

Methodological framework for the assessment of Ecosystem Services in Bulgaria and its relation to water management

Dr Svetla Bratanova-Doncheva – IBER-BAS
sbrat@abv.bg

Introduction

- In the context of global changes, the biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems and their services are the biggest *problems* of the planet now
- -> So, effective societal responses needed to manage complex *socio-ecological (SE) interactions*.

Knowledge base:

What **drives** the major European ecosystems and socio-ecological systems?

Information of policy and management:

How can Ecosystem Services be **sustainably secured** across all scales?

Key questions

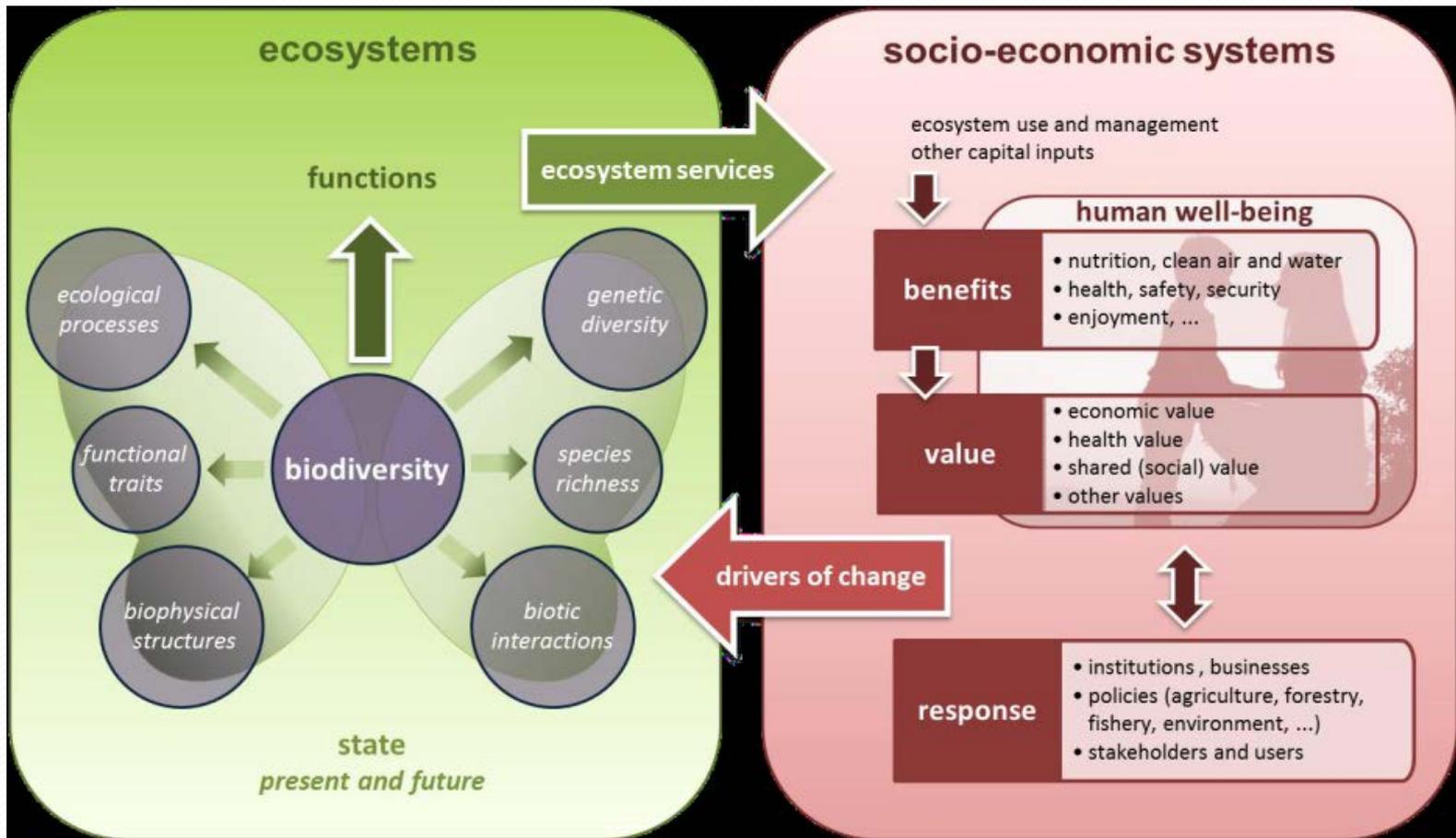
Context

- **Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020** foresees that Member States will map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory by 2014.
- The Working Group **MAES-EC**, which steers the implementation of Action 5 decided to test it based on the outcomes of six thematic pilots.

Context

- Four of the pilots focused on Europe's main ecosystem types: **agro-ecosystems**, **forest ecosystems**, **freshwater ecosystems** and **marine ecosystems**. A further pilot focused on the use of conservation status data for assessing the state of ecosystems and of the associated delivery of services. The final pilot addressed the challenge of natural capital accounts.
- In these pilots EU institutions worked hand in hand with Member States to make a review of national and European data and indicators to assess the condition of ecosystems, to quantify biodiversity and to map and assess their services.

