BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

I. SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T4b

National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Hosts:

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Abstract:

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 Target 2 Action 5 calls all EU member states to map and assess ecosystems and their services (ES) in their territory. Under the umbrella of the EU MAES initiative (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services), national and supranational MAES projects and initiatives have emerged all over Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). Some of these MAES assessment projects have been completed recently, while many others are in a mature, productive phase now, with a lot of results and experience being actively accumulated. While an increasing amount of guidance has become available in the last years, most of these projects were designed and implemented in a largely independent way, mirroring the specific needs, foci, possibilities and attitudes of each member state, as well as the expertise and the disciplinary background of the teams conducting the work.

This session aims to give opportunity for these projects to interact, share good practices, and discuss challenges arising through e.g. data scarcity, insularity and remoteness from the EU. Also, the session hopes to discover and analyse commonalities and divergences, and to synthesize valuable lessons for future MAES assessments.

The results of a single MAES project are often idiosyncratic and of restricted regional relevance. Nevertheless, if we consider a large number of projects together, patterns will arise, which are interesting for broader audiences. By eliciting these shared patterns, we hope to gain insight into how things work in different parts of Europe and the world, and possibly on the underlying reasons why. We believe that guidance supported with a broad range of real-world examples and experiences that is combined and synthesized can be a valuable resource for future MAES studies and natural capital accounting projects. This can help to standardize future assessments, and thus make them a more reliable resource for policy & decision making.

Goals and objectives of the session:

We want to facilitate experience sharing & joint knowledge production among MAES project coordinators and participants in continental EU, EU ORs, OCTs and island states. We also aim to

catalyze collaborations for co-authoring concrete scientific manuscripts on the shared experiences. For this reason, we invite two types of presentations:

a) presentations that give a structured overview of the process of a major national/regional/island MAES assessment;
b) presentations that compare multiple MAES assessments from a specific perspective (for example: stakeholder involvement, data management, models, tiers, calibration, quality assessment, island-specific aspects), or identify future trends and priorities for future assessments.

Planned output / Deliverables:

We will invite the session participants to a pre-conference preparatory activity through a web survey, the outcomes of which will be presented at the session. In addition, for presentations of type (A) we will give a number of questions (a "template") to the presenting authors, covering several aspects of assessment design, governance and implementation.

At the end of the session, we also plan to create a structured discussion on these commonalities and the publication opportunities that they offer. Based on the (oral and poster) presentations outcomes of the web survey, and the discussion session we will negotiate a special issue in a leading ES journal for publishing joint papers reviewing selected aspects in national and large-scale MAES projects.

On the long run we would also like to catalyze networks of practice among peer MAES projects. In particular, we aim to foster a network of ES researchers and practitioners in island contexts, including an improved platform for collaboration and updates on MAES activities in the EU Overseas.

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

Thematic working group: TWG 4 – Mapping ES

II. SESSION PROGRAM

Date of session: Monday, 7 June 2021
Time of session: 13:30 – 17:15

Timetable speakers

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
13:30 13:45	Davina	Vačkářová	Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences	Towards national assessment and mapping of ecosystem services in the Czech Republic within One Nature integrated project LIFE
13:45 14:00	Eszter	Tanács	Institute of Ecology and Botany, Centre for Ecological Research	Results and experiences of the Hungarian national ecosystem assessment
14:00 14:15	Madli	Linder	Estonian Environment Agency	Country-wide mapping and assessment of the ecosystem condition and services in Estonia – the results
14:15 14:30	Mario V.	Balzan	Institute of Applied Sciences	Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of MAES outcomes in environmental and planning policies in a small island state
14:30 14:45	Ina Maren	Sieber	Leibniz Universität Hannover	MAES implementation in the EU Overseas – an often overseen process
14:45 15:00				Discussion
15:30 15:45	Kremena	Gocheva	Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	Towards a holistic regional approach to ecosystem management in a changing climate: spatial analysis of ecosystem services supply and demand for climate change adaptation in and around Sofia, Bulgaria
15:45 16:00	Panayotis	Dimopoulos	University of Patras	MAES_GR: A web-based platform to support mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services in Greece
16:00 16:15	Eric	Tromeur	French Ministry of Environment	Assessing monetary reference values for different kinds of ecosystem services: results from the French Assessment of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services

