Ecosystem Science for Policy & Practice

Overview of OPERAs

Operational Potential of
Ecosystem Research
Applications

Mark Rounsevell
University of Edinburgh

What are ecosystem services?

- Ecosystem Services are the benefits that nature provides to people
- That flow from the stock of Natural Capital
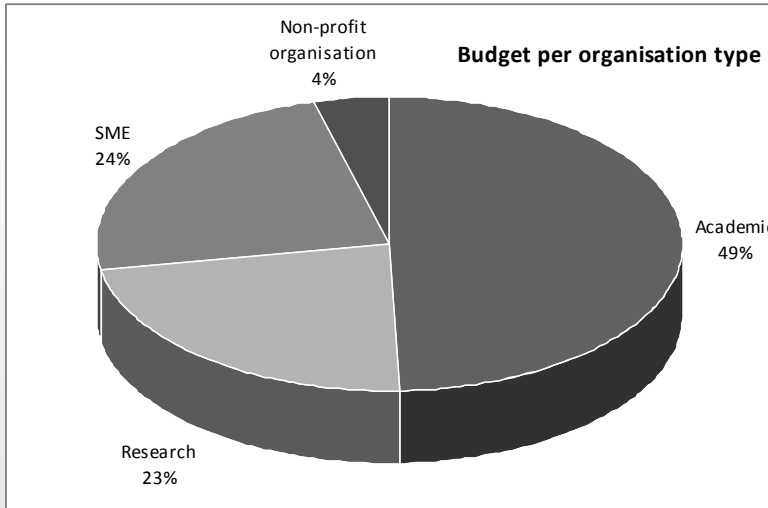
What will OPERAs do?

- Moving ES/NC from an academic concept to being operational in practice
- Bringing together science, policy and practice communities
- Developing tools, methods, instruments, data, best practice guidelines, worked examples, training, educational materials, services, events, …
- Tested in exemplar studies, and …
- ... delivered through a resource hub (web portal) …
- … developed with, and for, a community of practice
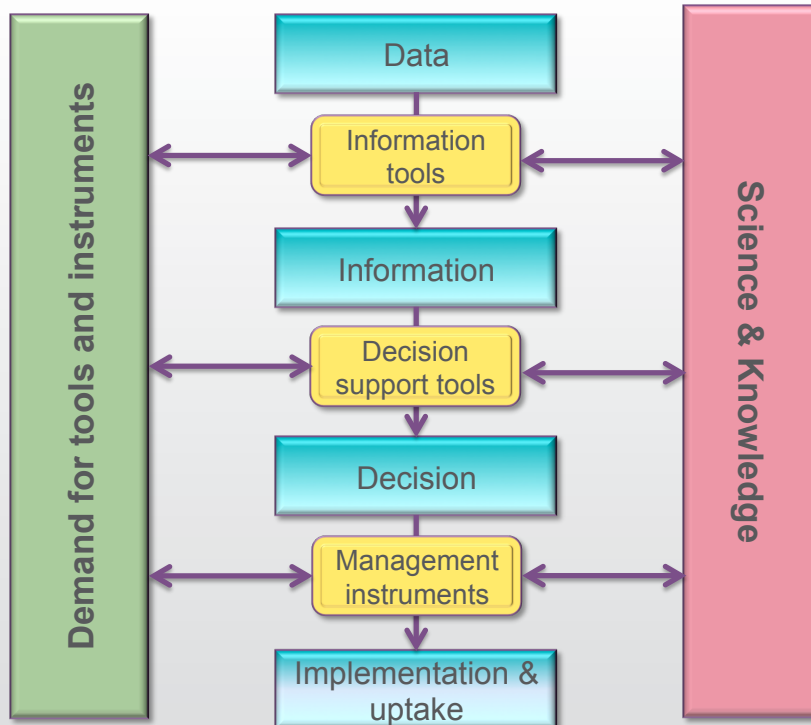
OPERAs