- 
- A coherent **analytical framework** has been developed to be applied by the EU and its Member States in order to ensure consistent approaches. It contributes to the ongoing discussion on the conceptual framework for sub-global assessments of ecosystems and ecosystem services under the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES).
 - The **second technical report** proposes indicators that can be used at European and Member State's level to map and assess biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services.



The institutional capacities to manage the earth's ecosystems are evolving more slowly than man's overuse of the same systems.



ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

Opportunities and Challenges for Business and Industry



MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Ecosystem services

"The capacity of ecosystems to provide services derives directly from the operation of natural biogeochemical cycles that in some cases have been significantly modified".

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2000,2005

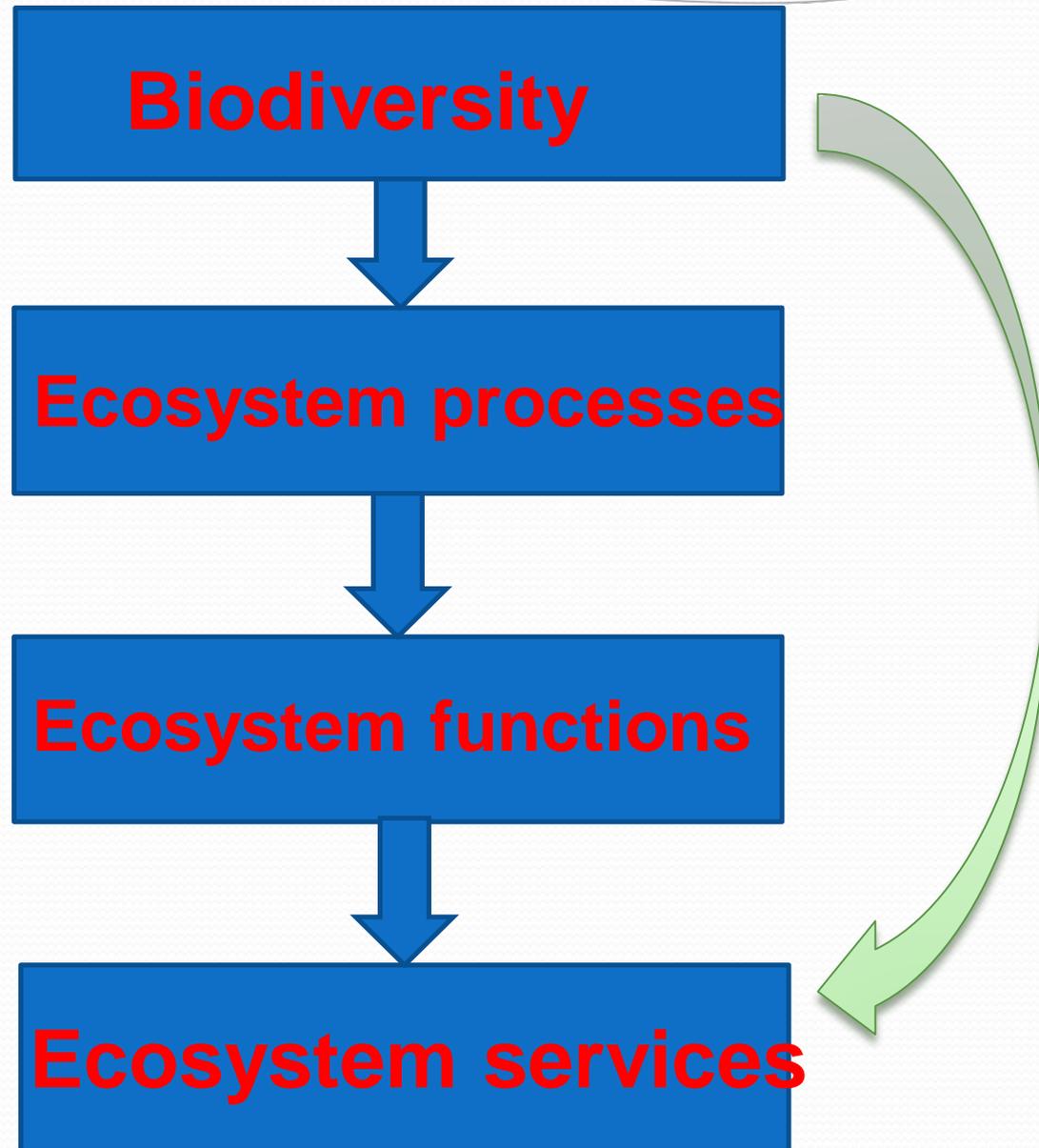
Ecosystem services

- **ES are the benefits that people obtain from biodiversity, ecosystems and their functions.**
- **Biodiversity** has multiple roles supporting the delivery of ecosystem services and assessment the status of ecosystems. Connecting biodiversity to ecosystem state but also to particular ecosystem functions and ecosystem services entails thus defining multivariate combinations of these different dimensions of biodiversity and using them for mapping and assessment. (MAES 1&2)

Introduction –some definitions

- **Ecosystems** are shaped by the interaction of communities of living organisms with the abiotic environment.
- **Biodiversity** - the variety of all life on earth - plays a key role in the structural set-up of ecosystems which is essential to maintaining basic ecosystem processes and supporting ecosystem functions.
- **Ecosystem functions** are defined as the capacity or the potential to deliver ecosystem services.
- **Ecosystem services** are, in turn, derived from ecosystem functions and represent the realized flow of services for which there is demand.