Time	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
16:15 16:30	Małgorzata	Stępniewska	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	Services provided by main types of ecosystems in Poland – an applied approach (ECOSERV-POL)
16:30 16:45	Ágnes	Vári	Centre for Ecological Research	National & large scale MAES projects in Europe - what have we learnt?
16:45 17:00	Benjamin	Burkhard	Leibniz Universität Hannover	Overview of the MAES-barometer
17:00 17:15				Discussion

III. ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are ordered based on the session program. The first author is the presenting author unless indicated otherwise.

1. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b – National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Towards national assessment and mapping of ecosystem services in the Czech Republic within One Nature integrated project LIFE

First author: Davina Vačkářová

Other author(s): Jana Osúchová, Kateřina Kaprová, Iva Honigová, Radka Broumová, Jan Frouz, Jan Daněk, Jitka Kozubková

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National ecosystem assessments and national mapping and assessment processes (MAES) in European states gained momentum with international initiatives such as Millennium Assessment, TEEB and IPBES. At the European level, Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 reiterates the importance of

protected areas and ecosystem restoration tied to the measuring the value of nature, natural capital accounting and integration of nature´s benefits into public decision-making. Scientifically based ecosystem services assessments are usually at the outset of national assessment processes, but they are not themselves sufficient for the implementation at the complex science-policy boundary. Mainstreaming of ecosystem services into decision-making and uptake of ecosystem services knowledge in policy requires effective inter-institutional cooperation and stakeholder involvement in knowledge production. In the Czech Republic, a previous experience with ecosystem service assessments has been incorporated into the Integrated project LIFE for Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic, called shortly One Nature. The One Nature project enables to create a platform necessary for the mainstreaming of ecosystem services into nature conservation and biodiversity policies and actions. The aim of this contribution is to introduce the One Nature project and to highlight preliminary and expected outputs in the area of ecosystem services assessment and mapping. The project supports national assessment and mapping by developing scientific evidence, databases and case studies for the quantitative mapping and economic valuation of ecosystem services in the context of conservation management. The activities within One Nature present a major initiative for national mapping and assessment. Cooperation of diverse actors will lead, inter alia, into the establishment of the National Platform for Ecosystem Services and delivery of integrative assessment and mapping outcomes, as well as communication targeted at various user groups. Stakeholder participatory involvement and consultations are continually and systematically used to ensure the relevance of results.

Keywords: ecosystem services, Natura 2000, MAES process, national assessment, biodiversity, conservation management

2. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Results and experiences of the Hungarian national ecosystem assessment

First author: Eszter Tanács

Other author(s): Ákos Bede-Fazekas, Edina Csákvári, Márton Kiss, Veronika Fabók, Lívia Kisné Fodor, Péter Koncz, Eszter Kovács

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The assessment and mapping of the most important ecosystem services (MAES-HU) started in Hungary in 2016 with the lead of the Nature Conservation Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. Indicators for 12 ecosystem services (ES) were selected, mapped and assessed along the four levels of the cascade model. Unlike most other national assessments, MAES-HU valued the selected ES in thematic expert groups rather than ecosystem type (ET)-based working groups. In all valuations special emphasis was laid on relevance for nature conservation policy. Ecosystem condition (EC) indicators were also mapped, both as part of the individual ES cascades, and separately as general condition indicators. Data scarcity was a common issue (as it is often the case with national assessments) and MAES-HU needed to rely on (and in certain cases develop) solutions to implement EC & ES mapping with limited data available. In order to synthesize the results of the individual ES assessments, a set of ES indicators were chosen for combined analysis aiming to identify multifunctionality hotspots and to specify ES bundles. Different techniques (e.g. correlation, cluster-analysis, network analysis etc.) were used to explore relationships between the different ES as well as between ES and EC. Our findings show that ecosystem type and elevation are strongly reflected in the results, which is partly expected but partly due to the characteristics of the available data. Zooming into specific regions and/or specific broad habitat types (e.g. arable land or forests) revealed patterns which were less trivial than the main ET-based rough patterns of the countrywide analysis.

