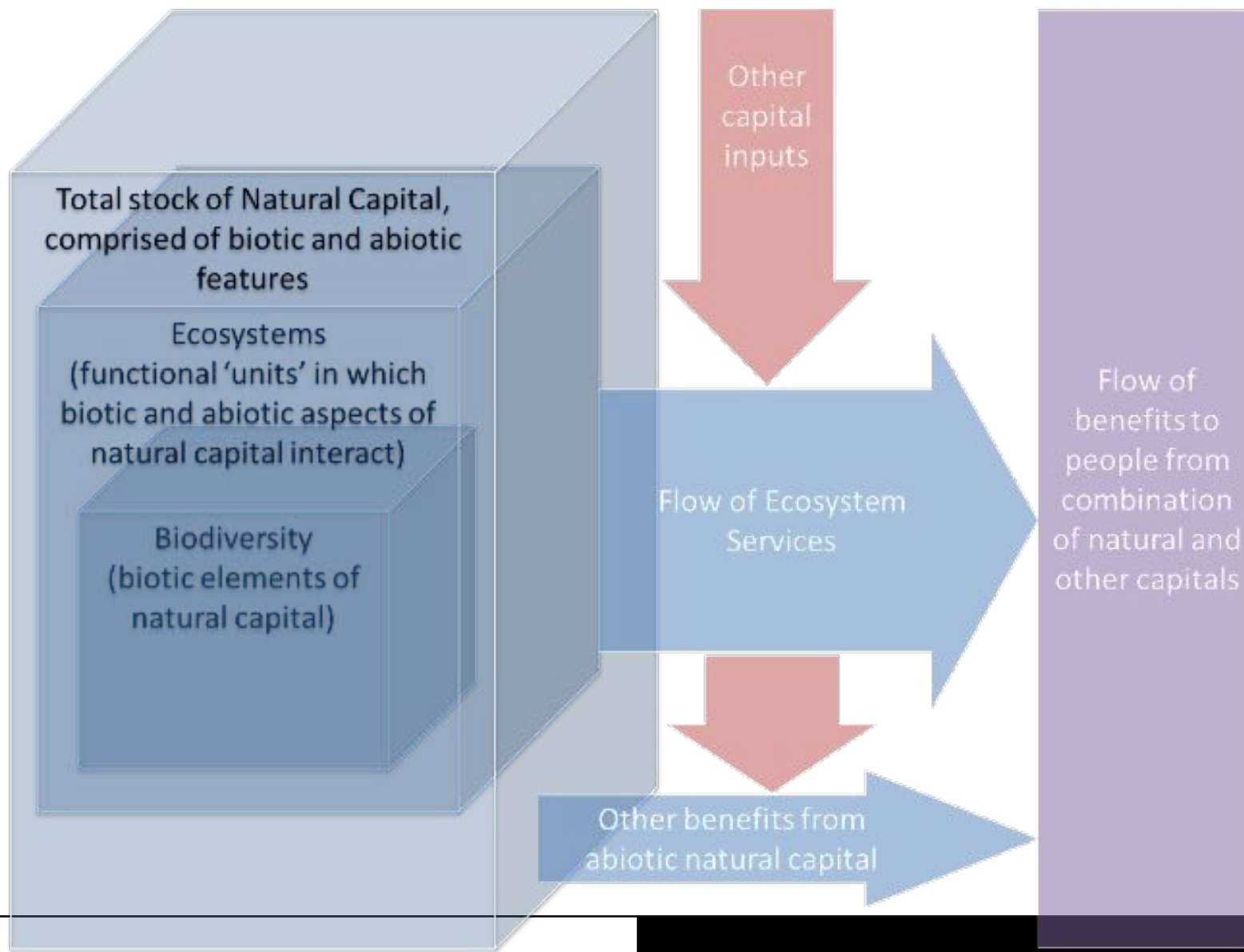
# United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre



**BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES ACCOUNTING, STEVEN KING  
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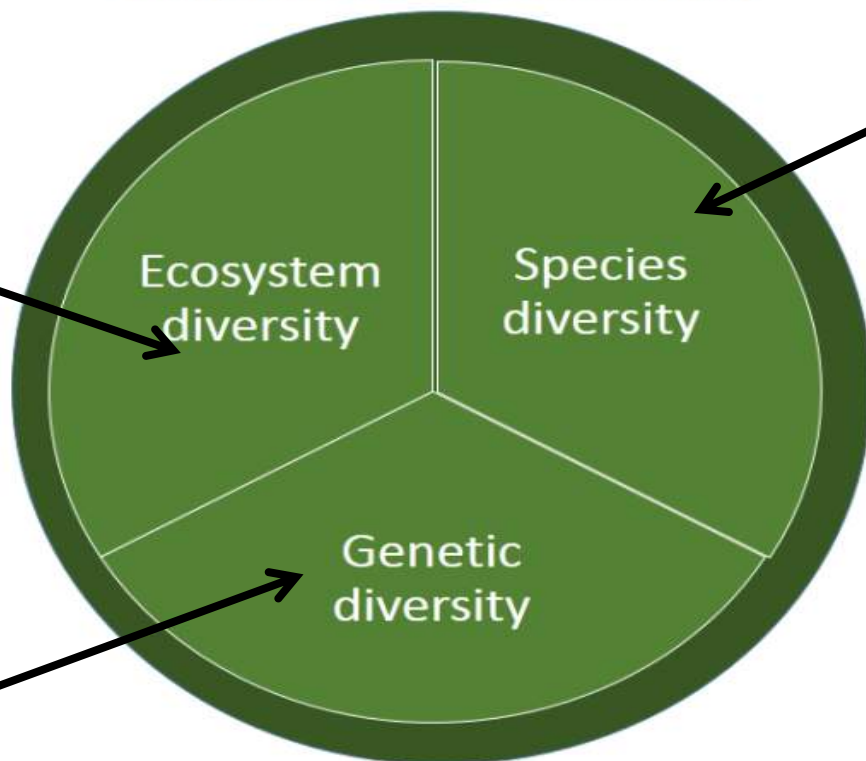


# IMPORTANT PART OF NATURAL CAPITAL STOCK



# WHY SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Components of biodiversity



**INFORMATION IN  
WIDER ECOSYSTEM  
ACCOUNTS**

**IMPORTANT BUT  
FOR THE FUTURE!**

**SPECIES PROVIDE A PROXY FOR  
BIODIVERSITY AND INDICATOR OF  
ECOSYSTEM CONDITION**

**SPECIES PROVIDE MANY BENEFITS  
TO HUMAN WELL-BEING**

**SPECIES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT  
FOR ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION**

