Takeaway Summary – Ecosystem Service Policy Integration (ESPI) assessment

Purpose of Presentation

This presentation focuses on presenting a (draft) common, operational assessment framework aimed at 1) systematically analysing the integration of ecosystem services and natural capital into different sectoral policies and 2) identifying opportunities for further integration.

What is new?

ESPI framework allows for a comprehensive and systematic assessment of ecosystem service integration across all relevant policy sectors. It helps to assess the state-of-play and, based on that, identify concrete opportunities for improved integration. It is foreseen to help the decision-makers to see where ecosystem services related information is needed and where concrete tools (e.g. as developed under OPERAs) are best suited to respond to given policy issues and opportunities.

ESPI assessment framework has been developed in the context of WP4 and WP3 and tested with Scottish exemplar under WP2. The outline for ESPI assessment framework is provided in the Annex.

Why is this important?

Integration of ecosystem services and natural capital into different sectoral policies plays a key role in the transition to a truly 'green' green economy. A systematic and comprehensive assessment of the integration of ecosystem services across relevant policy sectors offers a logical starting point for the transition to a green economy. In addition to providing information on the current level of integration, such an assessment can help to identify the needs for policy coherence between sectors and identify 'win-win' opportunities between different policy objectives underpinning green economy. Finally, looking at the foreseen future developments under different sectoral policies, it can also help to identify windows of opportunity and possible bottlenecks for the transition.

Who benefits from this and how could this be used in policy or practice?

ESPI assessment framework is foreseen to form a useful tool for furthering the uptake of ecosystem services in policy- and decision-making at different levels of decision-making and governance.