Keywords: ecosystem services, ecosystem condition, multifunctionality, ES hotspots, ES bundles

3. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Country-wide mapping and assessment of the ecosystem condition and services in Estonia – the results

3rd ESP EUROPE CONFERENCE Tartu, Estonia 2021 7-10 June
Ecosystem Services Science, Policy and Practice in the face of Global Changes

First author: Madli Linder

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In 2020, national large-scale MAES process (biophysical assessment and mapping) was completed in Estonia (ELME project, co-financed by the European Union Cohesion Fund). Country-wide and spatially explicit mapping and assessment of four major ecosystem types (wetlands, grasslands, agro-ecosystems, forests) was carried out. There were three major outcomes: base map (spatial distribution and extent of ecosystem types), ecosystem condition map, ecosystem services maps. Potential supply of 27 ecosystem services (based on approximately 70 indicators) was mapped, incl. those of provisioning, regulating and cultural services. The project was led by the Estonian Environment Agency and the Ministry of the Environment. Scientists, as well as policy-makers and other stakeholders were engaged in the process. Although Estonia is covered with multitude of open-source large-scale data sets, the compilation of those in country-wide mapping exercise turned out to be quite a challenging due to, e.g., technical issues (topological accuracy, calculation capacity, etc.), errors in data sets (expired or missing records, etc.) or differences in (transitional) habitat type definitions in different data sets. The main present challenge Estonia is facing in state level is making the results publicly available and understandable to the users varying from decision makers to ordinary people. The maps are published in different web applications and the data layers are made available through national geoinformation system of nature data. To ensure adequate implementation of the results, several specific solutions depending on the needs of the concrete user must be proposed. Creating one whole national MAES-system from different projects as well as different approaches, incl. statistical accounting community, is an ongoing process. In future we expect that extensive spatial data set of ecosystem services created within the ELME project will serve as an integral part in spatial planning process leading to more comprehensive and knowledge-based decisions.

Keywords: national MAES, ecosystem extent, condition and services, potential supply

3rd ESP EUROPE CONFERENCE Tartu, Estonia 2021 7-10 June
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4. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of MAES outcomes in environmental and planning policies in a small island state

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This presentation provides an overview of the recent work mapping and assessing ecosystem services (MAES) in Malta, and the implications for decision-making. Recent MAES projects have focused on the identification and mapping of ecosystems, ecosystem condition, and ecosystem service capacities and flows, leading to human well-being. The scale of these projects has varied and have been carried out at national scale, or for specific regions and ecosystem services (e.g. pollination and recreation). Most recently ecosystem services mapping and assessment was carried out in the Valletta urban agglomeration and for the main waterbodies as part of the implementation of the river basin management plan for Malta. Outcomes of these MAES processes may be used to prioritise nature-based solutions and to develop watershed management plans that improve ecosystem service capacities and contributions to human well-being. The integration of results from these assessments demonstrates several significant synergies between ecosystem services, in particular arising from agricultural and semi-natural ecosystems. A gradient in ecosystem services capacity is observed between rural and urban areas but ecosystem services flow per unit area was in several cases higher in urban environments. These results indicate a potential mismatch between ecosystem service demand and capacity but also provide a scientific baseline for evidence-based policy which fosters the development of context adapted nature-based solutions that promote more specific and novel solutions for landscape and urban planning. The uptake and potential of ecosystem service assessments to improve recently launched environmental and planning policy initiatives in Malta is discussed.

Keywords: agroecosystems, climate resilience, green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, urbanisation

5. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b – National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

MAES implementation in the EU Overseas – an often overseen process

First author: Ina Maren Sieber
Other author(s): Benjamin Burkhard, Artur Gil, Marta Vergílio, Carolina Parelho
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Numerous MAES assessment projects have been completed in recent years in the member states. Whilst there is transparency on the progress in the EU member states themselves, there is hardly any information available on the implementation status in their EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. Reports, such as the EU wide MAES assessment, remain silent on these territories. We present an overview of different MAES overseas projects, including the ECOSEO, MOVE, and MOVE-On EU Projects. By now, first results can be presented and challenges and obstacles can be analyzed. Factors such as insularity, remoteness and difficult access to both land and data complicate the MAES implementation process. Further, we draw first lessons learned from these initiatives.