**SPATIAL PLANNING FOR SPECIES-  
LEVEL BIODIVERSITY CAN DIFFER  
FROM PLANNING FOR ECOSYSTEMS  
AND THEIR SERVICES**

**THERE IS CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH  
AND DATA ON SPECIES**





## **BENEFITS**





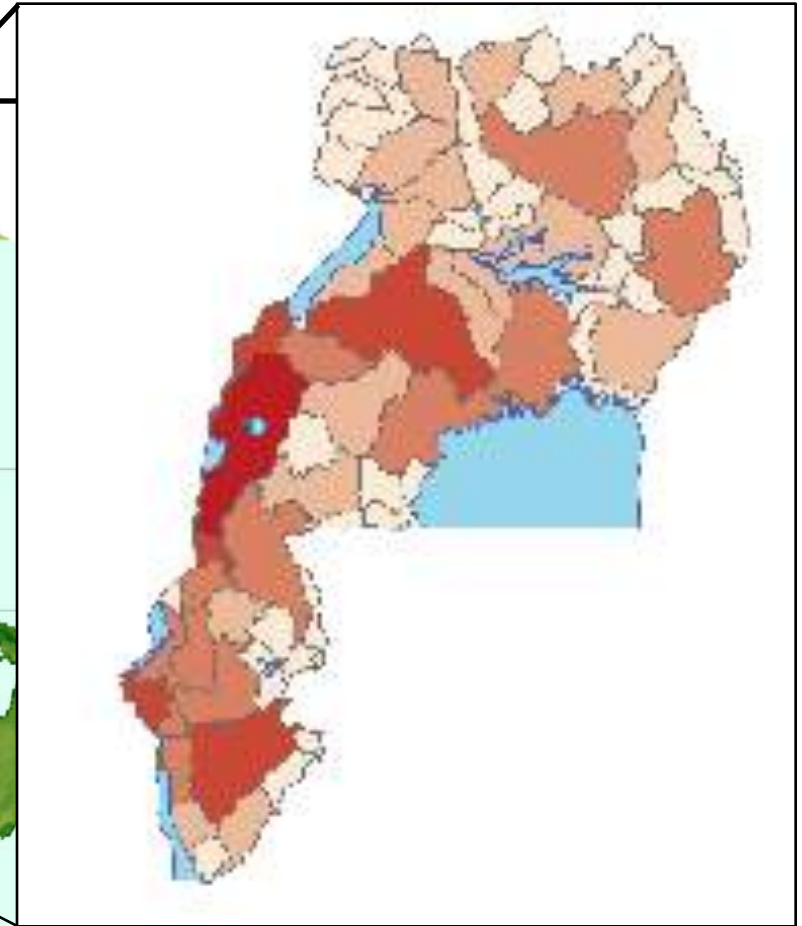
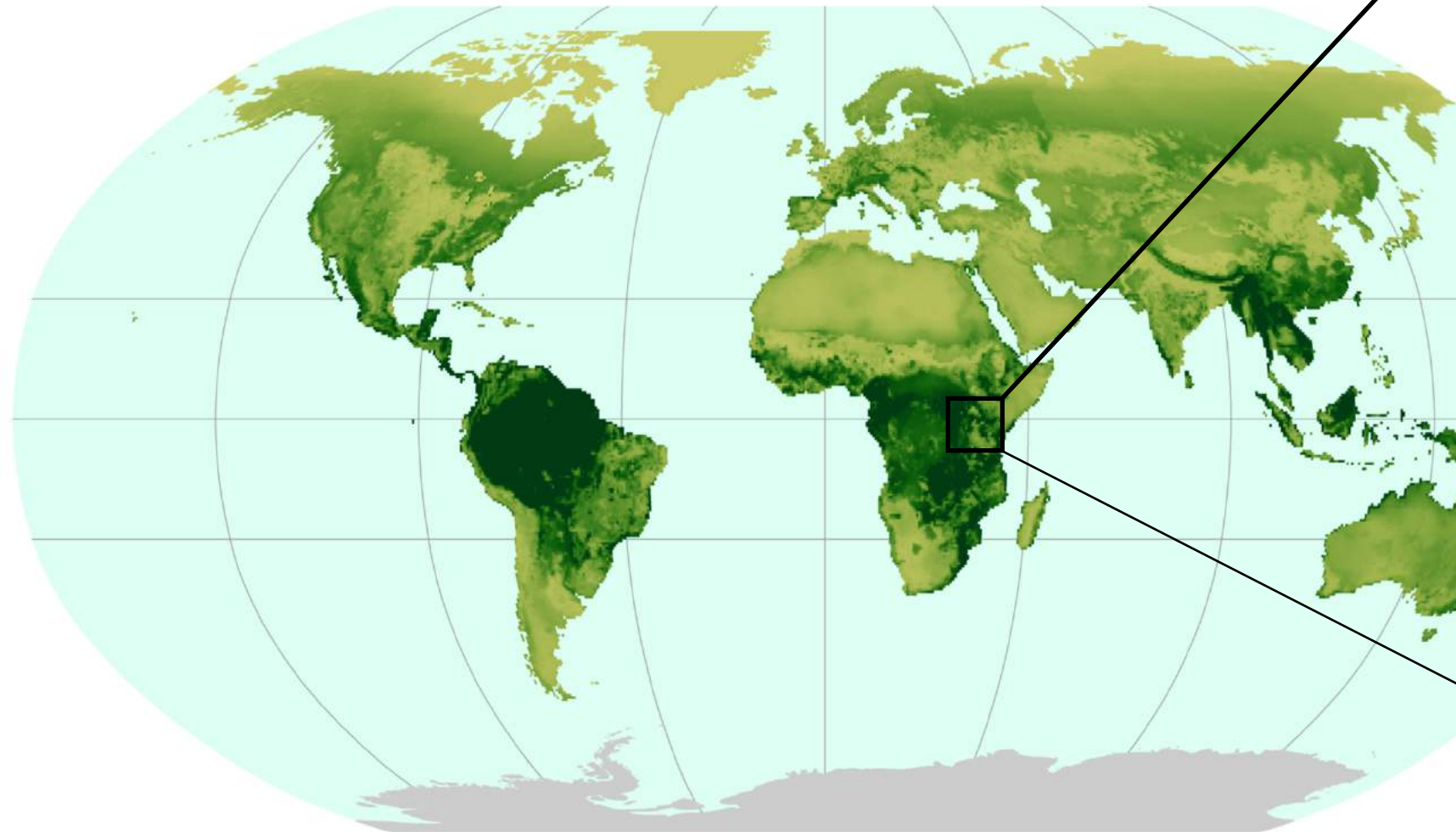


