

UK National Ecosystem Assessment

Follow-on

Work package -8 Institutional Behaviours and Cultures

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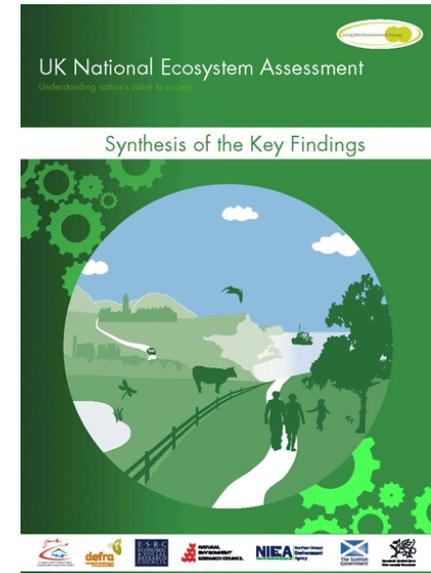


Context

“we already have sufficient understanding to manage our ecosystems more sustainably and good evidence of the social benefits that would arise from doing so”

[UK NEA Synthesis, 2011, p.14]

- Policy appraisal (e.g. Impact Assessment, SEA, EIA) critical integration mechanisms – see Natural Environment WP and Green Book Annex
- The problem of knowledge *utilisation*.
- Importance of drawing lessons



Aim

Aim: investigate capacities and constraints to embedding consideration of ecosystem services in policy decision making through appraisal, with a specific focus on the role played by institutional behaviours and cultures as both barriers and enablers.

Team:

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What is Appraisal

“[that] family of *ex ante* techniques and procedures.... that seek to inform decision makers by predicting and evaluating the consequences of various activities according to certain conventions” (Owens *et al.* 2004, p.1944)

- impact Assessment
- SEA
- EIA

Progress to date

- 1) Systematic literature review
- 2) Content analysis of impact assessments, SEAs and EIAs
- 3) Interviews
- 4) Lesson drawing

Key messages to date

- Possessing ‘more knowledge’ does not necessarily mean that it will be embedded into policy making
- There are many venues in which knowledge maybe taken up – e.g. appraisal
- Need to tailor knowledge to venue (link to WP 9 and 10)
- Appraisal is a ‘unique’ venue – possibly ‘the only game in town’ (Pearce 1998)?
- But – there are different *types* of appraisal
- And - we have been down this road before – very important to learn lessons from the past

