Conceptual comparison of ES classifications for ecosystem accounting – first results

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Introduction

- Please note that this is an initial conceptual comparison between the three systems
- It aims at comparing and contrasting rather than evaluating quality or fit for purpose
- The purpose is to create a better understanding of respective starting points and conceptual frameworks that have influenced the design and approach for all three systems

SEEA-EEA and ES classification(s)

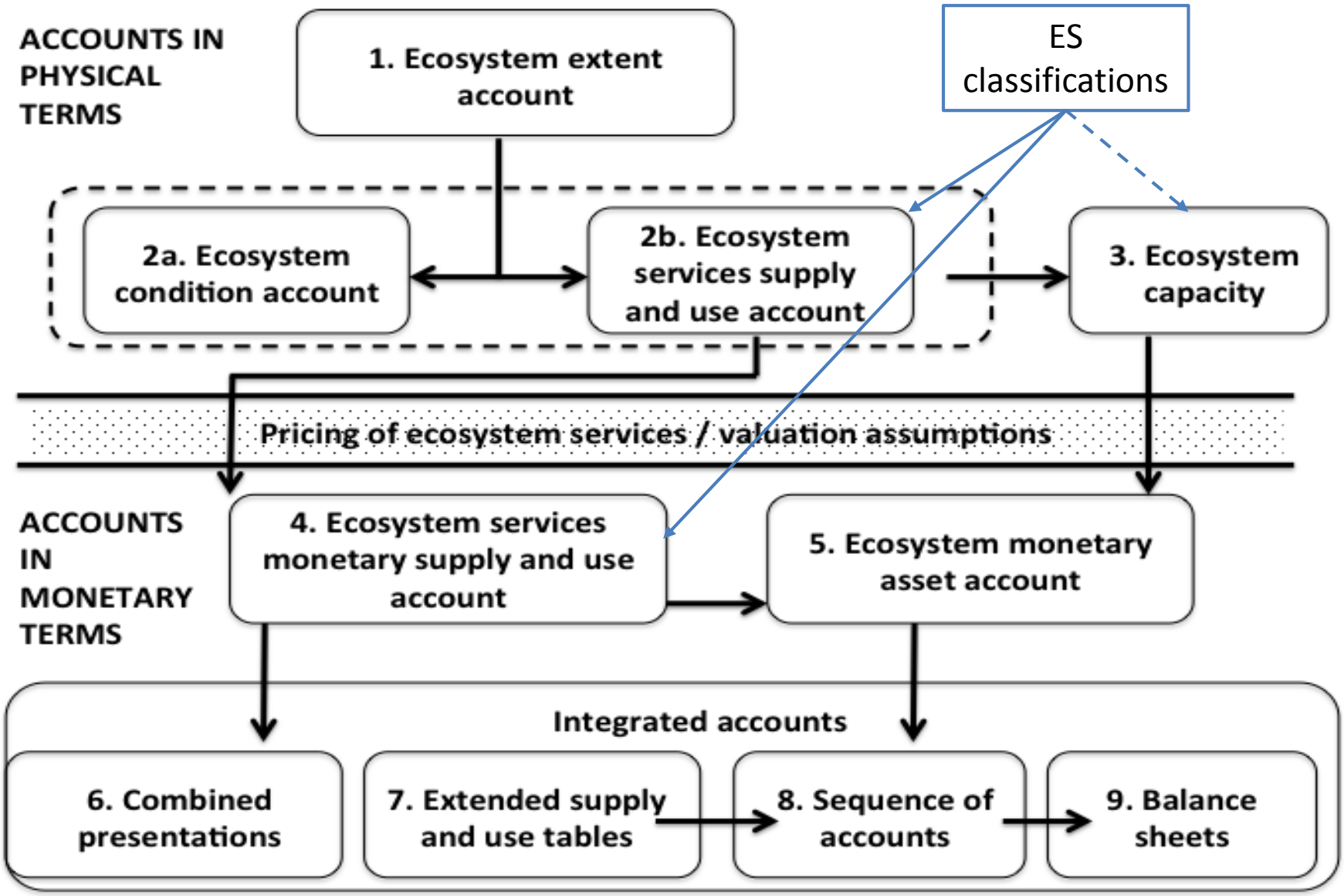
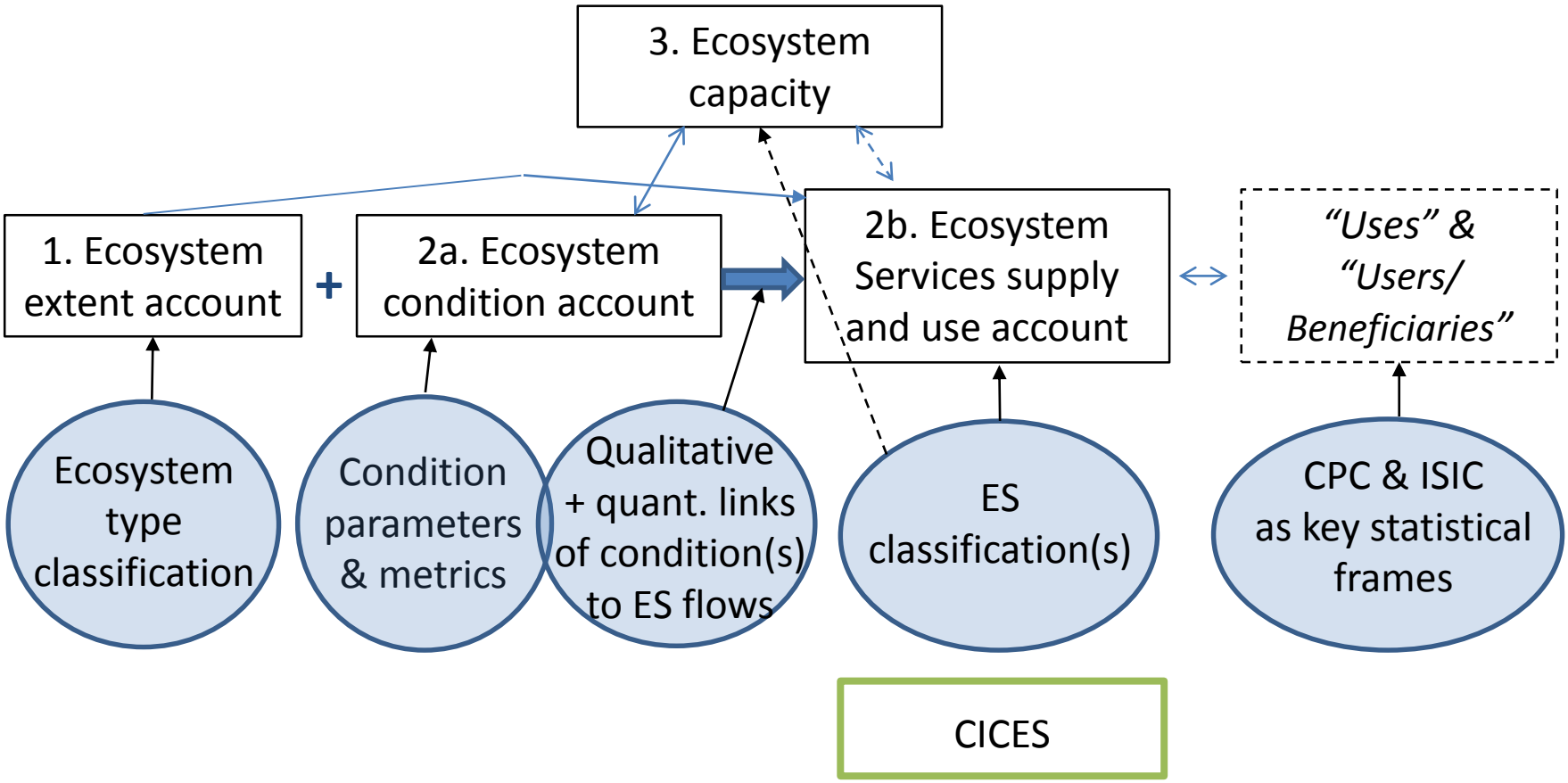
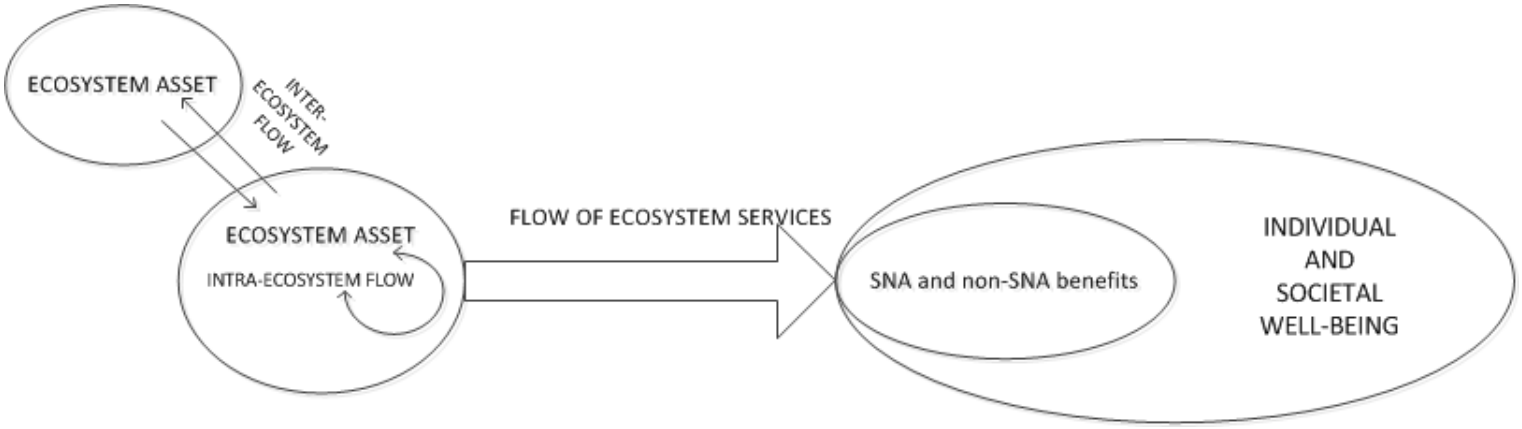


