



Potential policy applications of ecosystem accounting in the European Union



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Waves NCA Policy Forum, The Hague 22-23 November 2016



Knowledge Innovation Project on Integrated System for Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Accounting in the EU – KIP INCA

- Partnership of European Commission services (ENV, CLIMA, JRC, ESTAT, RTD) and EEA.
- Objectives:
 - Support the full integration of ecosystem accounts into economic decision making at national and EU level.
 - Design and Implement an integrated accounting system for ecosystems and services at EU level
 - Develop EU level accounts and support MS is developing accounts
 - Connect and build on existing projects and data (EU and MS)
 - Foundation: common data platform of geo-referenced information
- Implementation phase (2016-2020) after feasibility and design phase (2015- 2016)





Potential policy uses of NCA (1)

Make better decisions by accounting for range of ecosystem benefits and values in decision-making; Determine synergies/trade-offs

At macro-level:

- Develop macro-indicators, both physical and monetary
- Raise awareness
- Identify limits and thresholds; sustainability dimension

Sectoral and environmental policies:

- Show how sectors benefit from and impact on natural capital
- Better target funds
- Synergies and trade-off across policies
- Common reference frame for assessing progress towards targets (eg target 2 of biodiversity strategy)
- Streamlined reporting across policies



Potential policy uses of NCA (2)

- International:
 - EU input to UN-SEEA EEA
 - Supporting non EU countries (WAVES, Partnership Inst.)
 - CBD; SDGs
- Corporate accounting:
Natural Capital Protocol, EU B@B Platform – need for consistency with national accounts

Policy Applications: testing and piloting

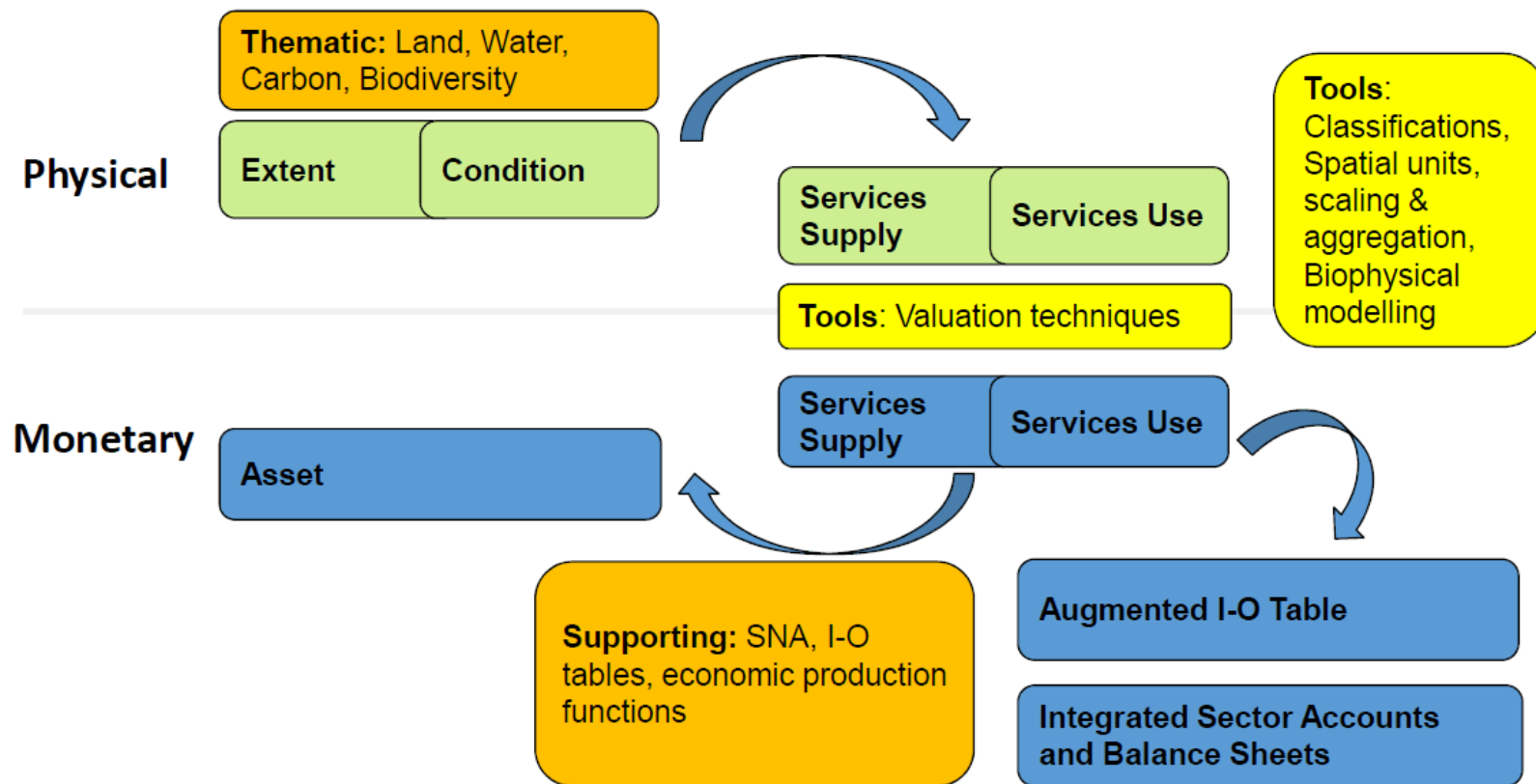
- Across EU policies – ecosystem-based approaches
- With EU MS
 - Statistical grants
 - H2020 demonstration