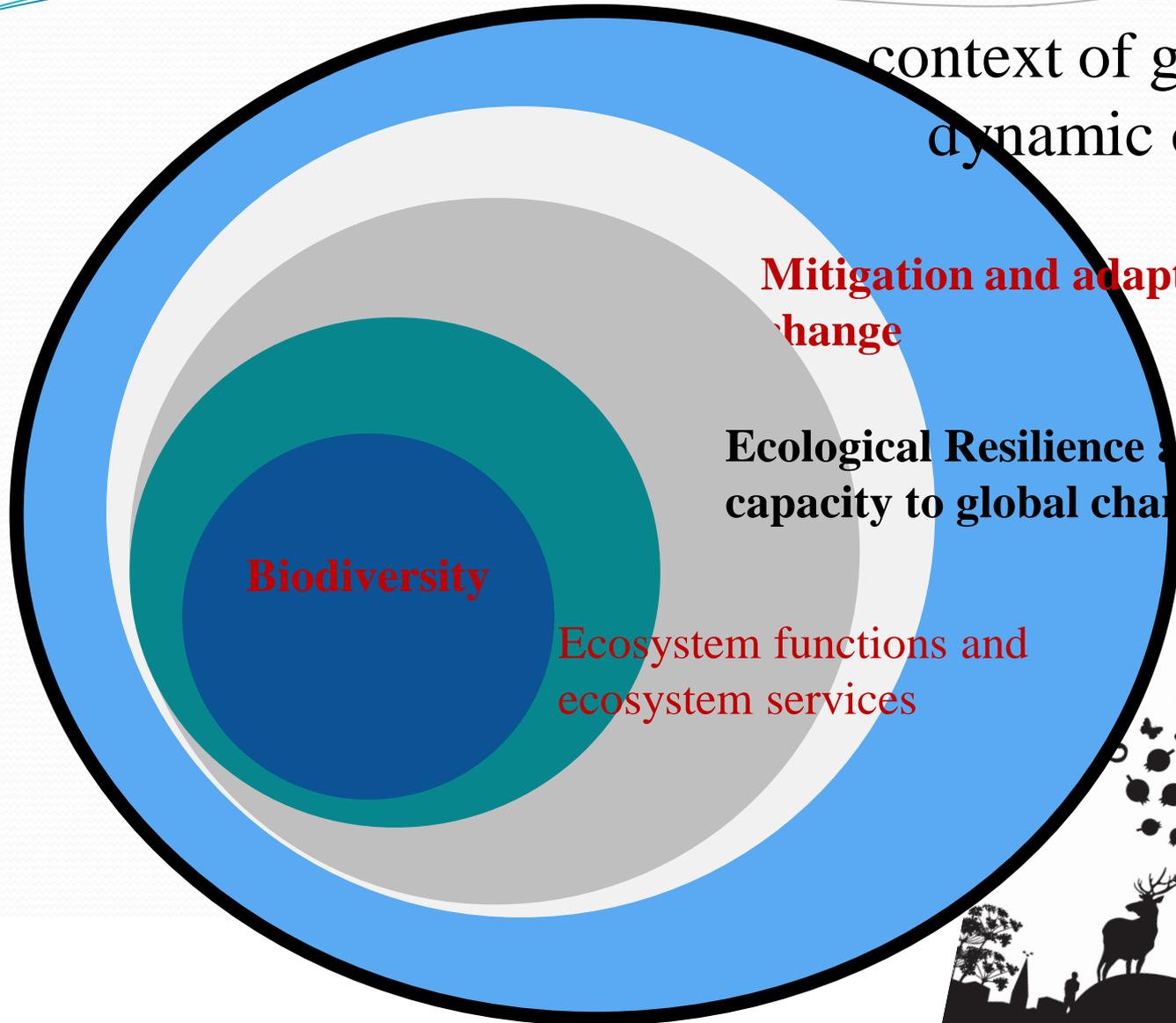
Ecosystem functions and biodiversity





The **biodiversity** has a **crucial** role
in the ecosystem processes

Sustainable development in the context of global change
dynamic of SE system



Biodiversity

Ecosystem functions and ecosystem services

Ecological Resilience and adaptive capacity to global changes

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND RESILIENCE
CHANGE FOR A FUTURE
GLOBAL CHANGES**



- The concepts to analyse complex SE interactions: *ecosystem integrity, resilience and ecosystem services*
- The objective: to develop framework to assess *resilience of ecosystem services, based on DPSIR, indicators and scenarios*

Ecosystem integrity - definition

The ability of ecosystem for **self organization and self maintenance** of ecosystem structures and functions

