

eftec

Economics for the
Environment
Consultancy

UKNEA follow-on
meeting,
3rd July 2102

Ian Dickie, eftec

WP1: Natural Capital Asset Check



Outline

- Concept
- Aims
- Approach
- Organisation & Team
- Timeline
- Questions to address
- Outcomes

WP1

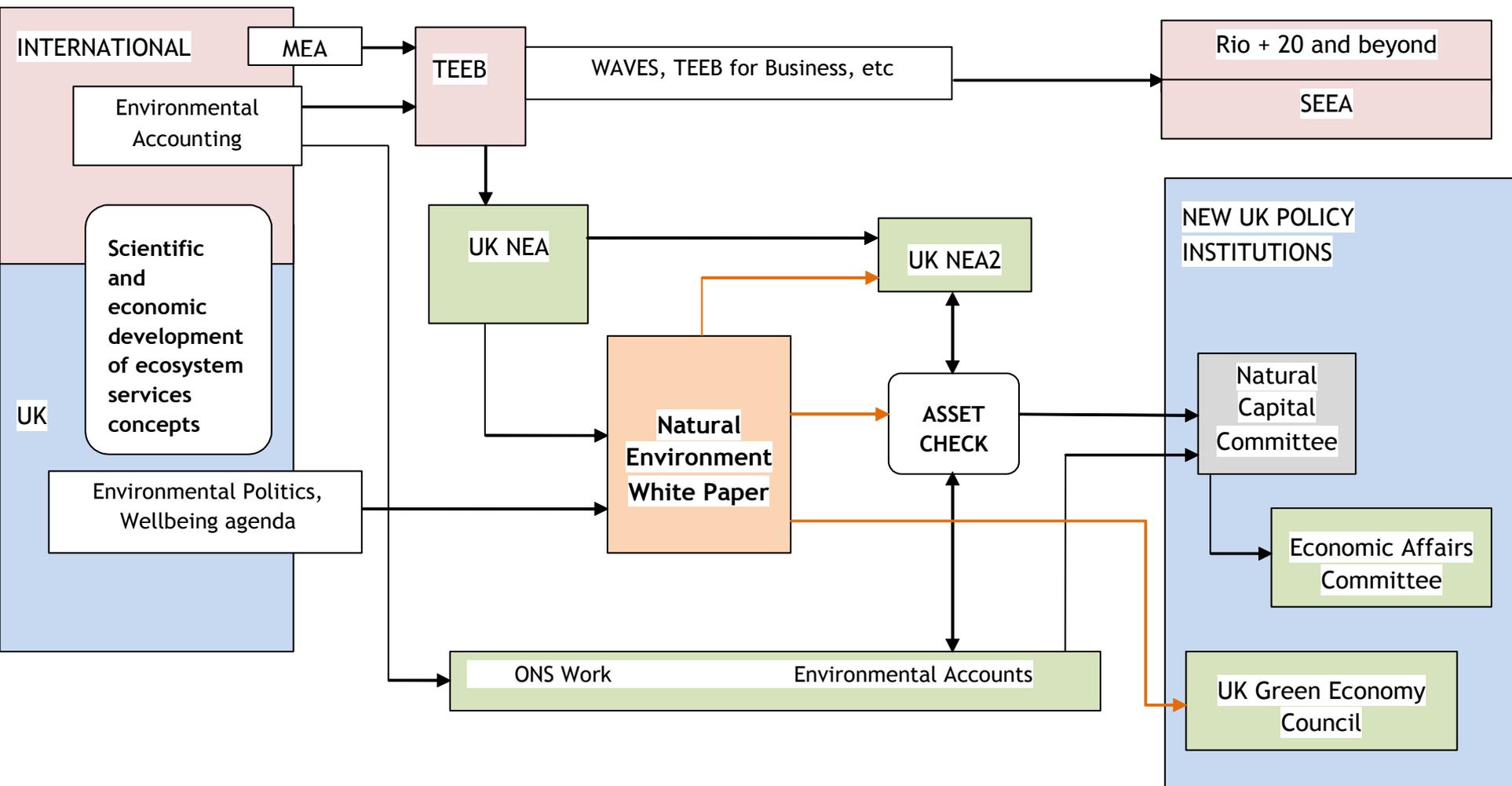
To develop the framework and address evidence issues arising from the scoping study on the Natural Capital Asset Check.

- Assess for an asset:
 - a) How much do we have? (amount, condition)
 - b) What does it produce? and
 - c) How do individual decisions affect a) & b) over time?

Concept

- Current NKAC project scoping : reporting September
- Working definition:
- **An assessment of changes in the ability of specific natural (capital) assets to sustain social and economic activities and maintain human well-being.**
- Inform policy decisions, but not defined by them
- CBA-plus: more strategic, long term, red-flags, non-linearities

Figure 3: Mapping of Asset Check Position Within Policy Developments in Ecosystem Services Economic Appraisal Activities
 (Source: eftec, March 2012)



WP1 Purpose of Approach

- Discuss ideas more widely
- Critique outputs of scoping study
- Test methods
- Gain buy-in from wider research community
- Develop evidence base