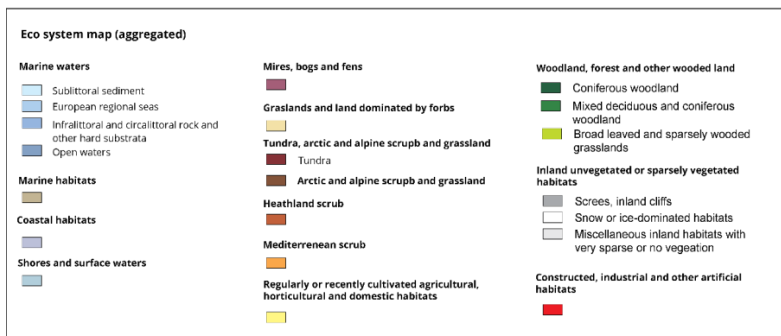
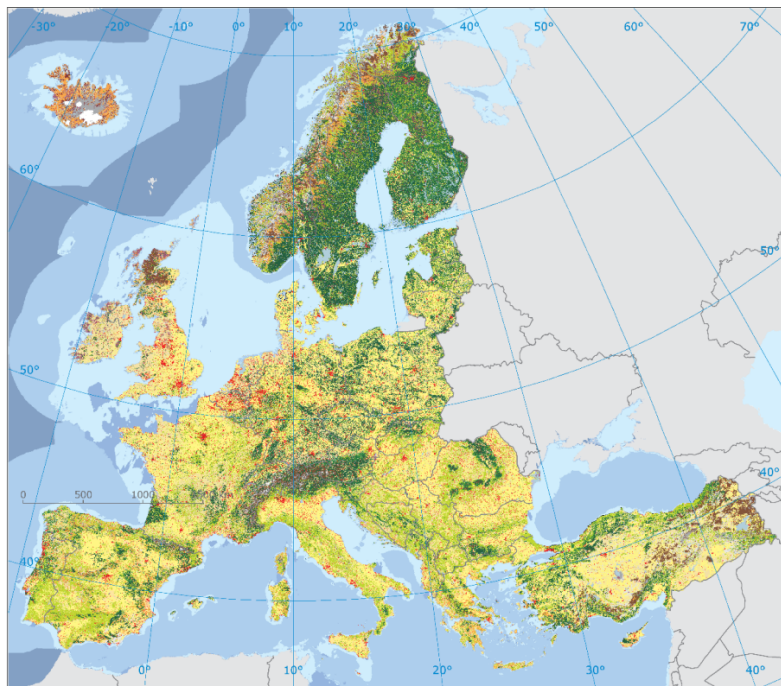
Thank you for your attention!



Components of ecosystem accounting (SEEA EEA)



Existing potential input: MAES (ecosystem extent)



Ecosystem type	EUNIS Level 1	EUNIS Level 2	Total ecosystem coverage	
			Area (km ²)	% area EUNIS level 2 per level 1
Urban	J Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats	J1 Buildings of cities, towns and villages	102151	46.08
		J2 Low density buildings	94150	42.47
		J3 Extractive industrial sites	6453	2.91
		J4 Transport networks and other constructed hard-surface areas	16100	7.26
		J5 Highly artificial man-made waters and associated structures	1828	0.82
		J6 Waste deposits	998	0.45
Cropland	I Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats	I1 Arable land and market gardens	1243168	99.18
		I2 Cultivated areas of gardens and parks	10292	0.82
Grassland	E Grasslands and land dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens	E1 Dry grasslands	9330	1.35
		E2 Mesic grasslands	571931	82.48
		E3 Seasonally wet and wet grasslands	55771	8.04
		E4 alpine and subalpine grasslands	21128	3.05
		E5 Woodland fringes, clearings and tall forbs stands	0	0.00
		E6 Inland salt steppes	3043	0.44
		E7 sparsely wooded grasslands	32195	4.64
Woodland and forest	G Woodland, forest and other wooded land	G1 Broadleaved deciduous woodland	487970	28.29
		G2 Broadleaved evergreen woodland	49248	2.86
		G3 Coniferous woodland	695907	40.35
		G4 Mixed woodland	291687	16.91
		G5 Lines of trees, small woodlands, recently felled woodlands, early stage woodland, coppice	199784	11.58
Heathland and shrub	F Heathland, scrub and tundra	F1 Tundra	0	0.00
		F2 Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub	34524	14.88
		F3 Temperate and mediterraneo-montane scrub	52824	22.76
		F4 Temperate shrub heathland	691	0.30

Existing potential input layers - MAES activities (ecosystem services)