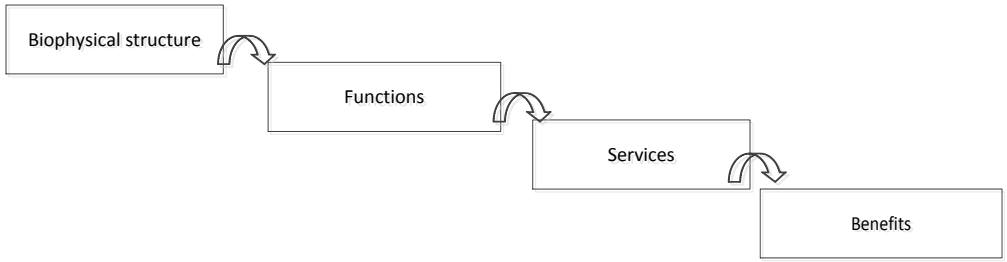
Figure 6: Comparing SEEA-EEA 'work flow' with underpinning tools and classifications



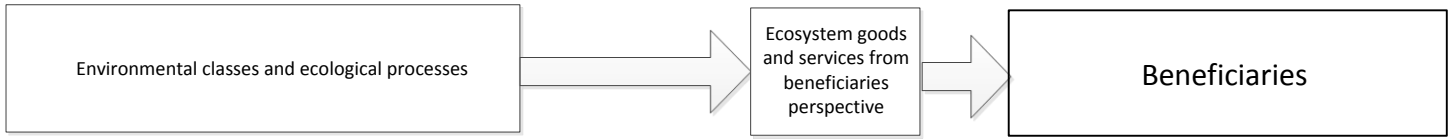
Frameworks for ES classification & SEEA conceptual model