WP1 Organisation

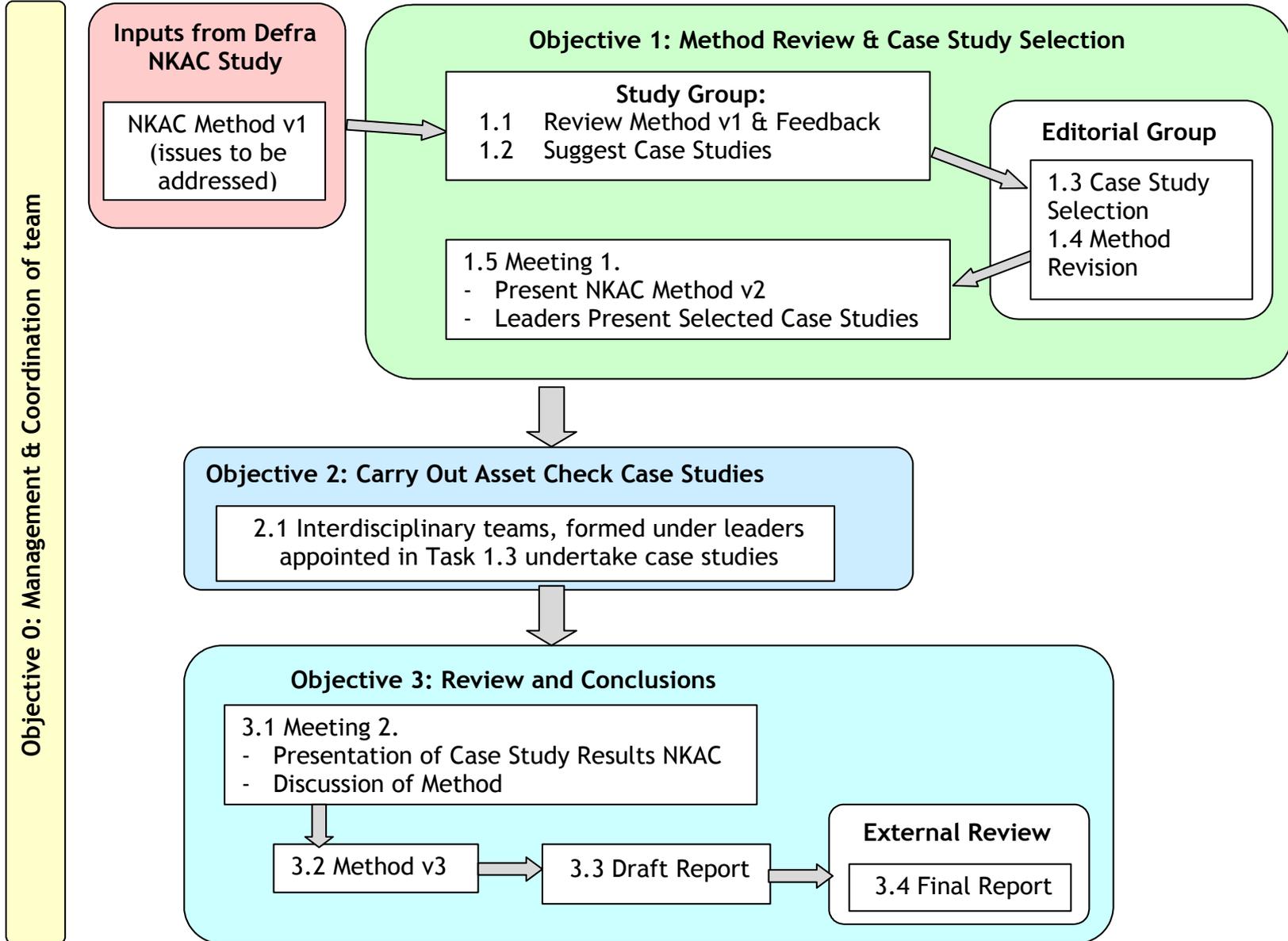
- Editorial Group
- Study Group
- Case studies
- More extensive test of methodology, build catalogue

WP1 Team

- Editorial Group
 - Same as lead authors of Scoping Study:
 - Ian Dickie (eftec)
 - Giles Atkinson (LSE)
 - Roy Haines-Young (University of Nottingham)
 - Rosie Hails (CEH)

WP1 Organisation

- Study Group
 - Selection of leading ecosystem services economists & scientists
 - Nick Hanley (University of Stirling)
 - Scottish Agricultural College (McVittie/Moran)
 - Tiziana Luisetti (UEA)
 - Mel Austen (PML)
 - Luke Brander (freelance)
 - Alan Glyn Jones (Aberystwyth University)
 - Pool of other CV's retained to input to Case Studies at Study Group's request



Timeline

2012	18th July	Discussion with Natural Capital Committee
	Sept	NKAC Scoping Study Outputs
	Oct	Team teleconference, review methods
	Nov	Case study proposition and selection
	Dec	Method revision
2013	Jan	Meeting 1 and report
	Feb – Apr	Case studies
	Apr	Meeting 2
	May	Method revision
	Jun	Reporting
	July – Aug	External review
	Sept – Oct	Final report

Questions to Address

- Role of limits, irreversibility and defining “red-flags”
 Can science support their identification?
 Can they be defined consistently to be summarise in asset check results?
- Risk-aversion
 Uncertainty means we take risks of passing limits, or causing irreversible impacts, what are implications of this re: **“sustain social and economic activities and maintain human well-being?”**
- Use of non-market valuation evidence
 Robust enough for use in asset checks?

Questions to Address

- Spatial & temporal scales
 - Can analysis be re-scaled from one spatial scale to another?
 - What are meaningful ecological timescales for checking assets?
- Definitions of an Asset:
 - What is an asset? Things that are “controlled and owned”?
 - International natural capital that UK relies on

Outputs & Outcomes

- UK peer review of concepts
- Development of range of case studies
- More refined and widely understood approach

- Wider promotion of NKAC concept
- Stimulate others to bring forward asset checks?

Thank you!

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Cow Burps: UK-based environmental economics blog

<http://cowburps.wordpress.com>