The OPERAs vision

Applying the ES/NC concepts to enhance the sustainable management of ecosystems, through better knowledge of ecosystem functioning and 'instruments' that operationalize the ecosystem service concept, tested in practice

OPERAs

Budget per organisation type

Non-profit organisation 4%

SME 24%

Academic 49%

Research 23%

Partnership

Ca. €12M budget
27 partners
11 European countries
1 non-European
24% SMEs

OPERAs

The information chain from data to action

Demand for tools and instruments

Data
Information tools
Information
Decision support tools
Decision
Management instruments
Implementation & uptake

Science & Knowledge

• information tools e.g. databases & visualization;
• decision support tools, including market-based instruments such as auditing, certification, labelling & PES;
• policy instruments

OPERAs

A process of engagement for the resource hub

Define users	→	Questions asked	→	Functionality needed	→	Specific content

- <u>Engagement</u>: workshops, online surveys, interviews, feedback, iteration, …
- <u>Outreach</u>: webinars, journalist field trips, videos, training workshops, science-policy-practice conference, …

OPERAs

Collaboration between OPERAs and OpenNESS

- Two projects funded within the same call

OPERAs: *Operational Potential of Ecosystem Research Applications*	OpenNESS: *Operationalization of Natural Capital and EcoSytem Services: From Concepts to Real-world Applications*
• 27 research and private sector partners • 14 European countries and 1 non-European country • total budget of ca. €12m (ca. $15.5m)	• 35 research and private sector partners • 14 European countries and 4 non-European countries • total budget of ca. €11.5m ($15m)

OPERAs

The OPERAs exemplars & OpenNESS case studies
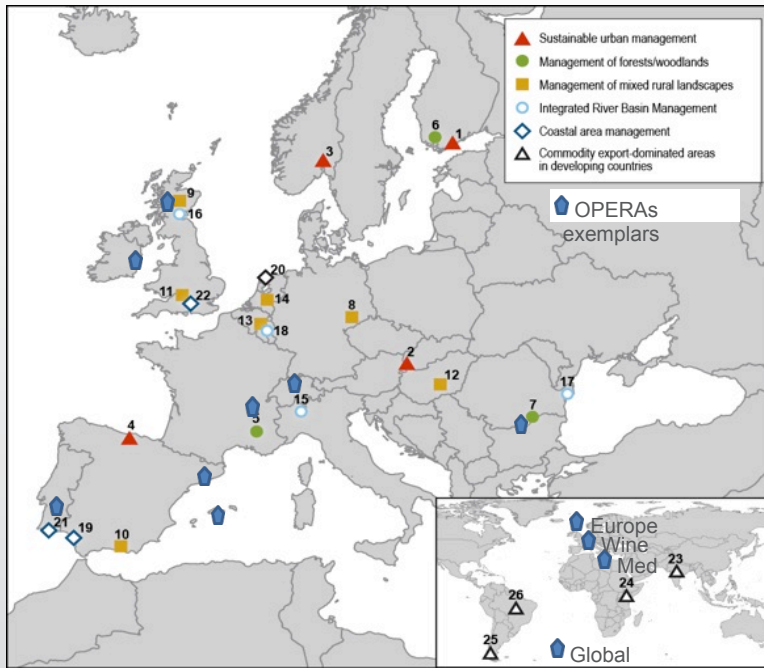
Total of 38 exemplar case studies (12+26)

Aquatic systems on the edge

Barcelona Dunes | Baleric Blue Carbon | Lower Danube | Scotland Multiscalar

Local and regional transitions

Dublin's urban-rural fringe
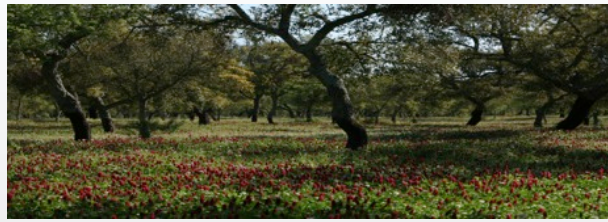
Conserving Montado cultural landscapes, Portugal

