## The European Commission's science and knowledge service



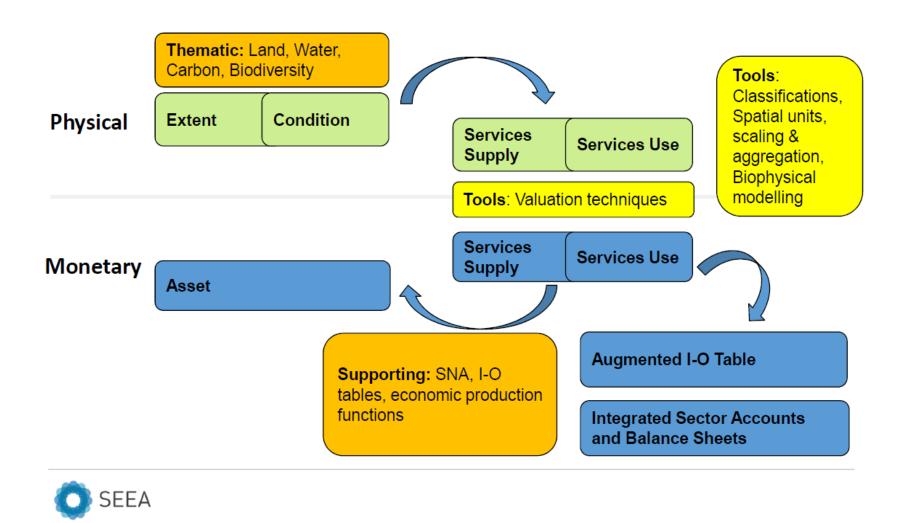
1

Joint Research Centre

### **JRC** user perspective

Joachim Maes







## **Ecosystem services accounts**



#### JRC TECHNICAL REPORTS

## Implementing an EU system of accounting for ecosystems and their services

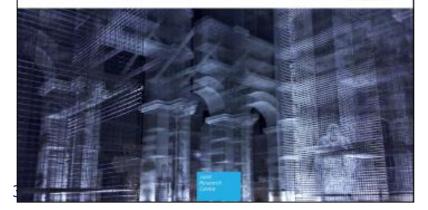
Initial proposals for the implementation of ecosystem services accounts

Report under phase 2 of the knowledge innovation project on an integrated system of natural capital and ecosystem services accounting in the EU

> Alessandra La Notte, Sara Vallecillo, Chiara Polce, Grazia Zulian, Joachim Maes

2017

**EUR 28581 EN** 





KIP INCA Report - contribution to the Knowledge and Innovation Project on an Integrated system of Natural Capital and ecosystem services Accounting in the EU

> Vallecilio, S., La Notte, A., Poice, C., Zulian, G., Alexandris, N., Ferrini S., and Maes, J.

2018



#### SUPPLY TABLE

house holds rest of the world ecosystem types industries accumulation actual flows provisioning services regulating and actual flows maintenance services cultural services actual flows imports products output



#### **USE TABLE**

house holds industries accumulation rest of the world ecosystem types interme diate actual flows actual flows provisioning services flows regulating and intermediate actual flows actual flows maintenance services flows interme diate cultural services actual flows flows intermediate final gross capital products exports

consumption

formation

consumption



## **Crop pollination by wild insects**

Wild insect pollinators

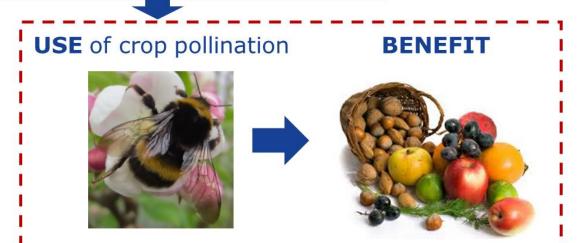


Pollinator-dependent crops



**DEMAND** for pollination

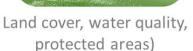
SEEA EEA accounting tables





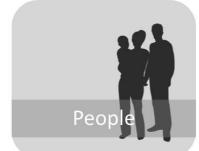








Proximity (roads, urban areas)



#### **Potential**

('Areas for daily recreation')