## FUNCTIONAL ROLES





# DATA ON SPECIES STATUS



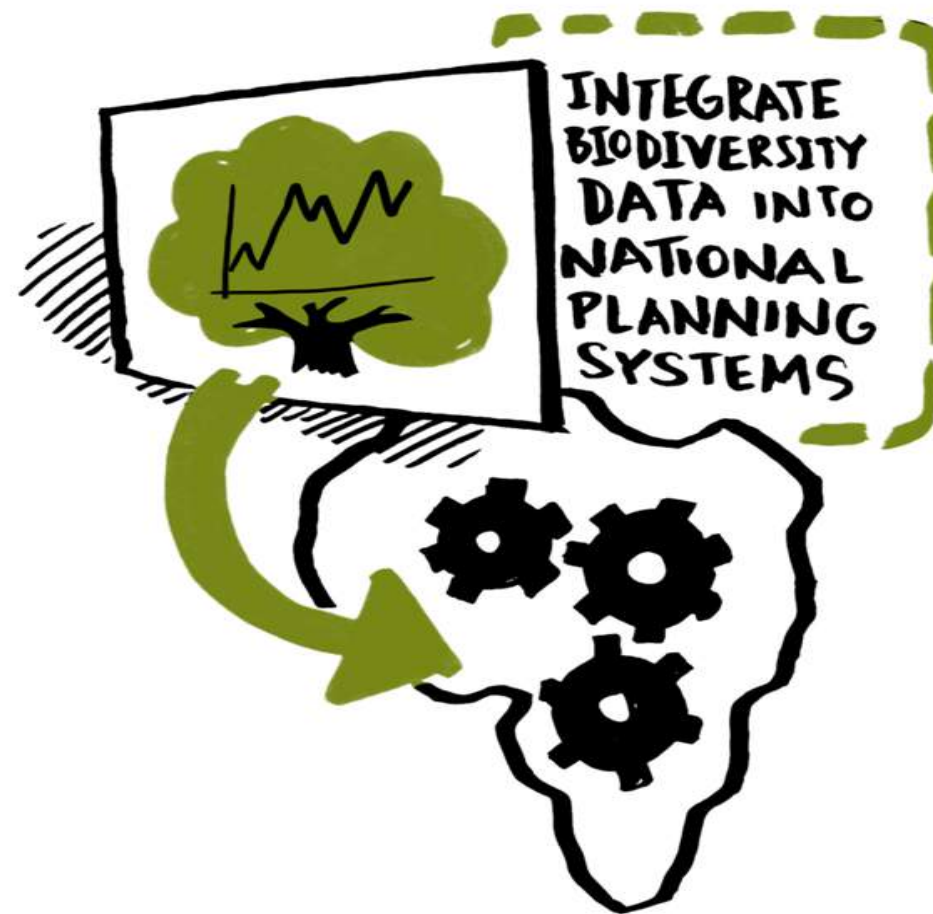


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# **SPECIES ACCOUNTS CAN HELP INTEGRATE EXISTING SPECIES DATA INTO DECISION MAKING**