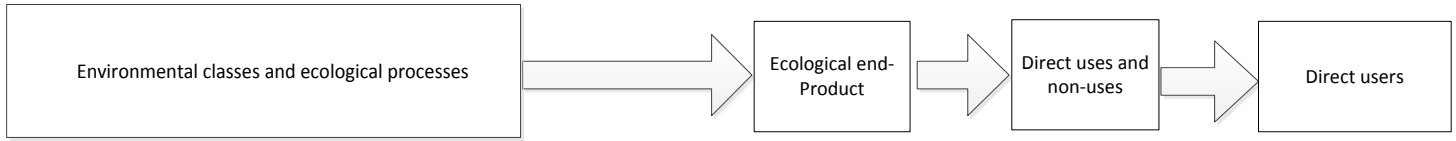
Cascade model



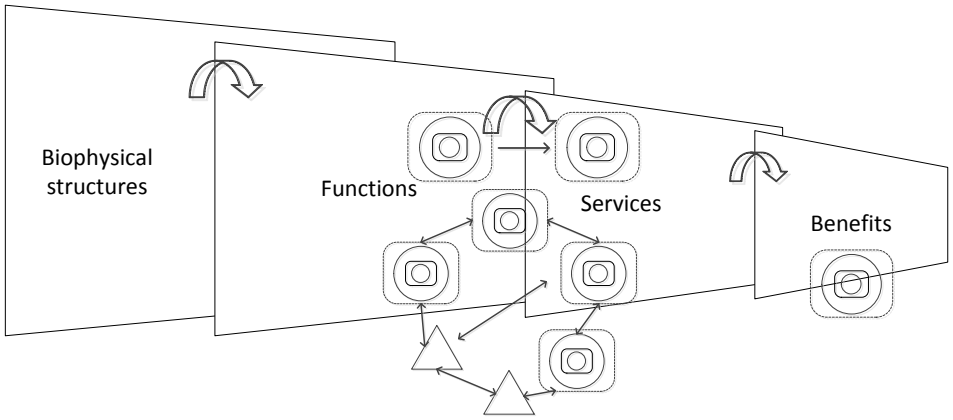
FEGS-CS



NESCS



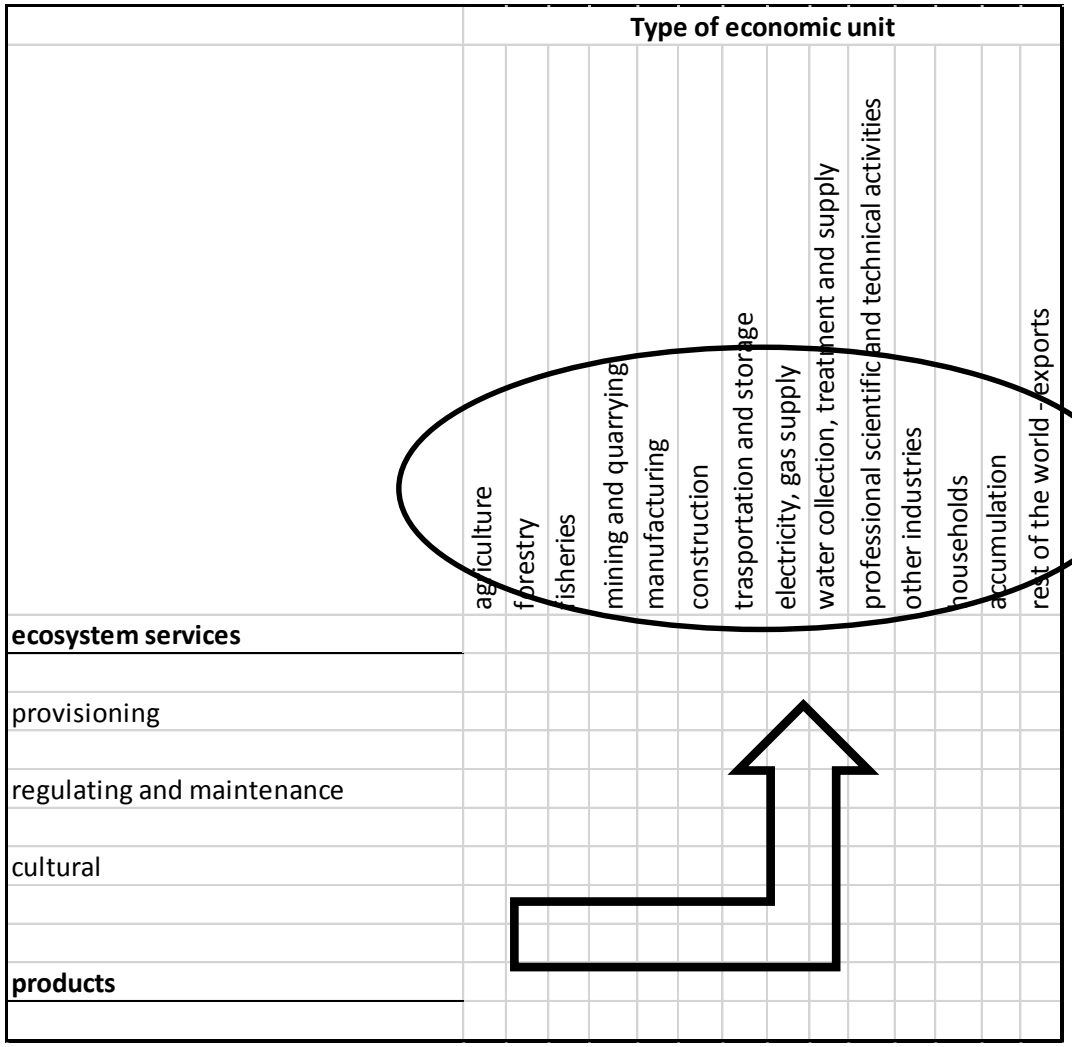
Perspective on the utility of using CICES (based on the cascade model)