#### **Demand**





#### **Benefits**

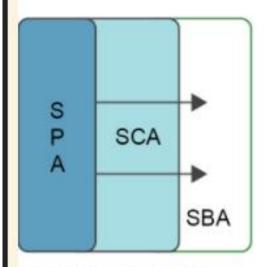




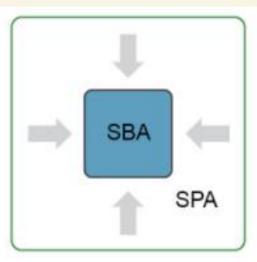




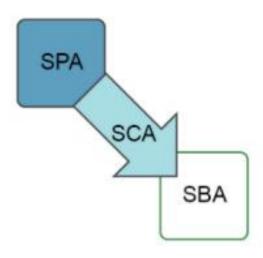
 a) 'in situ': SPA and SBA are identical



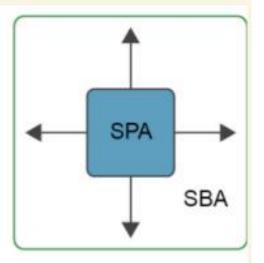
 d) 'directional' – spatially separated from each other: SBA lies 'behind' the SPA



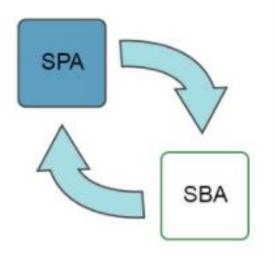
 b) 'central': surrounding area supplies / acts on the central benefiting area



 e) 'directional' – spatially separated from each other (e.g., slope dependent)

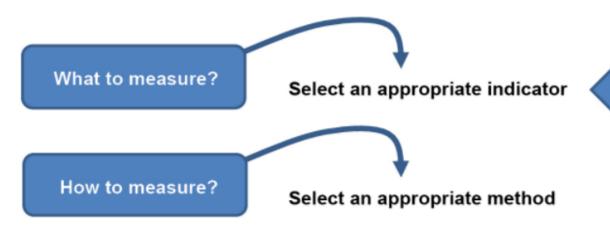


 c) 'omnidirectional': directed on all sides - to larger surrounding area



 f) "non-directional" – spatially separated from each other

#### Biophysical quantification of ecosystem services



Purpose of the assessment

Target audience

Position on the ES cascade

Spatial and temporal scale

Availability of data

1

#### **Direct measurement**

- Field observations
- · Field experiments
- Surveys and questionaires

2

#### Indirect measurement

- Remote sensing and earth observation (NDVI, land cover, surface temperature, ...)
- Socio-economic data
- Proxy indicators

3

#### Indirect measurement

 Expert based, statistical and process based models of ecosystems and ecosystem services



## What do we need for accounting?

Regularly updated physical data which measure the extent, condition of ecosystems and the actual use of ecosystem services <u>in physical units</u> that are usually reported <u>at national scale</u>.

We are interested in **change** (like % change in GDP).



Natural capital component	Specific data needs
Biodiversity including species diversity	Pan European data sets to assess the trends in populations of various plant and animal species and communities (e.g., birds)
Ecosystem extent	Annually updated pan-European data to assess the trends in the extent of all the MAES ecosystem types based on main habitat types
Pressures on ecosystems	Annually updated pan-European data to assess the trends in pressures on ecosystems (habitat conversion, climate change, pollution, overexploitation and invasive alien species)
Ecosystem condition	Derived products which can be used for direct mapping and monitoring of ecosystem condition which are validated against field observations.  Coverage of ecosystems by protected areas.
Ecosystem services	Derived products which can be used for direct mapping and monitoring of provisioning and regulating ecosystem services



### **Current use of EO data for ES accounts**

Many papers which confirm the high potential of EO4EA: clear links between specific sensors and the different components of natural capital

H202 projects (SWOS Ecopotential, EU BON, ...)

BUT: current use of EO in ecosystem services quantification (mapping and accounting) is very low because of:



# Removing obstacles = Solutions for enhanced update

- Land cover is not equal to ecosystems
- Ecosystem maps are useless if not updated.
- Different ecosystem services Different datasets
  - Different years
- Insufficient or unusable data for land use (demand: crop types, people/infrastructure)



# Removing obstacles = Solutions for enhanced update

- an insufficient number of derived products (e.g., NDVI for mapping various ES, LAI for mapping AQ regulation)
- insufficient capacity to fill the gap between EO products and derived products (e.g., surface temperature)
- Timeliness is an issue: for accounting it is better to have CLC every year than COPERNICUS update every 5 years.



### **Conclusion**

Instead of shooting billions of euro in space, it would be better to use (a fraction) of this budget on regularly updated derived products (with the same updating frequency as the available products)

