



Overview of OPERAs

Operational Potential of
Ecosystem Research
Applications

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The OPERAs vision

Knowledge

- Ecosystem functioning
- Social/economic valuation
- ES/NC Governance

Instruments

- Policy demand
- Information tools
- Decision Support
- Implementation guidance

Practice

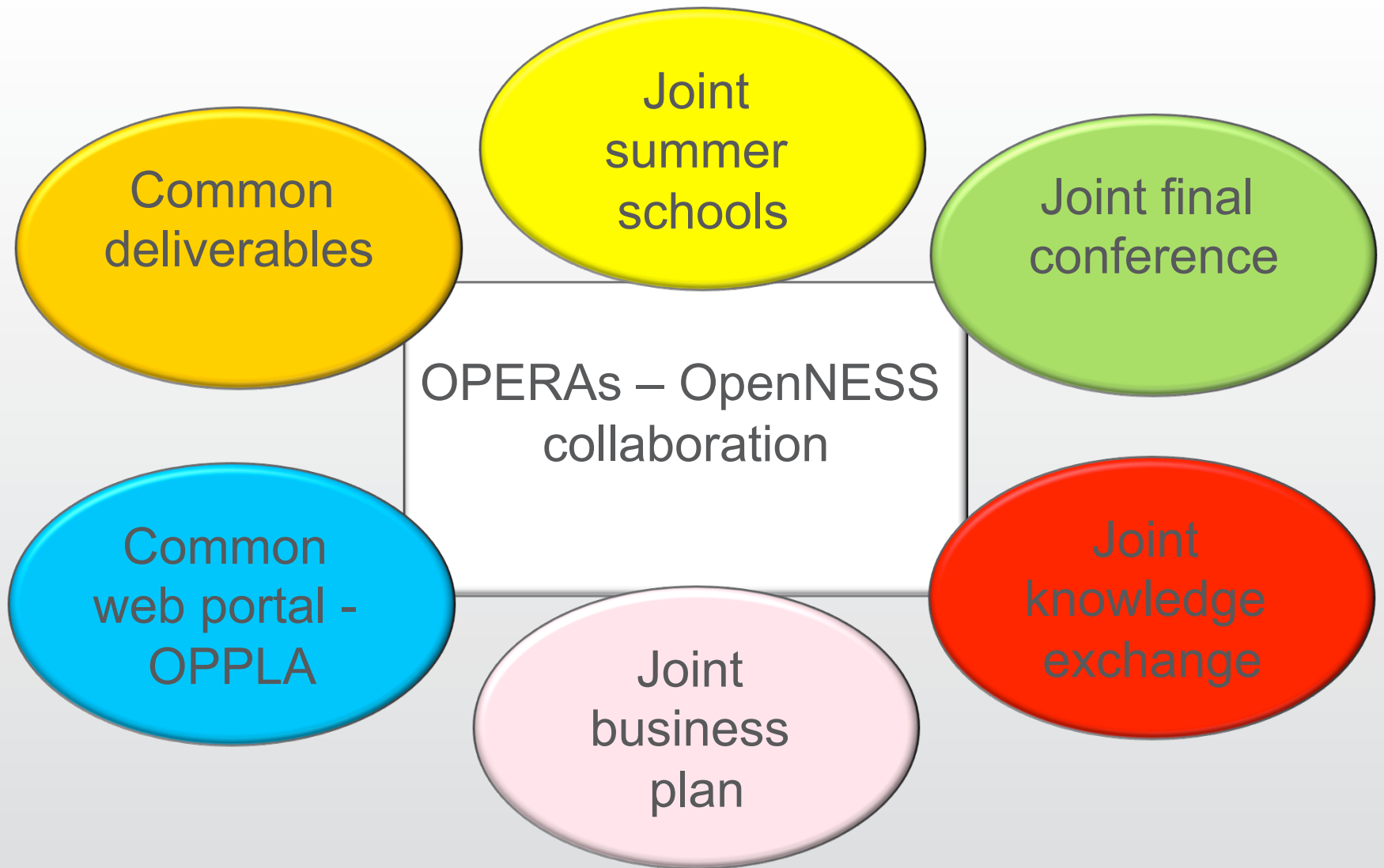
- Meta-analysis
- Exemplars (cases)
- Protocols & Synthesis