Ecosystem structures & functions = Ecosystem integrity

Abiotic heterogeneity	1	structures
Biodiversity	2	
Exergy Capture (Radiation)	3	energy
Metabolic efficiency	4	
Biotic waterflows	5	water & matter
Reduction of Nutrient loss	6	
Storage capacity (SOM)	7	

Indicators

Assessments of ecosystem functions and services across LTER Europe sites

Stoll et al. | 23.5.2012

Definitions of integrity components: potential indicators:

<p>The provision of suitable habitats for different species, for functional groups of species and for processes is essential for the functioning of ecosystems.</p>	<p>habitat diversity indices heterogeneity indices, e.g. humus contents in the soil number/area of habitats</p>
<p>The presence or absence of selected species, (functional groups) of species or species composition.</p>	<p>Indicator species representative for a certain phenomenon or sensitive to distinct changes.</p>
<p>Referring to the water cycling affected by plant processes in the system.</p>	<p>transpiration / total evapotranspiration</p>
<p>Referring to the amount of energy necessary to maintain a specific biomass, also serving as a stress indicator for the system.</p>	<p>respiration / biomass (metabolic quotient)</p>
<p>The capability of ecosystems to enhance the input of usable energy. Exergy is derived from thermodynamics and measures the energy fraction that can be transformed into mechanical work. In ecosystems, the captured exergy is used to build up biomass (e.g. by primary production) and structures.</p>	<p>Net primary production Leaf area index LAI</p>
<p>Referring to the irreversible output of elements from the system, the nutrient budget and matter flows.</p>	<p>Leaching of nutrients e.g. N, P</p>
<p>Is referring to the nutrient, energy and water budgets of the system and the capacity of the system to store them when available and to release them when needed.</p>	<p>Solved organic matter N, C_{org} in the soil N, C in biomass</p>

Resilience of ecosystems

The resilience of ecosystems broadly refers to the capacity of an ecosystem to tolerate disturbance without collapsing into a qualitatively different state that is controlled by a different set of processes.

Focal questions:

- “*resilience of what to what? (Carpenter et al. 2001)*”
- “*resilience for whom*” (Lebel et al. 2006).
- Additional question: “*resilience by whom and how*”?

Ecosystem services (ES)

- Four types of services:

1) **provisioning** (products obtained from ecosystems e.g. food, wood, water),

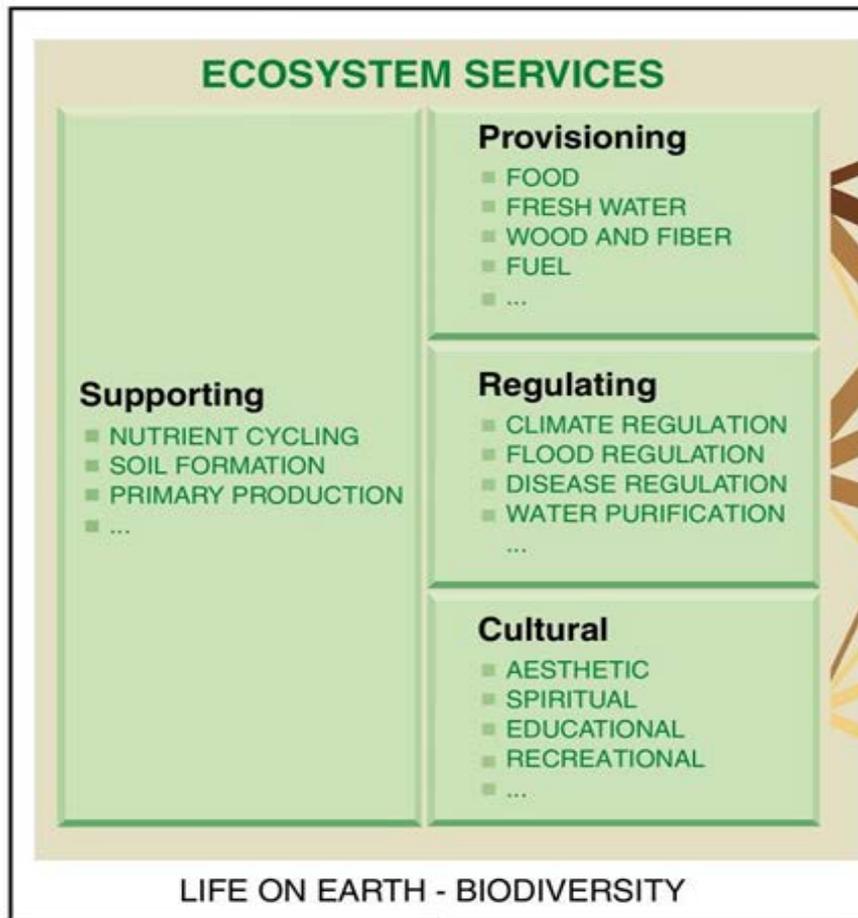
2) **regulating** (moderate or control of environmental conditions e.g. flood control; water purification by aquifers, carbon sequestration by forests, species balance),

3) **cultural** (non-material benefits obtained from ecosystems e.g. recreation, education, aesthetics), and

4) **supporting** (maintain all other services by for example primary production, soil formation, and water cycling) (MA 2003).