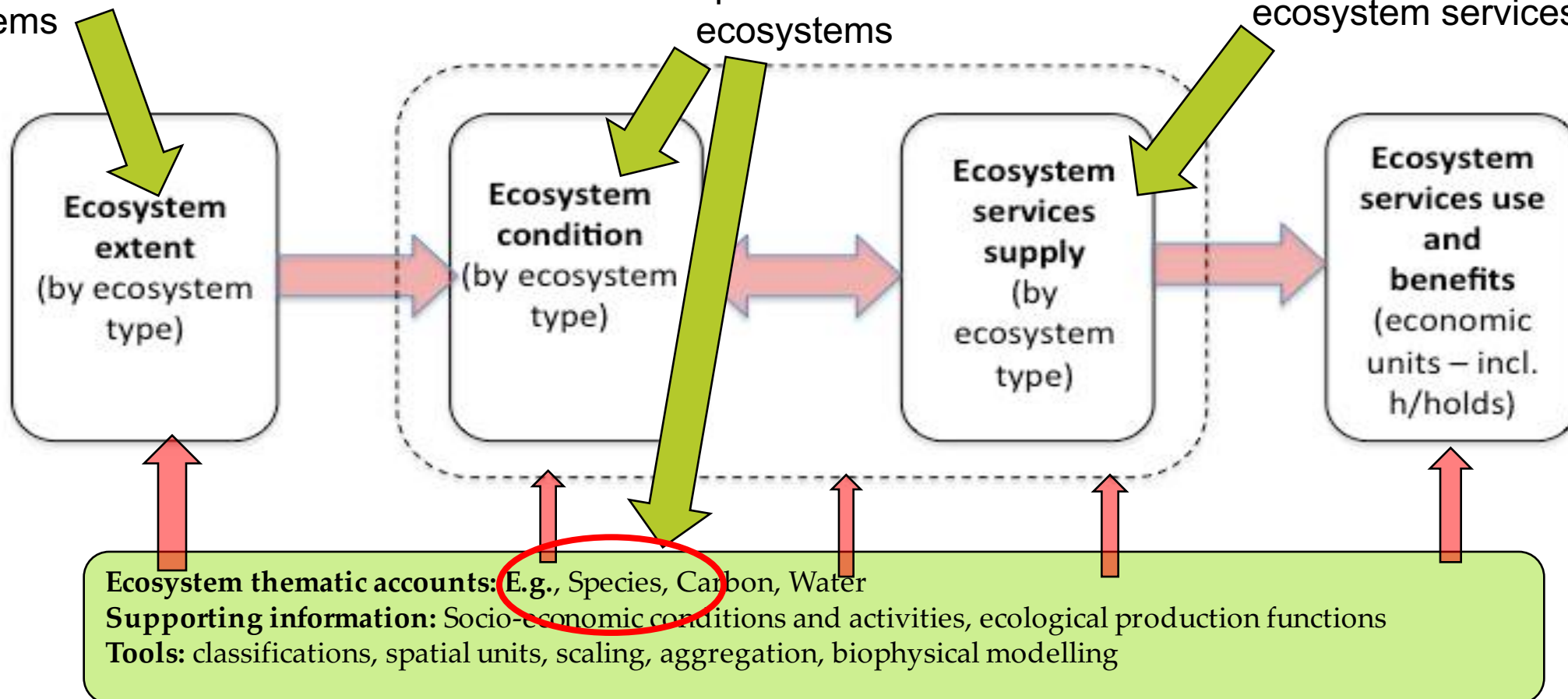


# SPECIES ACCOUNTS IN SEEA-EEA.

Areas of  
ecosystems

Condition of  
species in  
ecosystems

Ability to deliver  
ecosystem services





# BIOPHYSICAL SPATIAL ACCOUNTS

- i. **BASED ON SELECTING PRIORITY SPECIES AND SPECIES GROUPS (E.G., MAMMALS)**
- ii. **CONSTRUCT SPATIAL ACCOUNTS USING CHANGES IN DIRECT OR HABITAT BASED OBSERVATIONS**

	Direct Observations	Habitat Based Observations
Methods	Population census (e.g., mammal surveys); Population estimates (e.g., transects, nest counts); Cover (e.g., canopy cover)	Changes in the habitat required by species
Pros	Locally accurate data	Limit resources required
Cons	Depends on significant investments in monitoring	Assumptions add an element of uncertainty. Expertise to implement

Constructing Species Accounts in the context of the SEEA-EEA: Initial approaches for exploration.

*Coordinating Lead authors:* Steven King, Claire Brown, Mike Harfoot, and Lucy Wilson.