Keywords: national MAES, EU overseas, synthesis, MAES initiative

6. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b – National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

3rd ESP EUROPE CONFERENCE Tartu, Estonia 2021 7-10 June
Ecosystem Services Science, Policy and Practice in the face of Global Changes

Towards a holistic regional approach to ecosystem management in a changing climate: spatial analysis of ecosystem services supply and demand for climate change adaptation in and around Sofia, Bulgaria

First author: Kremena Gocheva

Other author(s): Stoyan Nedkov, Zoya Mateeva, Mariana Assenova, Kamen Simeonov, Elena Dimitrova, Angel Burov, Momchil Panayotov, Miglena Zhiyanski, Svetla Bratanova – Doncheva, Nesho Chipev

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Unlike its scientific uptake, the wide adoption of mapping and assessment of ecosystem services is relatively slow in regional policymaking in Bulgaria, partly due to insufficiently coherent policy framework but also due to the perception that ecosystem services are a complicated, highly expert topic far from everyday life. With its package of strategic and specific development documents Vision for Sofia, Program for Sofia and Plan of Sofia, the Bulgarian capital is among the pioneers of integrated regional development. Other strategic documents like the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) build, among others, on these key documents and use the existing assessment and data for topical studies and thematic strategies. Ecosystem services play an increasingly important role in this process. We present the results of two regional ecosystem service related studies: 1) The adaptation of the National Methodological Framework for mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services with local in situ verification of five ecosystem services relevant to urban planning: purification of pollution; limiting noise and other harmful influences; flood regulation; climate regulation (carbon sequestration); and local climate regulation; 2)The ongoing integration of the Whole system conceptual model (used in the National Methodological framework) as part of SECAP's design process. SECAP is currently under development, with the Whole system approach proposed as one of its key concepts. Furthermore, the supply and demand of ecosystem services is the key concept in SECAP's Biodiversity and ecosystems section and plays an important role in the Forestry and agriculture section. The holistic approach to developing SECAP was further applied during the formulation of adaptation measures where the initial long list of sectoral measures was grouped by subsystems of the

socio-ecological system during one of the development stages, allowing for the development of integrated adaptation measures with cross-sectoral impact.

7. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

MAES_GR: A web-based platform to support mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services in Greece

First author: Panayotis Dimopoulos

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First results from the web-based platform exclusively developed for the MAES Action of the LIFE-IP 4 NATURA project in Greece are herein provided. This platform is designed to collect field data using GPS and GPRS capabilities of portable devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops) for (a) ecosystem types' documentation, (b) ecosystem condition parameters registration and (c) ecosystem services supply/potential supply identification at any given sample plot. Ecosystem types follow the MAES typology as delineated at level-3 detail for Greece. A five-level Likert scale has been used to rate the ecosystem services predefined categories that follow the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) typology. Ecosystem condition assessment at each sampling point is based on two different approaches: (a) on expert judgment and (b) on the assessment of ecosystem condition parameters, i.e. 'key' and 'other' pressures and threats, as well as on 'key' and 'other' structures and functions; this information is integrated by a built in algorithm developed exclusively for this platform. Outcomes of the platform consist of statistics, diagrams, and charts (based on the underlying online database) of the ecosystem types' recording, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services at national, regional (NUTS2 level) and at 10x10 EEA reference grid scale. By this, we provide a continuously updated dataset for

reporting baseline data, a real-life dataset to identify data gaps, and a valuable tool to support further steps of operational MAES studies and decision making.