Choosing what ecosystem services to enhance is **political** -
>trade-offs between changing societal objectives at local, national ore regional scale

CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

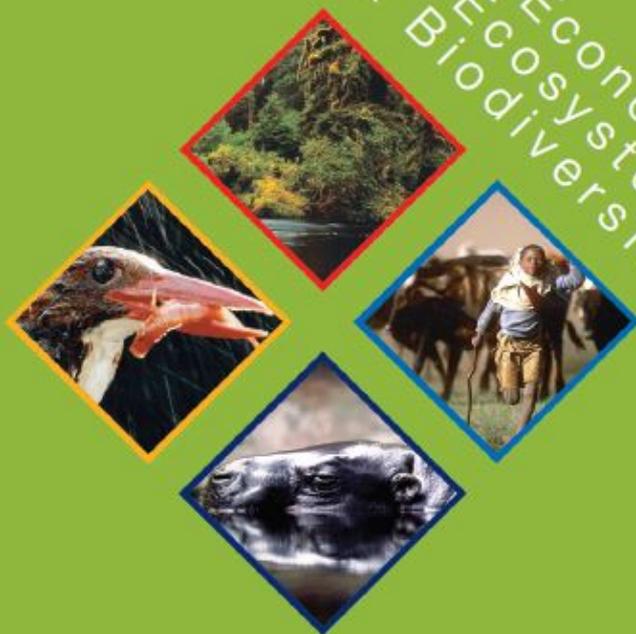
ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong

Millennium ecosystem assessment, 2000, 2005

TEEB, 2010

The Economics
& of Ecosystems
of Biodiversity



MAINSTREAMING THE ECONOMICS OF NATURE

A SYNTHESIS OF THE APPROACH, CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF TEEB

	TEEB classification		
1	PROVISIONING		
2	Food		
3	Water (2)		
		16	HABITAT
		17	Lifecycle maintenance
		17	Gene pool protection
			CULTURAL
4	Genetic resources	18	Aesthetic information
5	Medicinal resources	19	Recreation & tourism
6	Ornamental resources	20	Inspiration for culture, art and design
	REGULATING		
7	Air purification	21	Spiritual experience
8	Climate regulation (incl. C-sequestration)	22	Information for cognitive development
9	Disturbance prevention or moderation		
10	Regulation of water flows		
11	Waste treatment (esp. water purification)		
12	Erosion prevention		
13	Maintaining soil fertility		
14	Pollination		
15	Biological control		