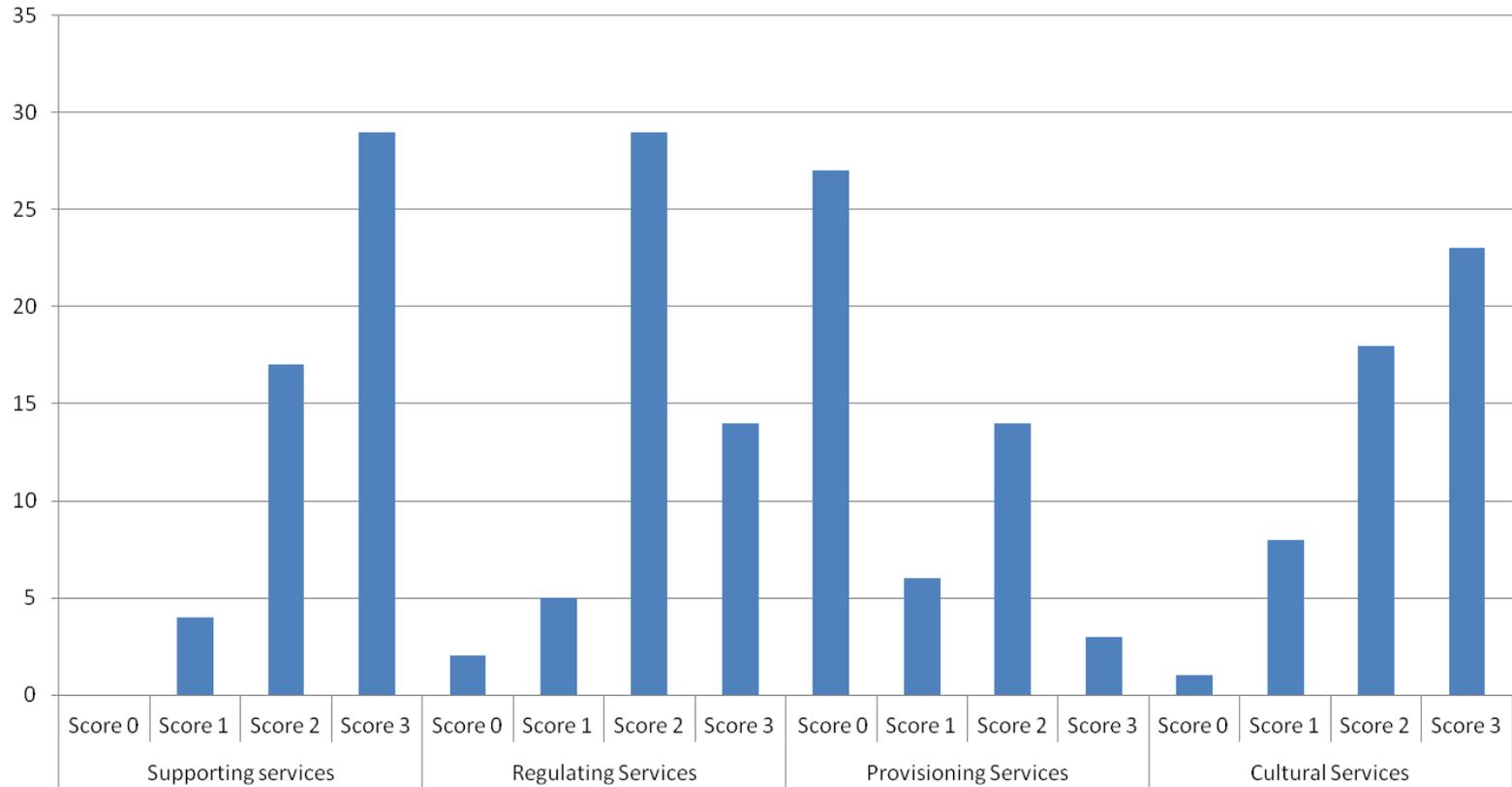
Enablers and Barriers eggs from Literature

Level	Focus	Example
Micro	Behaviour	expertise, professional background, timeframes, awareness, understanding, perceived added value
Meso	Instit. culture	core objectives, incentives, established procedures
Macro	Social and political context	economic competitiveness, deregulation

Enablers and Barriers from Literature

Level	Enablers	Barriers
Micro	Training etc. (e.g. policy appraisal) Resources & expertise (SEA, EIA)	Bureaucratic capacity (EIA/SEA...) Perceptions of usefulness (IA,SEA,EIA)
Meso	Sustained political leadership (policy appraisal); legal backing (EIA& SEA)	Departmental politics (IA) Established DM routines (IA) legal backing (EIA& SEA)
Macro	EU commitments; (EIA &SEA) societal support	Deregulation, austerity, civil society support (IA,SEA,EIA)

Content analysis of 50 EIA Technical Summaries



Content analysis messages

- Elements of EIA and SEA implicitly include different ESF services
- EIA and SEA provide dedicated env focus that is more favourable to ESF, but...
...only cover specific env impacts which may constrain scope for ESF
- Less so with PAs, where even Defra has room to improve

Next steps and outputs

Interviews with stakeholders

- Can lessons be learnt from past attempts to appraise policy for environmental impacts?
- Awareness of and expectations related to NEA1 and NEA2 (likely to vary - can be picked up in interviews)
- Use is vital to long term viability of ESF thinking – but ‘use’ is multifaceted and showing policy impact is rather difficult

Outputs

- Objective 4, drawing lessons for policy makers
- Stakeholder workshop