Outreach

- Resource Hub
- Communities of Practice
- Dissemination/Impact

The assessment cycle





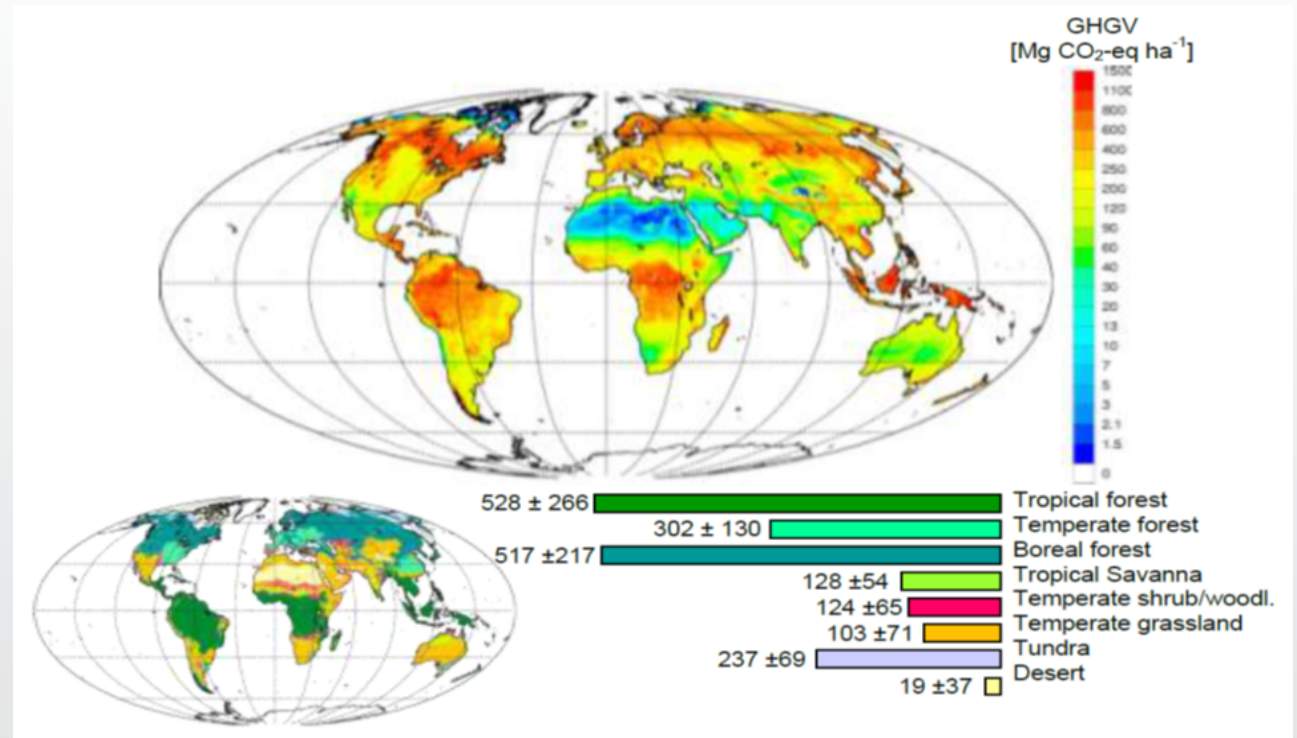
Science needs: meta-analysis of ES/NC studies

- A lack of cultural ES studies
- Little exploration of future ES scenarios
- A geographic bias towards the US, Europe and China
- A focus on ES supply and little on ES demand
- Little involvement of stakeholders
- Over use of simple models that are often not validated nor have quantified uncertainties
- Very few studies (<20%) provide specific recommendations