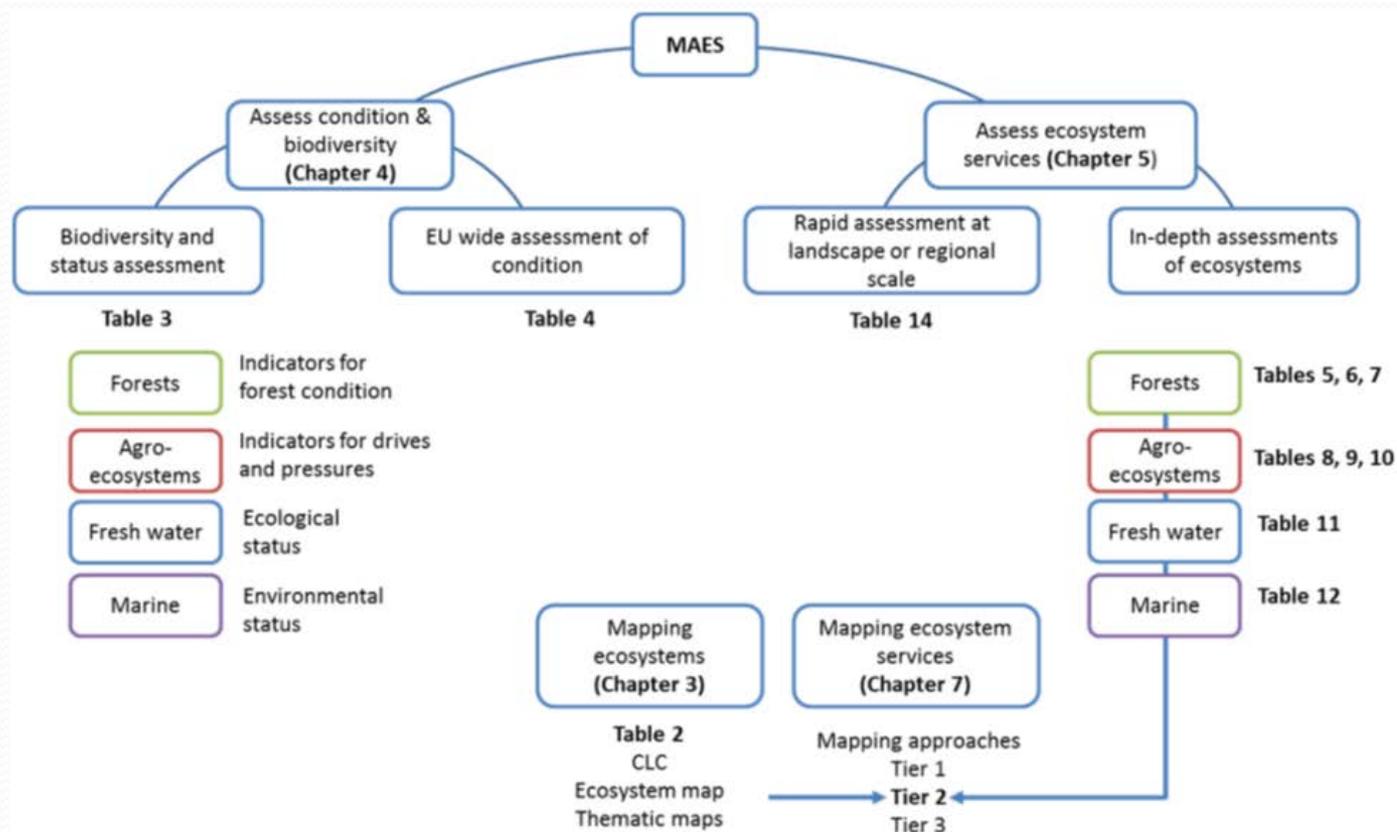
Conceptual framework



MAES

- According to the description available at the EU website, “... the objective of the EU assessment is to provide a critical evaluation of the best available information for guiding decisions on complex public issues. The work being carried out is important for the advancement of biodiversity objectives, and also to inform the development and implementation of related policies, on water, climate, agriculture, forest, and regional planning. Robust, reliable and comparable data are also important for the planning and implementation of individual projects.”
- To achieve these objectives, MAES has so far adopted a **classification of ecosystem services** (in its Analytical framework of April 2013), as well as relevant indicators (Indicators of ecosystem assessment report, February, 2014). A Natural capital accounting guidance document is in its final stages of adoption.

The pilot studies contributed indicators, which can be used for mapping and assessing biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services according to the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES v4.3). The way information is structured is presented in a graph.



CICES, 2013

Section – 3
Division – 8
Group – 20
Class - 48

CICES for ecosystem service mapping and assessment					
CICES for ecosystem accounting					
Sector	Division	Group	Class		
Provisioning	Nutrition	Biomass	Cultivated crops		
			Reared animals and their outputs		
			Wild plants, algae and their outputs		
			Wild animals and their outputs		
			Plants and algae from in-situ aquaculture		
			Animals from in-situ aquaculture		
	Water	Surface water for drinking			
		Ground water for drinking			
	Materials	Biomass	Fibres and other materials from plants, algae and animals for direct use or processing		
			Materials from plants, algae and animals for agricultural use		
Water		Genetic materials from all biota			
		Surface water for non-drinking purposes			
Energy	Biomass	Plant-based resources			
	Mechanical	Animal-based energy			
Regulation & Maintenance	Mediation of waste, toxics and other nuisances	Mediation by biota	Bio-remediation by micro-organisms, algae, plants, and animals Filtration/sequestration/storage/accumulation by micro-organisms, algae, plants, and animals		
		Mediation by ecosystems	Filtration/sequestration/storage/accumulation by ecosystems Dilution by atmosphere, freshwater and marine ecosystems Mediation of smell/noise/visual impacts		
		Mediation of flows	Mass flows	Mass stabilisation and control of erosion rates Buffering and attenuation of mass flows	
			Liquid flows	Hydrological cycle and water flow maintenance Flood protection	
	Gaseous / air flows		Storm protection		
			Ventilation and transpiration		
	Maintenance of chemical, biological conditions	Lifecycle maintenance	Pollination and seed dispersal Maintaining nutrient populations and habitats		
		Pest and disease	Pest control Disease control		
		Soil formation	Weathering processes Decomposition and fixing processes		
		Water conditions	Chemical condition of freshwaters		
			Chemical condition of salt waters		
		Atmospheric composition	Global climate regulation by reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations Micro and regional climate regulation		
		Cultural	Physical and experiential interactions with biota, ecosystems, etc.	Physical and experiential	Experiential use of plants, animals and land/seascapes in different environmental settings Physical use of land/seascapes in different environmental settings
				Intellectual and representative interactions	Scientific
	Educational				
	Heritage, cultural				
Spiritual, symbolic and other interactions	Entertainment				
	Aesthetic				
	Spiritual and/or symbolic		Symbolic Sacred and/or religious		
	Other cultural		Existence Recreation		



In Bulgaria, the ecosystems mapping and assessment process is so far organized on ad hoc basis but the need for closer cooperation is being seen by the involved **stakeholders**, notably central administrations and NGOs.

The legal basis is provided by Regulation 691/2011 and (for the forest ecosystems only) by a dedicated chapter in the Forestry law and its sublegislation.

