

NEA Follow- Up: Work Package 8

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Context

- National (NEA) and Millennium (MEA) Ecosystem Assessments are based on the premise: managing ecosystems requires good knowledge about how they function
- Understanding how ecosystem services knowledge is integrated within decision-making is thus vital.
- Policy appraisal (e.g. Impact Assessment, SEA, EA) critical integration mechanisms – see Natural Environment WP and Green Book Annex
- Importance of drawing lessons

Aim

- This project will investigate capacities and constraints to embedding consideration of ecosystem services in policy decision making through appraisal.
- Specific focus on institutional behaviours and cultures as both barriers and enablers.

Research Steps

Four step approach:

- 1) Systematic literature review (linking KU and PA literatures)
 - constraints and capacities,
 - institutional cultures and behaviour as barriers and enablers
 - scale-dependent features and important actors

- 2) Content analysis of existing policy related documents such as Department Action Plans, IAs, SEAs, EIAs

Research Steps

- 3) 40 interviews with senior experts and policy-makers to:
 - investigate the validity of the lessons drawn from the literature review
 - better understand the patterns observed in the documentary analysis
 - identify associated challenges for embedding the ecosystems approach

- 4) revise the overall lessons especially the role of different institutional cultures and behaviours in appraisal use and engagement with the ecosystems approach.

The Team

- Duncan Russel, University of Exeter (PI)
- Andrew Jordan, University of East Anglia (UEA)
- John Turnpenny, UEA
- William Sheate, Collingwood Environmental Planning and Imperial College London
- Alan Bond, UEA

First Steps

- Started the systematic review
- Building an analytical framework