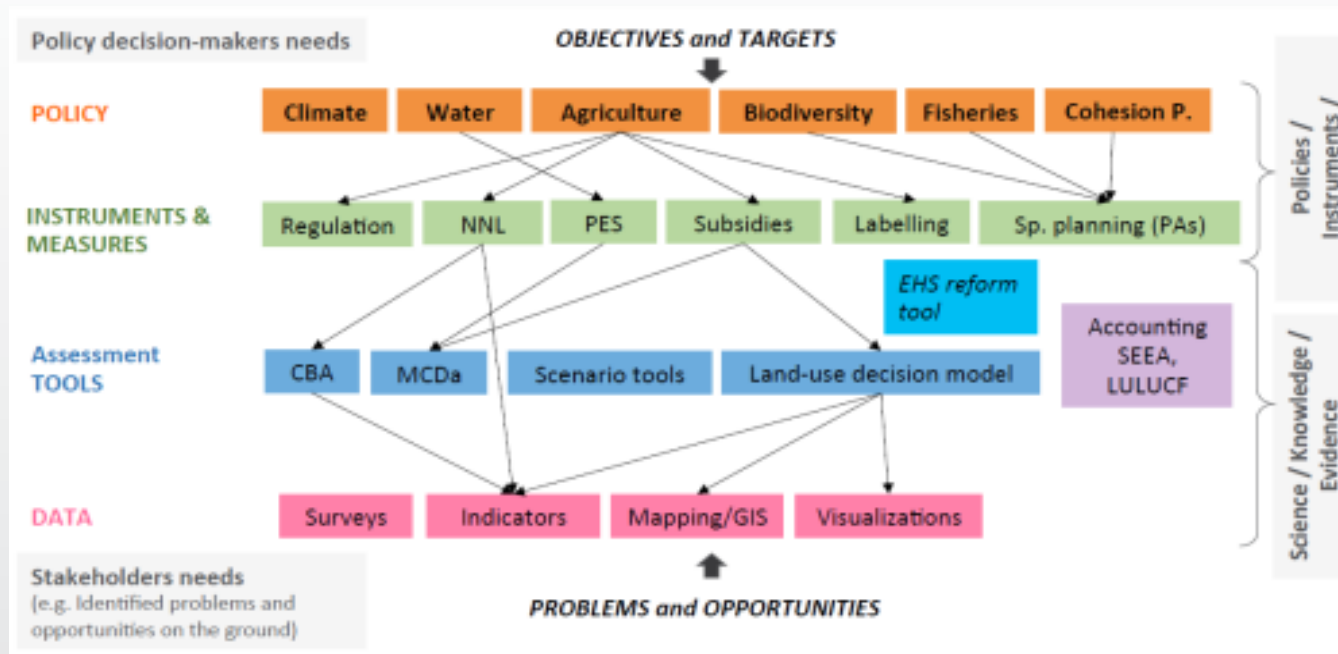
Science: mapping ES supply

Greenhouse Gas Value simulated for 2000 under consideration of actual land-use and management (global average is 325 ± 267 Mg CO₂-equivalents ha⁻¹).



- Mapping of ES supply is common for terrestrial ecosystems using land cover as a spatial proxy
- A clear lack of ES supply mapping in marine ecosystems

EU policy needs: demand analysis



- Weak uptake of the ES/NC concepts in policy instruments
- Potential for greater conceptual and operational integration
- Monitor policy impact to inform policy development or refinement
- Replicating the policy needs study in Scotland

Practice

- 12 exemplars across Europe
- Used to test ES/NC instruments in practice
- Currently developing [films](#) to introduce each exemplar
- Action in [practice](#)