BG 03 Biodiversity and ecosystem services - EEA

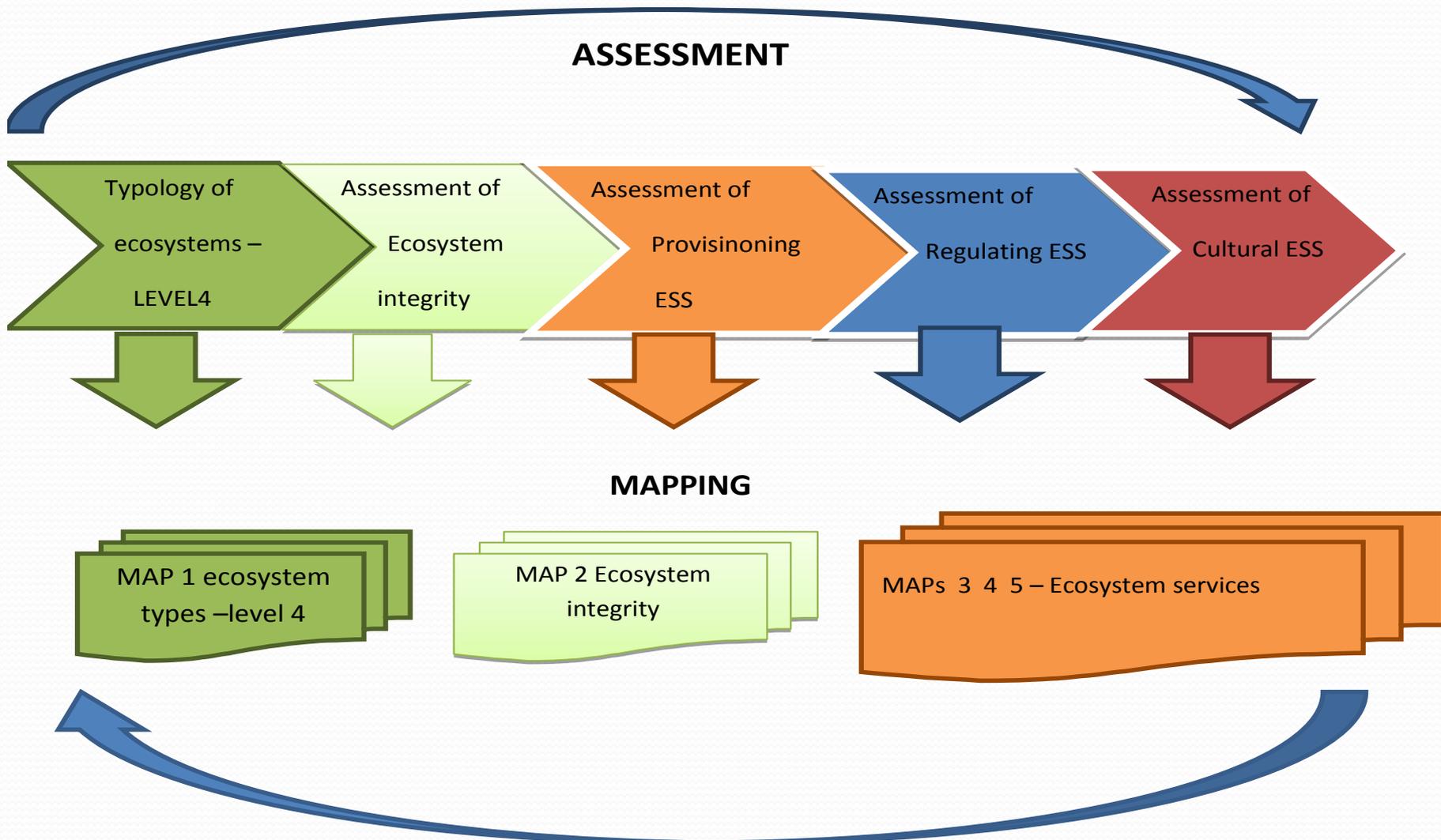
PDP₂ Methodological assistance for ecosystem
assessment and biophysical valuation

Based on:

- EEA Technical report No 1/2014 - Terrestrial habitat mapping in Europe: an overview - Joint MNHN-EEA report
- MAES – documents – 2 Reports 2013,2014
- Concept of ecosystem integrity - ENVEurope Project – 2010-2013
- Burhard's matrix – 2009, 2010, 2013,2014

3 The process of mapping and assessment of ES and ESS

– BOX4 – MAES



(1)
Map ecosystems

Urban
Cropland
Grassland
Woodland and forest
Heathland and shrub
Sparsely vegetated land
Wetlands
Rivers and lakes
Marine inlets and transitional waters
Coastal
Shelf
Open ocean

Land use land cover data, e.g.
Corine Land Cover
Copernicus high resolution data
Elevation data
Seabed maps
National datasets

Models for spatially delineating wetlands or natural, unmanaged ecosystems

(2)
Assess the condition of ecosystems

Indicators	Data
Conservation status of habitats and species	Art.17 assessment
Ecological status of water bodies	WFD assessment
Environmental status of seas	MSFD assessment
Ecosystem status and biodiversity	data including air pollutant concentration, habitat connectivity, land use change, soil degradation, ...