The wine sector

Landscape management and infrastructure in the French & Swiss Alps
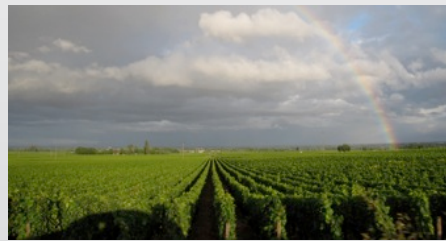
Multiscalar Environmental governance in Scotland

OPERAs

Large scale dynamics

OPERAs

Example of a Community of practice: ESCom-Scotland

- Ecosystem Services Community – Scotland
- Bringing together the major Scottish research providers with …
- … government (national/local), government agencies (SEPA, SNH, FC), research and HEI, NGOs, professional organisations, trade bodies (NFUS, Whisky Association) & SMEs
- Launch and science workshop in Spring 2014

OPERAs

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

CEH Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

The James Hutton Institute

Forest Research
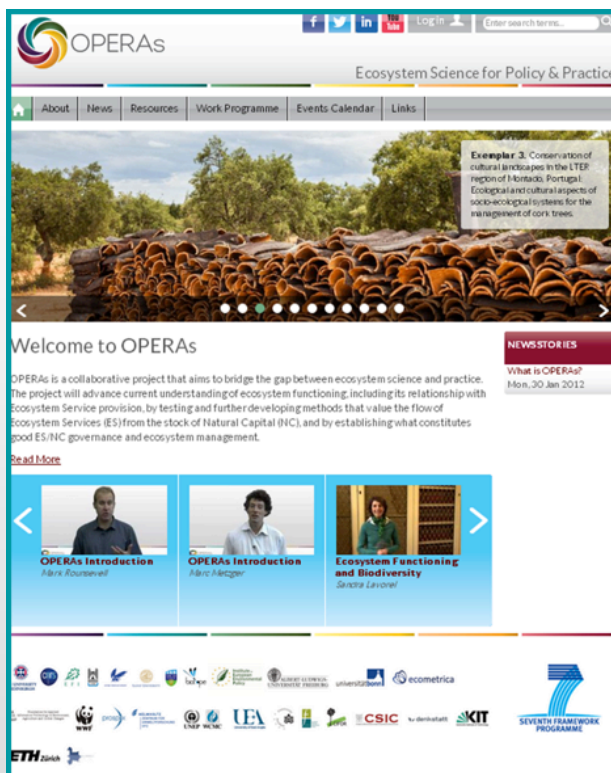
Visit our new website

- Videos
- Resources
- News
- Blog
- Events
- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Feel free to Tweet: @OPERAsProject