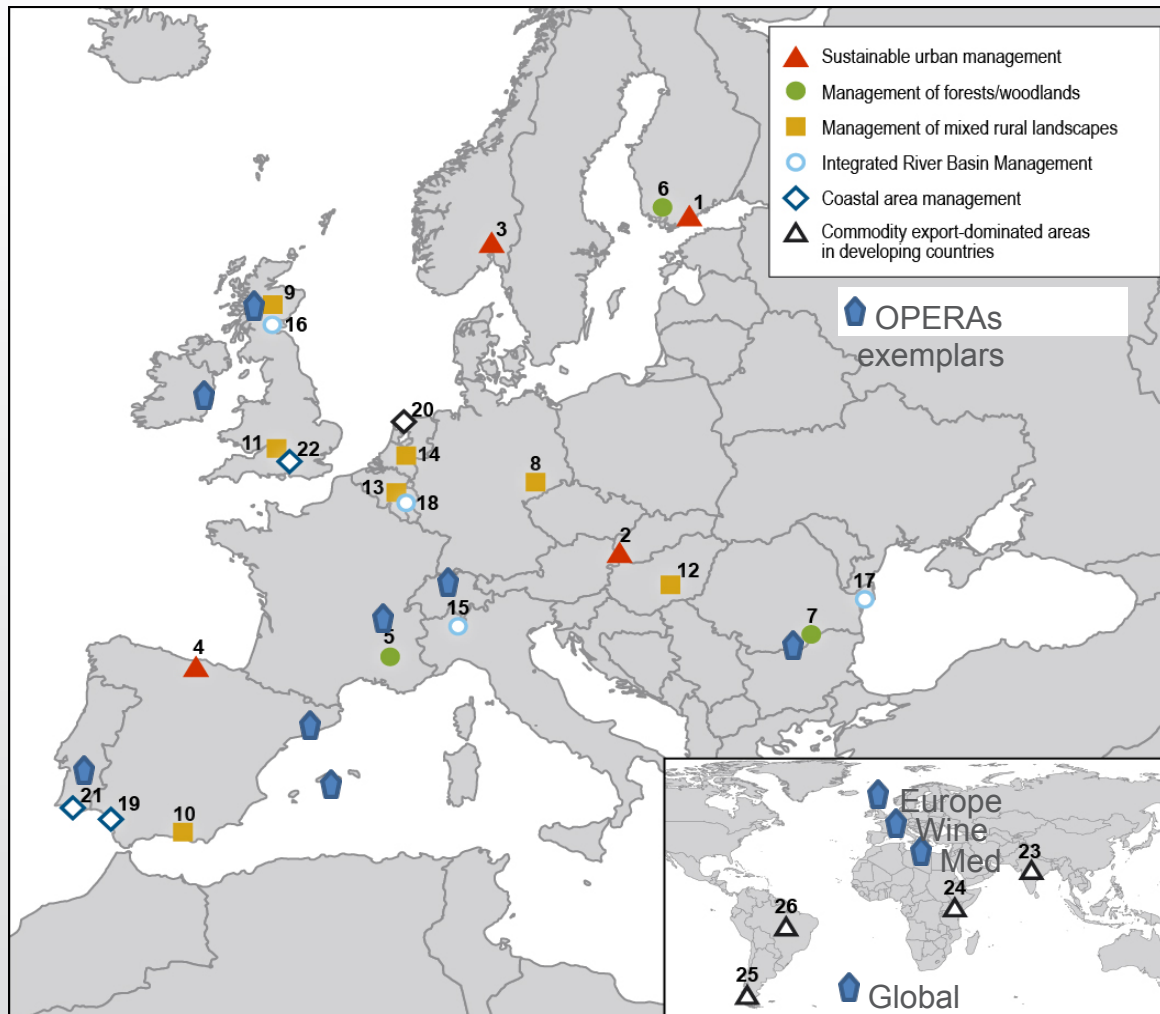


Place-based, e.g. Dublin's urban-rural fringe

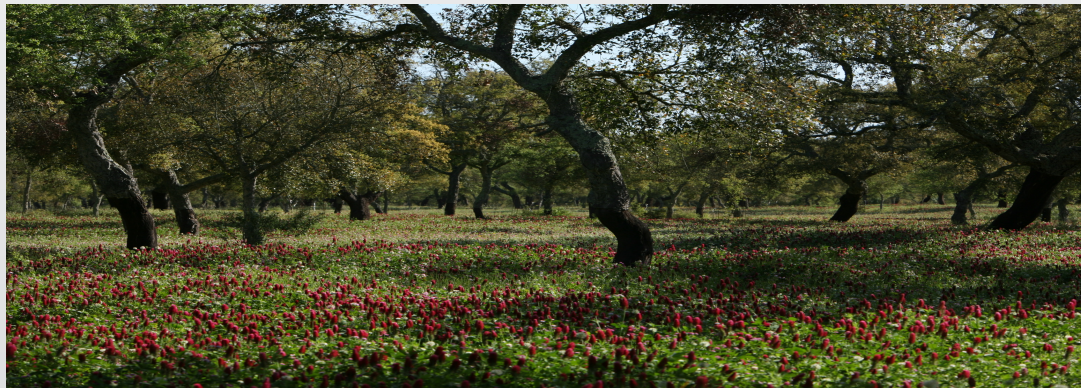


Sectoral, e.g. wine production

The OPERAs exemplars & OpenNESS case studies



- **International activities-** IPBES, IPCC, MAES, National NC accounting, IUCN small islands conference (overseas territories), UK National Ecosystem Assessment
- **Communities of Practice** – Ecosystem Services Community – Scotland (ESCom-Scotland)
- **The Resource Hub** - OPPLA (with the OpenNESS project)



