WalES: an integrated database to assess Ecosystem Services in Wallonia

Maebe Laura¹, Pipart Nathalie², Dendoncker Nicolas², Boeraeve Fanny¹ and Dufrêne Marc¹

¹Biodiversity and Landscape Unit, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège, 5030 Gembloux, B-5030, Belgium
²Department of Geography, University of Namur, 5000 Namur, Belgium

A transdisciplinary Walloon platform on ES

The WalES platform is a common interface between:
- regional and local administrations;
- scientists;
- civil society.

In order to build strong links between administrations responsible for information flows, scientists working on ES valuations and civil society which depends on ES for their well-being.

Conceptual model for ES assessment

Based on:
- DPSIR (Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response) framework;
- Value pluralism and integrated valuation (ecological, social and some economical valuations).

Pressures States Impacts

Drivers "Producers" Ecosystems (Land cover) Expected ES

Management methods SPU*

Ecological context (Elevation, slope, water and trophic levels in soils, etc.)

Transformers Consumers

Ecosystem Services Integrated assessment

Impacted ES

Governance

Impacted people

Committee Ministers - DGs - Universities

Research and development Hub

Administrative hub

Civil society

Online database

The database is a common and shared information system detailing:
- Ecosystems in Wallonia;
- Ecosystem Services in Wallonia;
- Indicators, proxy, models to assess ES;
- Data to assess ES.

Conclusions

The database allows us to:
- Identify the best practices;
- Combine various data in order to improve their accuracy;
- Highlight missing data and methods needing further development.

Integrated assessment of ES by measuring:
- Their diversity of components (capacity, flow and demand);
- Plurality of values (biophysical, social and, if and when needed, economical values);
- Their interactions at different scales.

Take-home messages

Common and shared reference and information system
Integrated ES assessment in Wallonia

Contact laura.maebe@ulg.ac.be