

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services in Europe



<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes>

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Brief

- The biodiversity Strategy from the European Union to 2020 explicitly calls for **mapping and assessing** ecosystems and their services
- The working group on **M**apping and **A**ssessment of **E**cosystems and their **S**ervices is providing guidance to Member States and streamlining biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision making



Are Europe's ecosystems in good shape to continue delivering essential ecosystem services?



Can we value the flow of ecosystem services from ecosystems to society?



Which drivers of change increase or decrease the delivery of ecosystem services?

We need to Map and Assess Ecosystems and their Services

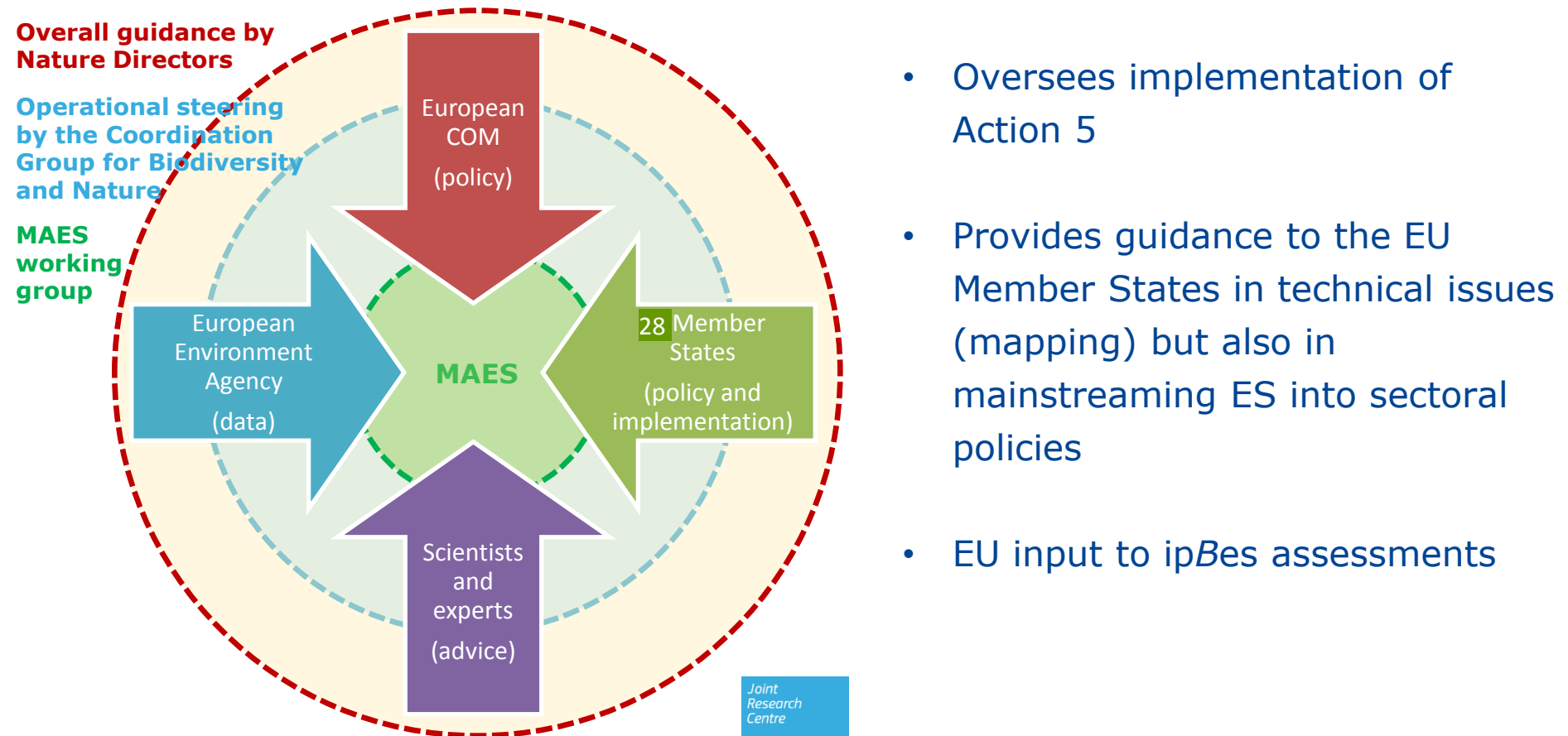
Action 5 of the Biodiversity Strategy

Improve the knowledge of ecosystems and their services in the EU

*“Member States, with the assistance of the Commission, to **map** and assess the state of **ecosystems** and their **services** in their national territory by **2014**, assess the economic value of such services, and promote the integration of these **values into accounting and reporting systems** at EU and national level by **2020**”*

Action 5 is one of the keystones of the strategy providing a knowledge base for **Europe’s green infrastructure**, the **restoration of 15% of degraded ecosystems** and the **No Net Loss** of biodiversity and ecosystem services initiative.

Working group **MAES** on **M**apping and **A**ssessment of **E**cosystems and their **S**ervices

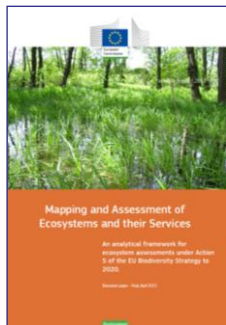


2013 MAES report

Sets a **conceptual model** for ecosystem assessment in Europe

Proposes **typologies** for

- Ecosystems
- Ecosystem services (CICES)

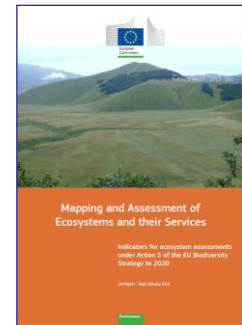


2014 MAES report

Describes a common **assessment framework** for ecosystem assessment

Describes **indicators** for ecosystem condition and ecosystem services

Gives **working guidance** for mapping ecosystems and ecosystem services



Many challenges remain

Ownership at all levels – Developing a community of practitioners

Unlocking data (models, expertise) – Mobilise existing data, access to restricted data

Linking biodiversity and ecosystem condition to ecosystem functioning and services

Influencing macro-economic decisions by integrating biodiversity values in national/wealth accounts

Ecosystem services maps as tool for supporting policy and land management