- The box ‘ecosystem service’ does represent the flow
- CICES is a classification of flows
- By keeping the assessment at the flow level allows to take into account a higher degree of complexity (ref. system ecology categories)

The main focus is on the ecological side because that helps to understand ecological and ecosystem processes captured through the identification, assessment and valuation of ecosystem services

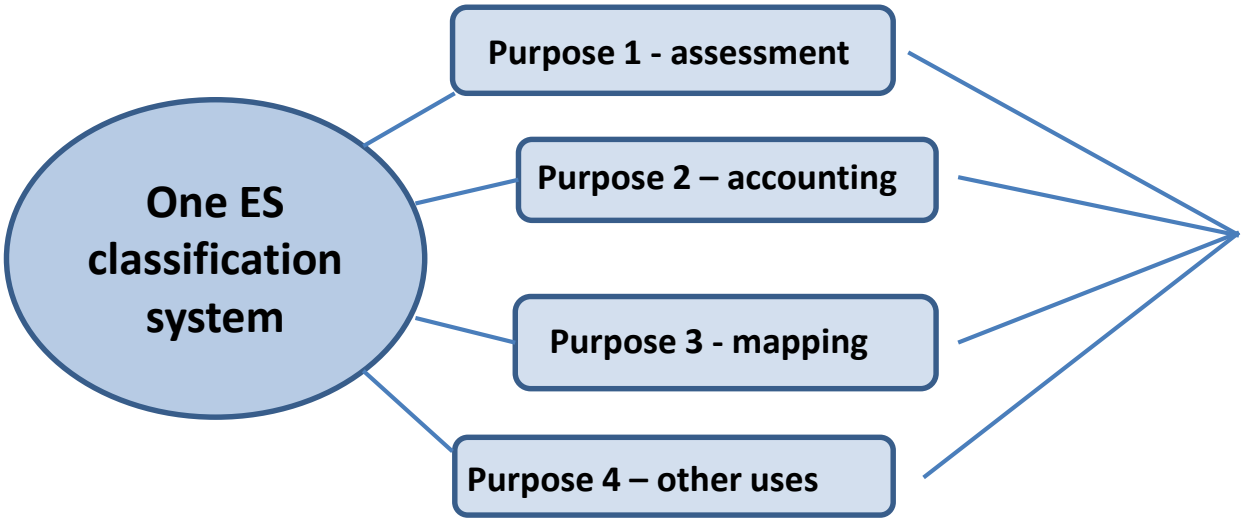
Reflections on the utility of using NESCS & FEGS-CS