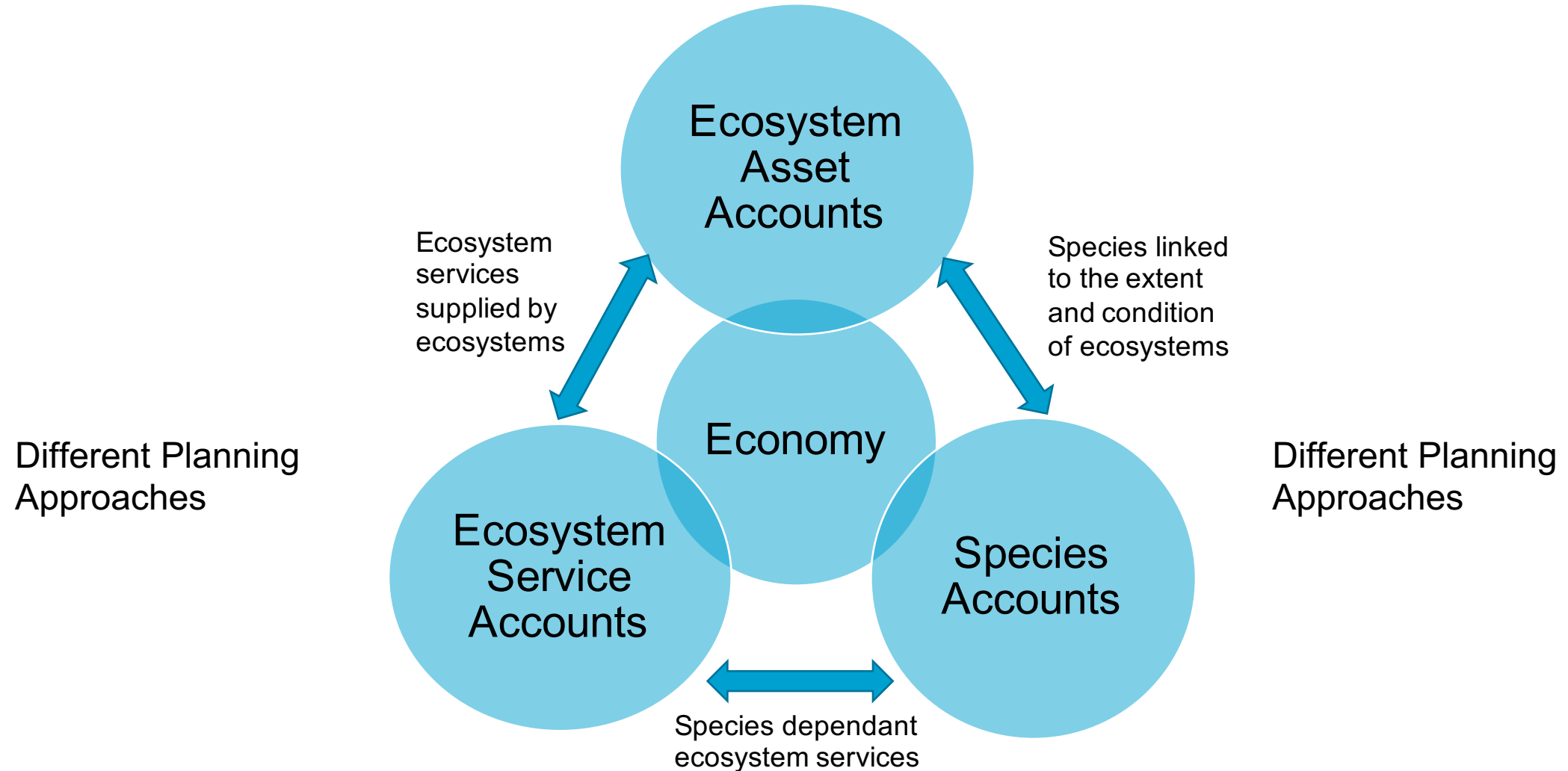
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This work was coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The step-by-step approach for constructing Species Accounts was informed by a three day workshop held at UNEP-WCMC's offices in Cambridge in February 2016. The work has been funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA).

*Acknowledgements:* We gratefully acknowledge the input and support from Alessandra Alfieri and Ivo Hovinga (UNSD), Rocky Harris (DEFRA); Carl Obst (IDEA Group); Stig Gustaf Johansson (the World Bank); Michael Vardon (ANU, World Bank); Ken Joseph Bagstad (USGS, World Bank); Hilary Nilson and James Vause (UNEP-WCMC); Lisa Waselkowski and Markus Erhard (European Environment Agency); Julie Aslaksen (Statistics Norway) and Olav Skarpaas (The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research).

<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/news/guidance-on-experimental-biodiversity-accounting-using-the-seea-eea-framework>

# A COHERENT PICTURE





# POTENTIAL USES

- i. IDENTIFYING IF SPECIES ARE BEING EXPLOITED SUSTAINABLY (E.G., SETTING QUOTAS)**
- ii. IDENTIFYING WHICH ECOSYSTEMS ARE BEING DEGRADED AND THEIR RESILIENCE COMPROMISED**
- iii. IDENTIFYING WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE SPECIES ASSET BASE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE BENEFITS**
- iv. COMMUNICATING THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS FOR INVESTING IN SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (E.G., IDENTIFYING RETURNS ON INVESTMENT)**
- v. SPATIALLY ANALYSING ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SCENARIOS AND OTHER TRADE-OFFS WITH SPECIES STATUS**
- vi. INFORMING POLICY OBJECTIVES (E.G., 'NO NET LOSS' OF BIODIVERSITY AND OFFSET PROGRAMMES)**
- vii. IDENTIFYING IF AGGREGATED TRENDS IN SPECIES ARE A CONCERN AT A NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS**
- viii. TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG'S AND OTHER COMMITMENTS**

