



UK National Ecosystem Assessment

Follow-on

Work Package 1: Natural Capital Asset Check

Why:

The state of our natural capital assets is not routinely assessed for their ability to support critical future ecosystem services. However, contemporary techniques make such analysis possible, and can be applied in a number of examples which provide information that improves decision-making.

What:

Aim:

- To review and develop the conceptual framework developed in the Defra scoping study
- To review and develop further information on (i) data inputs and (ii) relationships between natural capital assets.
- To conduct further case studies and testing of this approach
- To create links to modified national income accounts (incorporating ecosystem services value)

Summary: The research will further develop and test (through approximately 10 case-studies) a framework for undertaking an “asset check” of Natural Capital that has been defined through a study for Defra, scoping the natural asset check concept. The group will develop a tool for undertaking the natural capital asset check, and will provide examples of how asset checks apply to different elements of natural capital and at different scales. This will both link to the inclusion of Natural Capital in the National Accounts, and also provide a new tool to enable the value of nature to be better reflected in impact assessments and environmental appraisal.

Outputs/outcomes:

Output/outcome	Status	Opportunity for input	Anticipated audience(s)
UK peer review of concepts	Broadly complete through study team’s review of proposed NCAC method	Peer review process	Technical analysts informing decision-makers from local to national levels.
Wider promotion of NCAC approach	Limited to within study team and UKNEA contacts		Links welcome
Stimulate others to bring forward asset checks	To be carried out alongside promotion of results	Broad at concluding stages of UKNEAFO	

Output/outcome	Status	Opportunity for input	Anticipated audience(s)
Input to NCC thinking on “unsustainable use”	Ongoing: existing method informed ‘state of natural capital’ report, and case studies will provide NCC with relevant material.		NCC members & stakeholders
Synthesis report	First draft method complete. Revision due June 2013	Peer review process	
Catalogue of case studies	Draft are currently being reviewed within the project team and will be submitted in June 2013	Peer review process	Natural environment decision-makers
Publicly available “approach” guiding NCAC	Draft will be submitted in June 2013	Peer review process	

Methods/tools being developed:

- Framework for Natural Capital Asset check

Anticipated Case Studies:

- Conduct case studies and testing of natural capital assets approach in decision making and appraisal situations
- Freshwater
- Blue carbon (scoping)
- Pollinators
- Soil quality
- Urban green space (cultural services)
- Uplands
- Saltmarsh fisheries (extension)
- Estuaries x2
- Review links to accounts

Links to other Work packages:

- WP2: Links to deployment of other forms of capital
- WP3: Understand value of future performance of NK assets
- WP4: Understanding of cultural values from NK assets
- WP5: Understanding of cultural values from NK assets
- WP6: Predicted future condition of NK assets; Time focus? Possible link if future orientated
- WP7: Predicted future condition of NK assets
- WP8: How to input asset check to wider policy making
- WP9/WP10: New tool?/Design of tools; Asset checks as part of wider toolkit

Team:

Principal Investigator:

- Ian Dickie (Economics for the Environment Consultancy)

Team Members:

- Giles Atkinson (London School of Economics)
- Luke Brander (Freelance)
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Resource allocated: £125,000