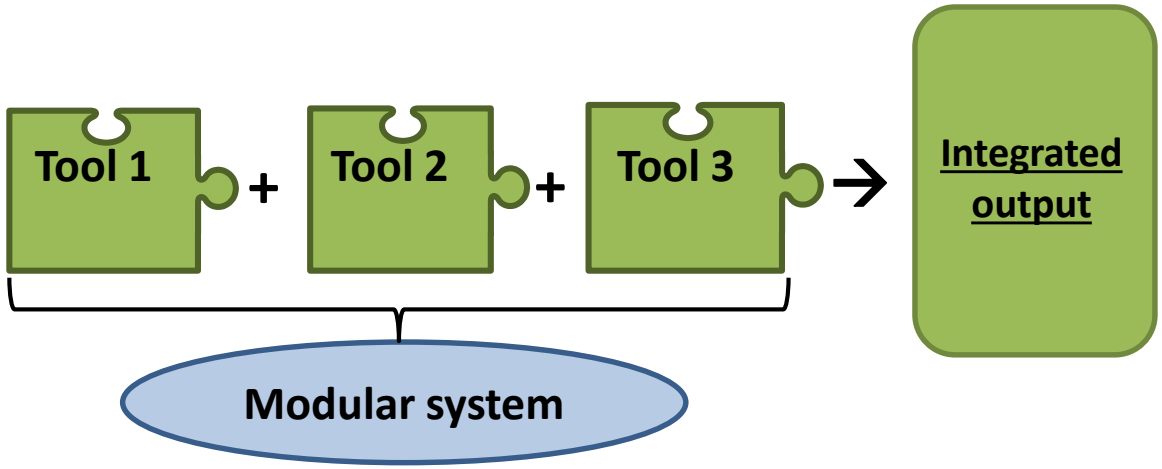
- **In NESCS and FEGS-CS the Final ES box is close to SEEA-EEA and CICES definition of what is generated by the flow**
- **In order to develop ES Supply and Use tables it is essential to have a clear perspective on who is going to be the beneficiary**
- **NESCS and FEGS-CS are based on the beneficiary perspective**
- **Thus, by detailing the interpretation of official statistical classifications, NESCS and FEGS-CS in the use table allow a good tracking of the economic and social impacts of ES**

The main focus is on the economic side since what is generated by ES is entering into the satellite accounts that add up / complete the core SNA.

“Multi-purpose” and “modular”



= “Multi-Purpose”



= “Modular”

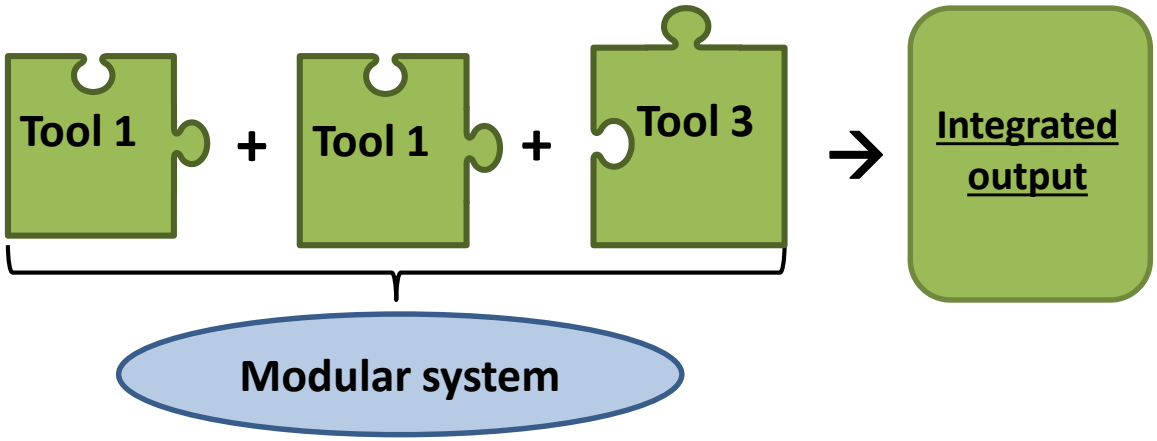
The meaning of “modular”

“Modular” as a combination of “independent” classifications for one joint purpose (aka Steurer & Obst)

Classif’n of ecosystem types **&** ES classif’n (e.g. CICES) **&** Classif’n of beneficiaries (e.g. ISIC) **=**

Inventory of final ES for any specific context described by a combination of the 3 classifications;
less precise?