Keywords: algorithm, big data collection, MAES, field survey, online tool

8. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Assessing monetary reference values for different kinds of ecosystem services: results from the French Assessment of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services

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The French Assessment of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services (Efese) has been launched in 2012. The aim of this national programme is to better understand the multiple values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, to be able to better integrate them into decision-making. In particular, one of the objectives of the program is to compute monetary reference values of ecosystem services that can be included into cost-benefit analysis of public or private investment projects. In this regard, the Efese programme recently published two major national assessments, where monetary reference values of ecosystem services are computed: the assessment of the carbon sequestration service in multiple kinds of ecosystems (2018), and the assessment of recreational activities in French forests (2020). These two studies show how various methodologies can be used to assess reference values of ecosystem services as different as recreation and carbon sequestration, and how the Efese programme ensures that these reference values are relevant to decision-making, legitimate, and scientifically robust.

Keywords: reference value, carbon sequestration, forest recreation

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9. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b – National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Services provided by main types of ecosystems in Poland – an applied approach (ECOSERV-POL)

First author: Małgorzata Stępniewska

Other author(s): Andrzej Mizgajski

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Despite considerable development of research on ecosystem services (ES), their application to environmental management in Poland is still inhibited. The challenge is both adaptation of the current scientific knowledge about ES for Polish conditions and transposition of existing knowledge into operational one. The needs involve integration of developed scientific knowledge with the interest and competences of officials, as well as the increasing of skills of experts participating in the procedures of environmental management. The project 'Services provided by main types of ecosystems in Poland – an applied approach' (ECOSERV-POL) addresses above challenges by increasing scientific capacity of the Polish researchers to develop ES approach as well as developing officials' awareness of the potential of ES from the political, social and ecological point of view. The project is implemented in the years 2020-2023 and financed under the EEA Financial Mechanisms for 2014-2021. The scope of the project includes: selection of relevant ES and their indicators for main ecosystem types in Poland (i.e. agroecosystems; forests; urban ecosystems; freshwater; marine ecosystems; degraded areas); mapping and assessment of ES in national, regional and local scale; cross-cutting analysis of ecological, cultural and economic values of ES and ES on landscape level; identification of significant ES synergies, trade-offs and relevant ES bundles; dissemination and exchange of knowledge. The deliverables will include list of ES and relevant indicators for main Polish ecosystem types, maps of main ES values, case studies in different spatial scales, as well as handbook for administration and experts-practitioners.

Keywords: ecosystem management, bundles, synergies, trade-offs, transdisciplinary approach

10. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

National & large scale MAES projects in Europe - what have we learnt?

First author: Ágnes Vári
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Numerous MAES assessment projects have been completed in recent years in the member states, while many others are in a well-advanced phase now, with a lot of results and experience being actively accumulated. While the results of a single MAES project are often idiosyncratic and of restricted regional relevance, if we consider a large number of projects together, patterns will arise, which are interesting for broader audiences. Based on the results of the completed questionnaires received from the session participants, we give an overview on issues regarding organizational structures of MAES-processes and how stakeholder involvement of different sectors was implemented. We reflect on issues of data availability, knowledge gaps and other methodological challenges that influence implementation of the assessments. The spectrum of solutions, attitudes and perceived successfulness will be explored based on the results.

Keywords: national MAES, participation, synthesis, sector

11. Type of submission: Abstract

T. Thematic Working Group sessions: T4b - National & large scale MAES projects in Europe, including the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: challenges, solutions and lessons learned

3rd ESP EUROPE CONFERENCE Tartu, Estonia 2021 7-10 June
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Overview of the MAES-barometer

Presenting author: Benjamin Burkhard

First author: Ina M. Sieber

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Numerous MAES assessment projects have been completed in recent years in the member states. Whilst there is transparency on the progress in the EU member states themselves, there is hardly any information available on the implementation status in their EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. Reports, such as the EU wide MAES assessment, remain silent on these territories. We present an overview of different MAES overseas projects, including the ECOSEO, MOVE, and MOVE-On EU Projects. By now, first results can be presented and challenges and obstacles can be analyzed. Factors such as insularity, remoteness and difficult access to both land and data complicate the MAES implementation process. Further, we draw first lessons learned from these initiatives.

Keywords: national MAES, EU Overseas, synthesis, MAES initiatives