(3)
Assess the ecosystem services delivered by ecosystems

Indicators	Data and models
Supply indicators: Indicators for stock and flow of ecosystem functions and ecosystem services	Different sources of environmental data and models
Demand indicators: Indicators for the human demand for ecosystem services	Different socio-economic statistics



(4)
Integrated ecosystem assessment
How does condition relate to service provision?
How do the various ecosystem types interact to provide their services?

Indicators for assessment of ecosystem state

Ecosystem integrity – *Burchard & Muller* (2009, 2013) – ENVEurope Project

SEBI

WFD, MSFD

MAES

CORINE land cover type:	Ecological Integrity Σ						Regulating services Σ						Provisioning services Σ						Cultural services Σ									
	Abiotic heterogeneity	Biodiversity	Biotic waterflows	Metabolic efficiency	Energy Capture (Radiation)	Reduction of Nutrient loss	Storage capacity (SOM)	Local climate regulation	Global climate regulation	Flood protection	Groundwater recharge	Air Quality Regulation	Erosion Regulation	Nutrient regulation	Water purification	Pollination	Crops	Livestock	Fodder	Capture Fisheries	Aquaculture	Wild Foods	Timber	Wood Fuel	Energy	Biochemicals and Medicine	Freshwater	Recreation/Aesthetic Values
Continuous urban fabric	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discontinuous urban fabric	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial or commercial units	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road and rail networks	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port areas	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Airports	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral extraction sites	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dump sites	2	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction sites	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green urban areas	3	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sport and leisure facilities	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-irrigated arable land	3	3	3	4	5	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanently irrigated land	3	2	5	2	5	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ricefields	4	5	1	1	1	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vineyards	3	2	3	1	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fruit trees and berries	4	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	0	0
Olive groves	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	0	0
Pastures	2	2	4	5	5	2	4	1	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual and permanent crops	2	3	3	2	4	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complex cultivation patterns	4	3	3	2	4	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & natural vegetation	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	1	0	0	0
Agro-forestry areas	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	0
Broad-leaved forest	3	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	5	1	5	0	0
Coniferous forest	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	1	5	0	0
Mixed forest	3	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	3	2	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	1	5	0	0
Natural grassland	3	5	4	4	4	5	5	2	3	1	1	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moors and heathland	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	3	2	2	0	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0
Sclerophyllous vegetation	3	4	2	3	3	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Transitional woodland shrub	3	4	2	3	3	4	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
Beaches, dunes and sand plains	3	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bare rock	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sparsely vegetated areas	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burnt areas	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glaciers and perpetual snow	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inland marshes	3	2	4	4	4	3	5	2	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peatbogs	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	3	3	0	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salt marshes	2	3	4	3	3	3	5	1	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salines	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intertidal flats	2	3	0	2	1	4	1	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water courses	4	4	0	3	3	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0
Water bodies	4	4	0	4	4	3	4	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal lagoons	4	4	0	5	5	3	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	4	0	1	0	0
Estuaries	3	3	0	5	5	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea and ocean	2	2	0	3	3	4	1	3	3	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

scale for assessing capacities:

- 0 = no relevant capacity
- 1 = low relevant capacity
- 2 = relevant capacity
- 3 = medium relevant capacity
- 4 = high relevant capacity
- 5 = very high relevant capacity

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

“IWRM is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the **sustainability** of vital ecosystems”

*(Global Water Partnership,
Technical Committee).*

- 
- Integrated planning and management of water resources and land
 - Takes account of social, economic and environmental factors together
 - Integrates surface, groundwater and the ecosystems through which they flow

Economic Efficiency

Equity

Environmental Sustainability

Management Instruments

- Assessment
- Information
- Allocation Instruments

Enabling Environment

- Policies
- Legislation

Institutional Framework

- Central - Local
- River Basin
- Public - Private

Balance “**water for livelihood**” and “**water as a resource**”

Fresh water *ecosystem typology*

(Level 3)

1.		Description	Nomenclature(s)
FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS	Rivers = lotic (hydro) ecosystems, incl. riparian zones	Water courses of all kinds (streams, brooks, creeks, irrigation canals)	EUNIS (SEBI, Baseline), WWF, MA
	Lakes (marshes, water reservoirs) = lentic (hydro) ecosystems, incl. littoral zones & fringing communities	Water bodies incl. coastal lakes (without permanent connection to the sea)	Subtype

Indicators ecosystem condition

- State (Conditions) indicators assess environmental states (climatic, chemical, physical, biological state of habitat) in fresh water ecosystems and describe the ecosystem integrity of them.
- We have defined and quantified 44 indicators that are relevant for the fresh water ecosystem conditions. The indicators represent the ecosystems structure and ecosystem processes of fresh water ecosystems types.

Indicators for ES

- Assessment of ecosystem services in fresh water ecosystems focuses on indicators of final ecosystem services as developed in MAES (2013).
- The indicators for most provisioning services provide for a more complete understanding of the service than for most **regulating** and cultural services.

Problems

- Detailed differentiation of ecosystem types – level 4
- Data sets
 - Data availability
 - Data formats
 - Data gaps
- Selection of indicators –state (potential) and services–supply
- Expert assessment
- Coupling state/services

The show go on...