“Modular” as in connected modules that together enable the foreseen purpose, e.g. for identification of potential FFES



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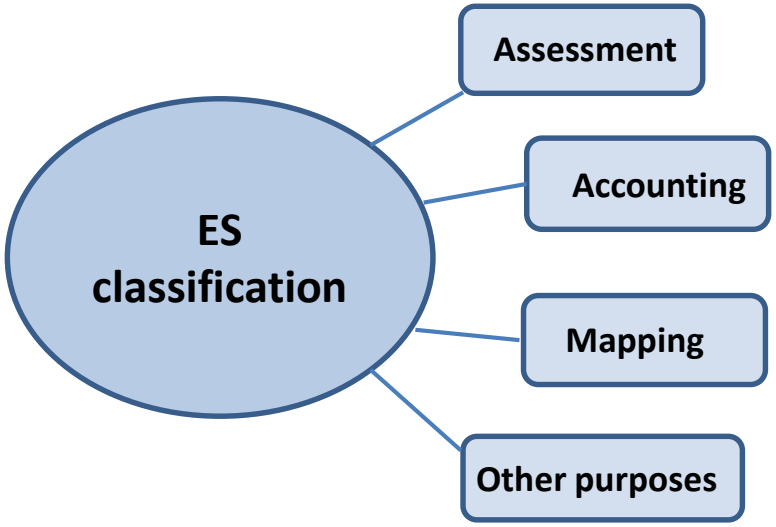
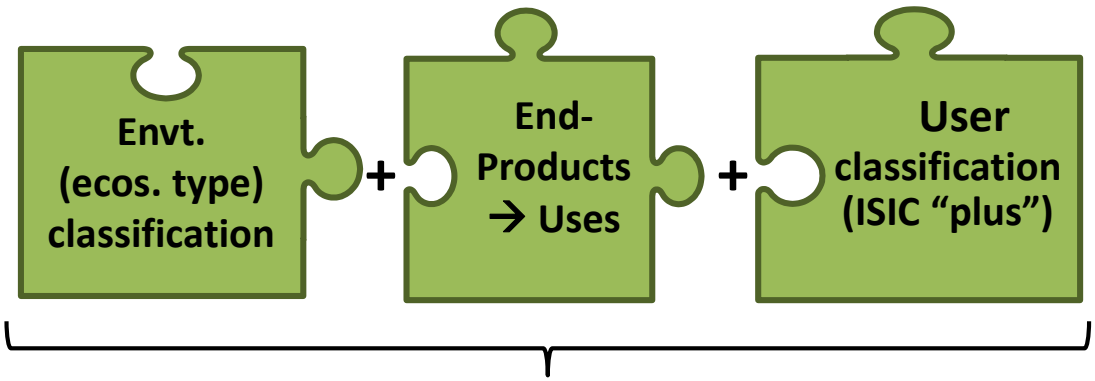
Connected modules in one overall application (as in NESCS) : same result for inventory of final ES;
less versatile ?

Figure 9: "Multi-purpose" and "modular" ES classification systems?



CICES as "Multi-purpose" classification in different contexts ?

FEGS-CS and NESCS as "Multi-purpose" classification for final ES ?



National Ecosystem Services Classification System (NESCS)

→ Identification of Final Flows of ES

→ NESCS as a 'Modular system' that focuses on identifying final flows of ES?

Some final reflections

- A very useful exercise but work not complete
- Same words understood differently in varying contexts
- Graphical comparison allows a better understanding of conceptual similarities and differences
- Needs to be complemented with close analysis of methodological terminology
- Applying different concepts to the same practical cases is likely to allow further insights