# INTEGRATED DECISION MAKING

The drivers of biodiversity / species loss arise throughout the economy

Agriculture

Pollution

Climate  
Change

Forestry

Biofuel

Infrastructure

Biodiversity Protection / Enhancement Targets

Natural  
Hazard  
Protection

Food  
Security

Climate  
Adaptation

Water Quality  
& Supply

Sustainable  
Development

Human  
Health

Rural  
Livelihoods

Maintaining and investing in biodiversity will have benefits far beyond biodiversity and contribute to goals across our economies and societies



HEALTHY AND  
PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

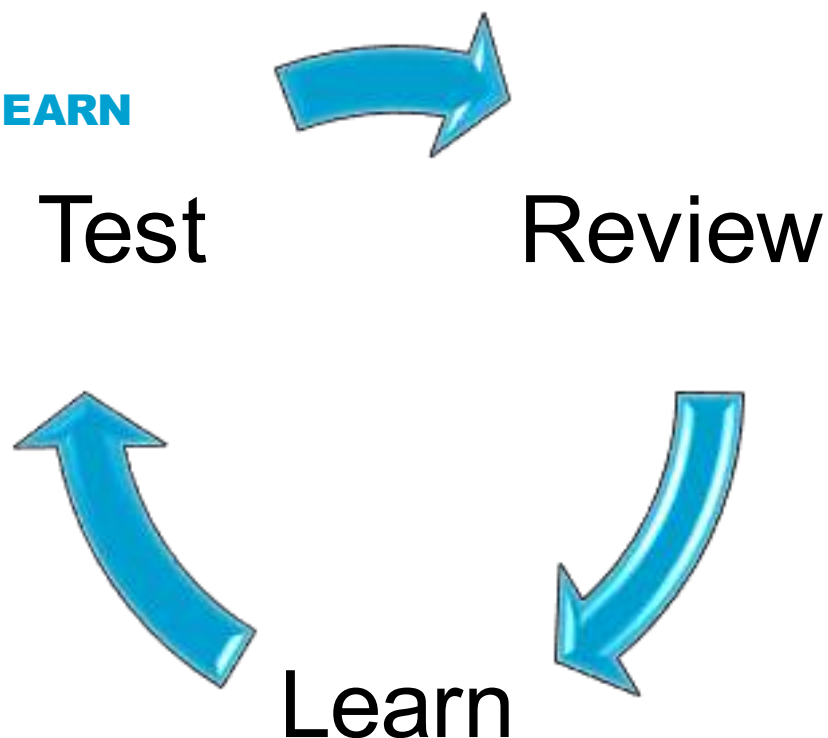
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15.a, 17.5, 17.14, 17.19





# WHAT NEXT?

- i. **BROADER APPLICATIONS - FOR DECISION MAKERS AND USERS (E.G., PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGS)**
- ii. **PILOTING**
- iii. **TEST - REVIEW - LEARN**