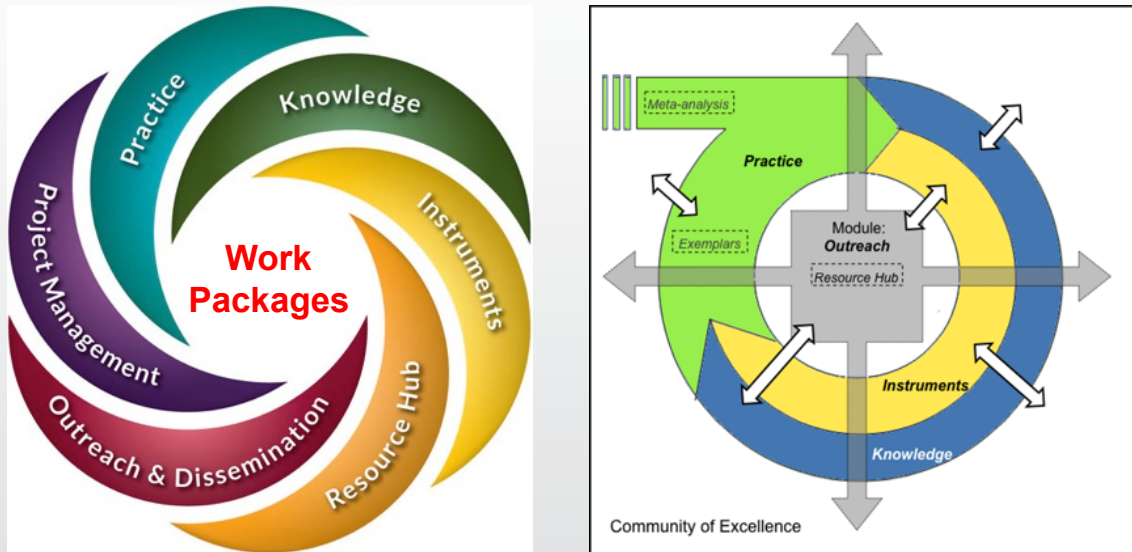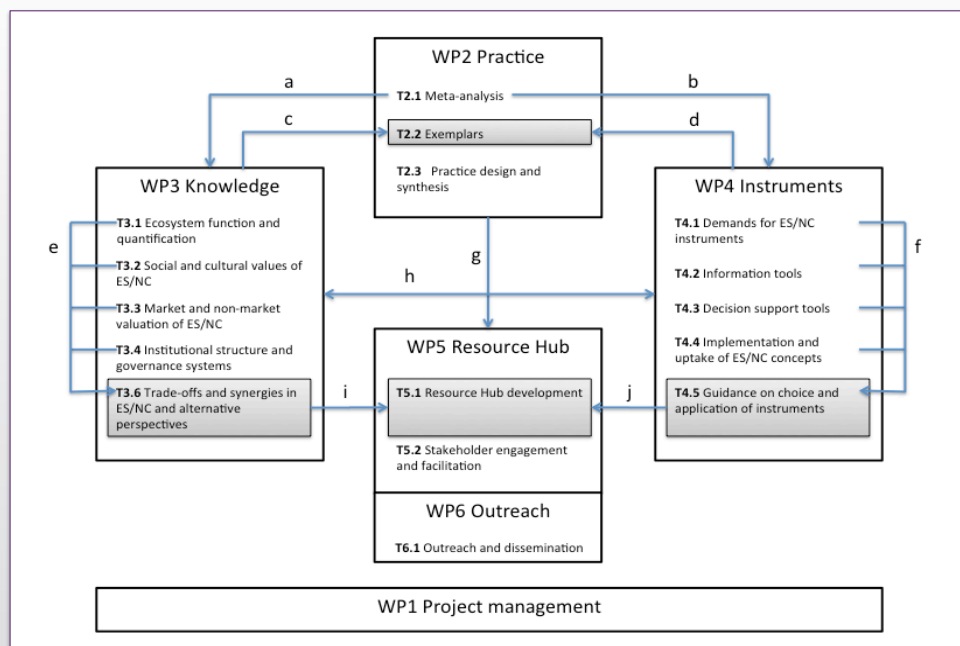
OPERAs

Any questions?

OPERAs

OPERAs project structure

Work Packages

Applying the ES/NC concepts to enhance the sustainable management of ecosystems, through better knowledge about ecosystem functioning and 'instruments' that operationalize the ecosystem service concept, tested in practice

OPERAs

WPs and research tasks

OPERAs

What OPERAs could do for you …

- Knowledge:
  - Accessible expert knowledge on ES/NC issues
  - Provision of relevant data and maps
- Instruments:
  - tool/instrument provision and application guidelines
- Practice:
  - worked examples of operationalizing the ES/NC concepts
  - best practice guidelines
- Resource Hub:
  - Design and develop a resource hub according to needs
- Outreach:
  - training materials and events
  - peer-to-peer exchange conferences

OPERAs