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Ecosystem Science for Policy & Practice

Synthesis: Ecosystem Services Policy and Governance

Patrick ten Brink, IEEP

Building on the chapter in D3.7 by: Torsten Krause, Lennart Olsson, and Patrick ten Brink

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Institute for European Environmental Policy

4 Rue de la Science, Brussels 1000, Belgium
11 Belgrave Road, London, SW1V 1RB, UK

www.ieep.eu drussi@ieep.eu ptenbrink@ieep.eu

Synthesis: Ecosystem Services Policy and Governance

4.1 Introduction

4.2 The most pertinent challenges for governance of ES

4.3 Sociological & Socio-political dimensions of ES

4.4 Connecting science, policy-making and governance

4.5 Conclusion

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Governance – appreciating multiple roles of multiple actors

Governance emerged as reaction to a **previously quite narrow focus on government** and implies the **recognition that many actors and structures** are at play in shaping society and that they interact in myriad ways.

Governance today goes beyond regulation, public management and traditional hierarchical state activity. In addition to these traditional forms of political steering, governance emphasizes the use of **novel instruments** (such as voluntary and market-based approaches) and **cooperative structures between state and non-state actors** from various sectors of society (including the private sector, businesses and civil society).It also includes **institutions, roles, processes and relationships.**

Range of **opportunities and goverance needs** given the **complexity of ecosystem services** and the **interaction of ecological, social and economy systems**.

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Good governance requires a solid evidence base

The **evidence base** on nature's values needs to include a **mix of monetary and non-monetary metrics**, **anthropocentric and intrinsic values for governance** to be duly informed of the importance of nature.

The overarching ambition for **good governance** is to translate the **science into on the ground management, planning and implementation** – via **regulations, policies and other instruments** with the goal to achieve the **maintenance or increase in ES** to society and people and the **wider ethical considerations of the intrinsic value of nature**

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Questions for ecosystem service governance

(in paper looked across ES examples to illustrate issues)

- Are the **property rights** arrangements clear?
- Are the **user rights** arrangements clear?
- Do we **understand the science**?
- Are the **boundaries** of the **systems** defined / definable?
- Are there **temporal inertia and lags**?
- Can the **stakeholders** be defined?
- Are **power relations** between stakeholders clear?
- What are the **production / distribution rules**?
- What is the ideal **typical mode of governance** for the service / issue?
- What **examples are there of modes of governance and use of policy instruments** for the ecosystem service / issue?

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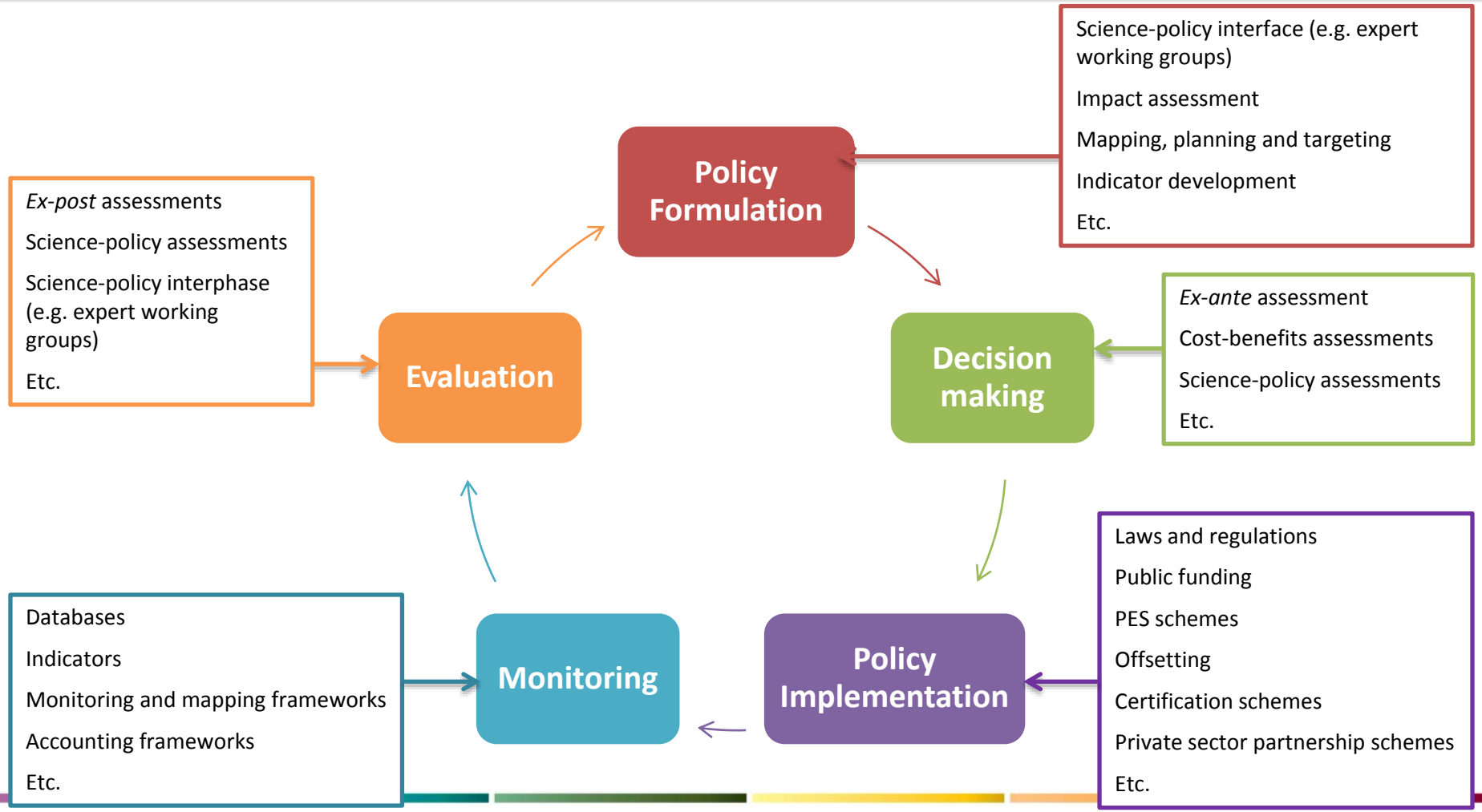
Governance – range of points in the policy cycle for actors and instruments to contribute



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A few of the conclusions

- A requirement for **considerable investment in the robustness of the evidence**, in **scientific understanding** and the **development of tools** such as indicators, mapping, modelling, and accounting.
- These tools **need to develop a legitimacy** in the eyes of stakeholders and be accepted as a **legitimate source of evidence for specific decision making contexts**. They can then perform their function in the science-policy interface and improve the governance of natural capital
- Need to bear in mind **what level of precision is needed to be 'fit-for-purpose'** for given **decision contexts** (permitting, inspection, investment etc)
- Evidence-based tools can be **used differently by different stakeholders** and it is **essential that both the risks and opportunities** of evidence bases and tools are **understood and factored into decision making itself**.

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