Conserving Montado cultural landscapes, Portugal

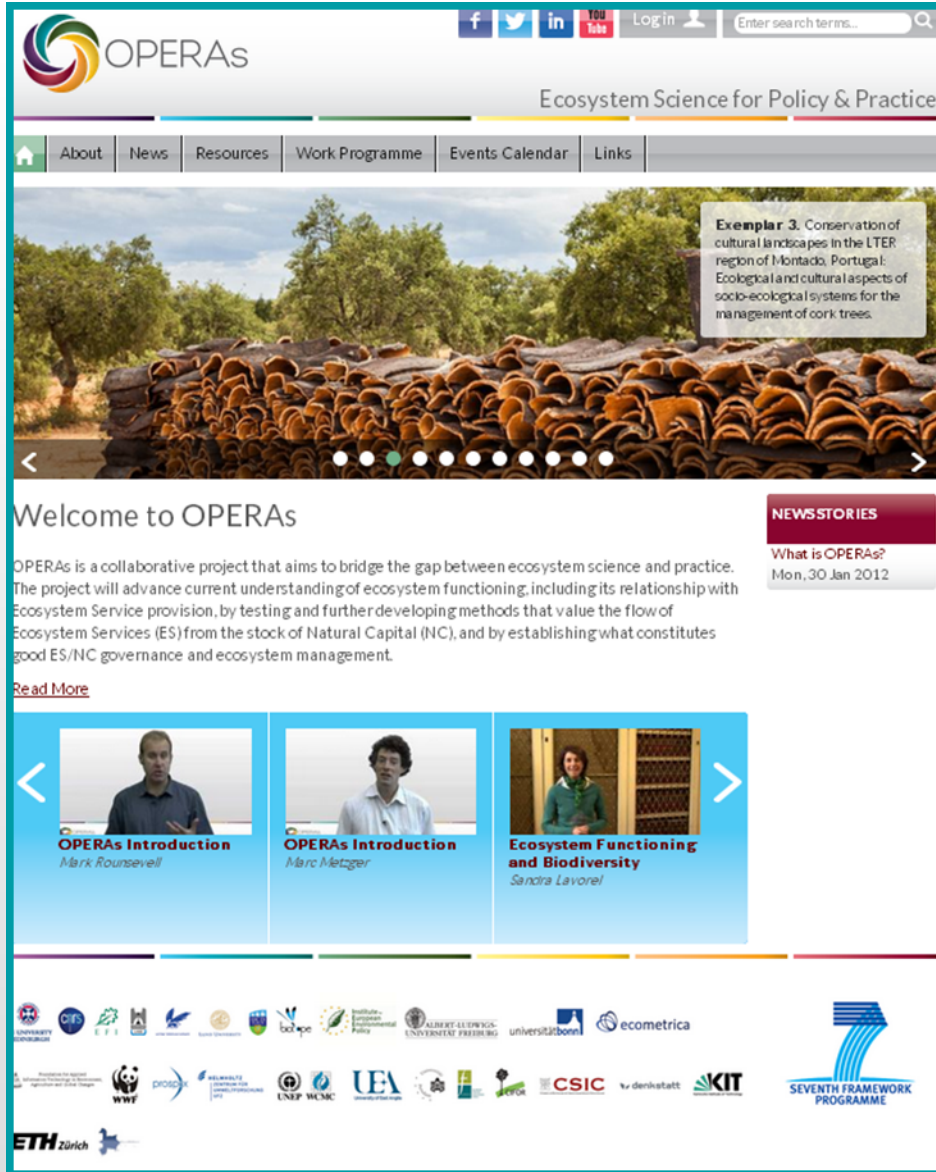
Ecosystem Services Community – Scotland

- Bringing together the major Scottish research providers with
- Government, government agencies, research and HEI, NGOs, professional organisations, trade bodies & SMEs
- [Launch and science workshop](#) in Spring 2014
- Management team now in place





- Developing content – data, tools, maps, guidelines, worked examples, videos, training, education, services (SMEs), ...
- Planning for perennity (continuity beyond the project lifetimes)
- Business model and planning (governance, income streams, ...)



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Any questions?