# THANK YOU!

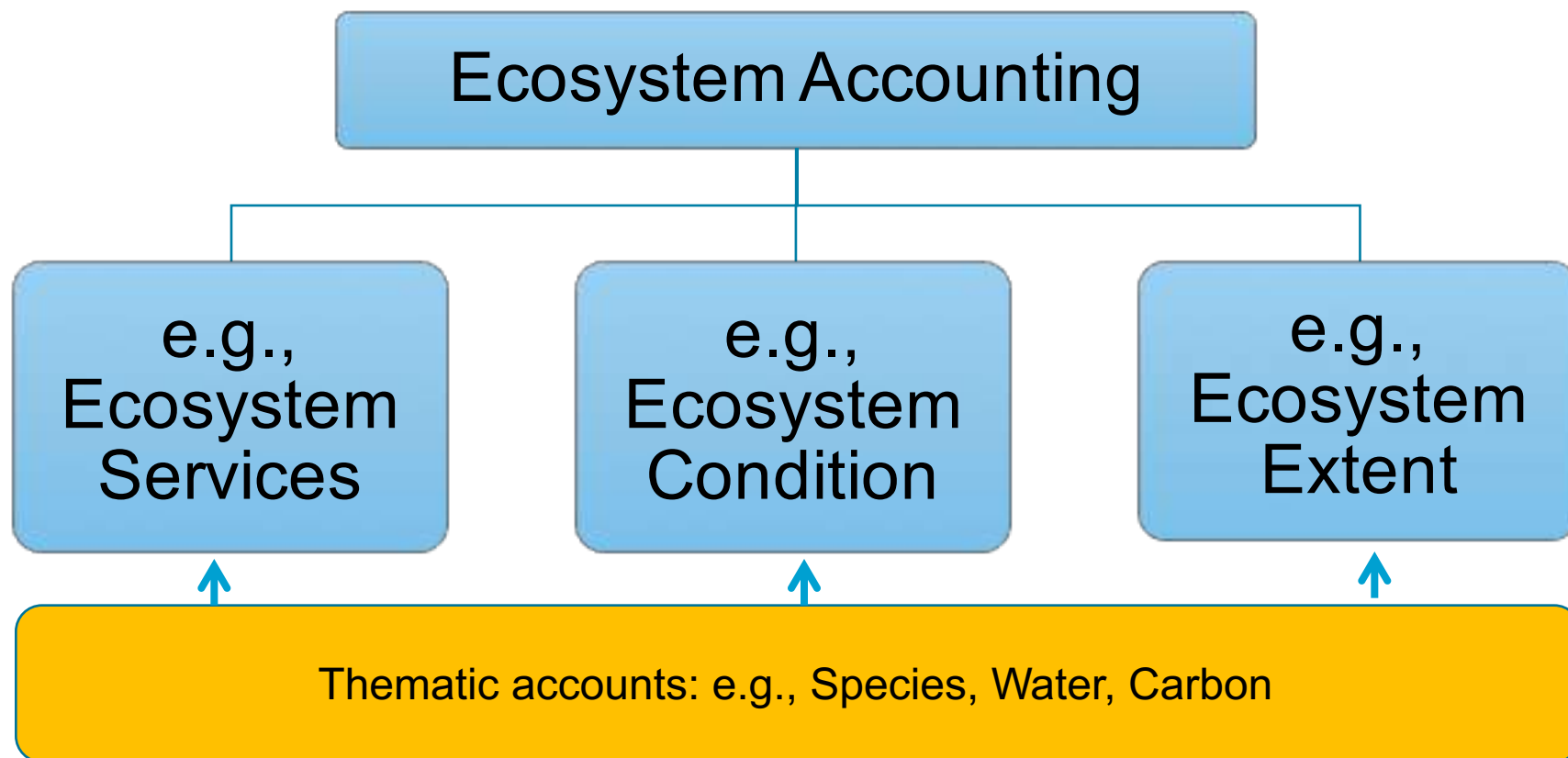
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29/06/2016



# SPECIES IN THE ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING LANDSCAPE



Reference measure for  
a common year

Abundance measure at  
start of accounting period

Additions and reductions  
Should be stated if known

Abundance measure at  
End of accounting period

Net change in abundance  
over accounting period

Relative Abundance measure  
at start of accounting period

Relative Abundance measure at  
end of accounting period

Net change in relative  
abundance over accounting  
period

Change as % of the opening  
relative abundance

Table A: Example Account of Species and Species Groups of Special Concern (2005 – 2010)

	Species or Species Group 1	Species or Species Group 2	Species or Species Group 3	Species or Species Group 4	Species or Species Group 5	Composite indicator
Example Species	Panda	Cuckoo	Tree sparrow	Orangutan	Vertebrates	
Unit of measurement	No. of individuals	No. of individuals	Relative abundance based on population density	Hectares of suitable habitat	Proportion of original species complement	N/A
Reference (1995)	2,000	100,000	Set to 1.0	1,000,000	85%	100%
Opening (2005)	1,500	60,000	0.70	100,000	80%	N/A
Additions	100	N/A	N/A	10,000	N/A	N/A
Reductions	200	N/A	N/A	30,000	N/A	N/A
Closing (2010)	1,400	65,000	0.50	80,000	70%	N/A
Net Change	-100	+5,000	-0.20	-2,000	-10%	N/A
Opening (% of reference, 2005)	75%	60%	70%	10%	94%	TBC
Closing (% of reference, 2010)	70%	65%	50%	8%	82%	TBC
Net change (% of reference)	-5%	-5%	-20%	-2%	-12%	TBC
Change (% of opening)	-6.7%	+8.3%	-29%	-20%	-13%	TBC