

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services in Slovakia: Frameworks for Ecosystem based Policies

Rastislav Rybanič, MoE Slovakia, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development

EEA Scientific Committee-EEA Seminar,
1st October, 2014 Copenhagen

Content

- Big thank for this seminar
- Development of MAES in Slovakia – where we are
- Framework for future policies – Example of ecosystem stability based policy in Slovakia which fails to deliver in full

Biodiversity Framework

- Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010
- EU Biodiversity Strategy 2011
- Slovak Actualized National Biodiversity Strategy (Jan 2014) and its Action Plan (Sept 2014)
 - Contain actions related to national MAES, ecosystem restoration and management and ecosystem services/ Natural capital accounting
- Operational Programs for national Structural, Cohesion and Rural development funds (not approved by EC yet) include measures for biodiversity/ecosystems

MAES Process in Slovakia (1)

- Coordinated within the EU (EU MAES working group)
- Following the overall approach (CICES, methodological framework)
- For capacity and practical reasons MAES-SK will have:
 - Pilot phase with Pilot assessment expected at the end of 2014
 - Full assessment expected in 2016

MAES Process in Slovakia (2)

- 13/6/2012 – Initial seminar at Enviro-i-forum in Zvolen (EEA assistance)
- 28/1/2013 – Working meeting at MoE
- Apr - Oct 2013 – attempts to secure funding
- 14/5/2014 – National MAES workshop in Bratislava
- 6/8/2014 – 1st MAES-SK working group meeting
- 12/9/2014 – 2nd MAES-SK working group meeting
- Working groups initiated and operational

Types of data used in MAES-SK

- Usual dilemma: accessible and less detailed data vs. labour intensive and more precise data
- Decision to use the best accessible data at the time available (depending on each group)
- Groups asked to stick to MAES framework methodology, but otherwise free to decide methods and data processing
- First map of ecosystems for Slovakia will be prepared

Institutions involved

- Institutions under Ministry of Environment:
 - Slovak Environment Agency, State Nature Conservancy, Research Institute of Water Management, Slovak Hydro-Meteorologic Institute, State Geologic Institute of Dioniz Štur;
- Institutions under Ministry of Agriculture:
 - National Agriculture and Food Centre, National Forest Institute (?);
- Scientific Institutes and Universities:
- Landscape Ecology Institute, Forest Ecology Institute/Spectra, Technical University Zvolen, Comenius University Bratislava, and others

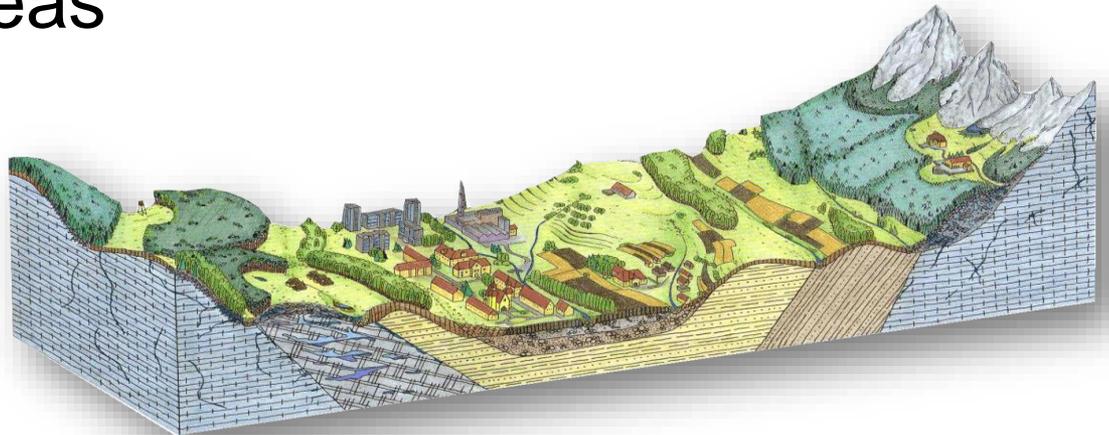
MAES-SK working groups

1 - Biomass production
2 - Water services
3 - Regulation of Environment quality
4 - Regulation of abiotic processes
5 - Regulation of Clima
6 - Regulation and support of biotic processes
7 - other supporting processes
8 - Cultural services
9 - Methodological group



Policy Example TSES

- TSES -Territorial system of ecological stability
- Proposals for the ecologically optimal land use of the agricultural landscape,
- Proposals for eco-stabilizing measures within forest ecosystems,
- Proposals for eco-stabilizing measures within urbanized areas



Legislative support

- **Act on Nature and Landscape Protection 543/2002 Coll.;**
- **Act on Territorial Planning and Construction Order**
- **Act on Land Arrangement and Land Ownership**
- **Act on Environmental Impact Assessment**
- **Act on Water**

Problems with TSES

- *The different interpretation of the conception of TSES:* sometimes only frame of TSES is considered by designers,
- Ecosystem stabilizing measures are neglected because there is spare land to build them



Problems with TSES

- A misunderstanding of the significance of TSES as part of the spatial planning processes by authorities
- Complicated methodology for elaboration of TSES
- Problems related to the integration of TSES documentation into territorial-spatial documentations
- Low publicity, promotion and awareness of TSES
- Insufficient financial resources for projecting and implementing TSES
- Lack of stakeholders buy-in

Is TSES good example to consider?

- It is certainly well crafted policy
- It has its up and down sides
- The main area where it fails is inter sectoral integration and marketing
- It is at least a good example to learn about when designing any future ecosystem based policies

A scenic landscape featuring a valley filled with a thick layer of white fog or low clouds. The valley is surrounded by rolling hills and mountains in the background. In the foreground, there is a lush green field with some trees and bushes. The sky is a clear, light blue.

Thank you!