



ENVIRONMENT

EASME

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Assessing ecosystems and their services in LIFE projects

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Agency for
SMEs

WHY GUIDANCE ON ES FOR LIFE BENEFICIARIES?

■ ***Background***

- **Compulsory assessment of ES in Nature & Biodiversity projects since 2011**
- **Relevant also in Environment and Climate projects**

■ ***LIFE platform meeting on ES (Estonia, 2017)***

- **Great level of heterogeneity of approaches**
- **For many, assessing ES is a novelty and challenge**

■ ***Reporting results through LIFE KPI database***

- **Often unclear to beneficiaries**



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**Assessing ecosystems and their services
in LIFE projects
*A guide for beneficiaries***



MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GUIDE

- It is short: 15 pages + 2 annexes.
- The guide is not prescriptive.
- It aims to clarify concepts (What is MAES? What is CICES?)
- It offers an easy method to implement ES assessment according to MAES.
- It makes scientific literature more easily understandable by non-experts in the field.
- It makes easily available useful reference tables (i.e. indicators for ecosystem conditions and services)

REFERENCES USED IN THE GUIDE

- **Burkhard, B. & J. Maes (Eds.) (2017) Mapping Ecosystem Services. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia, p.173**
- **MAES reports**
- Costanza, R., et al. (1997) The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital.
- Smith A.C., P.A. Harrison, M.Pérez Soba, et al. (2017) How natural capital delivers ecosystem services: A typology derived from a systematic review. *Ecosystem Services* 26, 111-126.

CONTENT

1. *Understanding ecosystem services: key concepts*
 - **MAES analytical framework**
 - **MAES indicators of ecosystem condition**
 - **MAES typology of ecosystem services**
2. *A practical approach to map and assess ecosystems and their services in LIFE projects*
 - **Identification of relevant ecosystem types and their assessment**
 - **Selection and quantification of relevant ecosystem services**
3. *Reporting values on the assessment of ecosystems and their services in the LIFE KPI Webtool*
4. *Tools and other sources of information*

SUGGESTED APPROACH: THE ES MATRIX



Map with geospatial units

Not relevant	0
Very low	1
Low	2
Medium	3
High	4
Very high	5

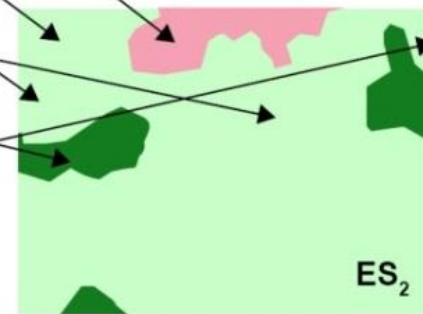
Scale for ranking ES supply, flow or demand

	ES ₁	ES ₂	ES _N
U ₁	0	0	X
U ₂	2	1	X
U ₃	2	1	X
U ₄	1	1	X
U ₅	5	5	X
U ₆	2	1	X

ES matrix linking geospatial units with ES rankings



ES₁



ES₂

ES ranking based on different ES quantification methods

A 3-TIERED APPROACH & 4 CHOICE CRITERIA

- 1. What is the overall purpose of the ecosystem services assessment?**
 - Advocacy/awareness raising and communication
 - Assessment not implying any decision
 - Assessment needed to support decision making
- 2. Are data available?**
- 3. What type of measurement is needed to quantify the selected indicators?**
- 4. What resources (human and financial) are available?**

AVAILABLE ONLINE ALSO FOR NEW APPLICANTS

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[Home](#) | [Toolkit](#) | [Project administration LIFE 2014-2020](#) | [EcoSystem services](#)

EcoSystem services

Assessing ecosystems and their services: a guide for LIFE projects

The assessment of ecosystems and their services is an added value of LIFE projects. The assessment results helps explaining better to the general public and stakeholders the multiple benefits of LIFE projects in connection to society and the economy with which they interface. This understanding also supports the importance to society of investing in LIFE projects.

For many LIFE projects, carrying out an ecosystem services assessment is a novelty and a challenge. During a LIFE platform meeting on ecosystem services, organised in Estonia in May 2017 and attended by LIFE projects financed in all strands, it became evident that there is a great level of heterogeneity in the way in which LIFE projects were assessing ecosystem services. The need for guidance on this task was therefore considered.

This document responds to that need. It clarifies key concepts and offers an easy method to implement ecosystem services assessments according to the analytical framework developed under the EU Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) initiative. Some guidance on how to complete the relevant sections in the **KPI Webtool** is also given.

→ [Project administration LIFE 2014-2020](#)

- [Model LIFE Grant Agreement](#)
- [Model technical report](#)
- [Model financial statement](#)
- [Model terms of reference for the certificate on the financial statements](#)
- [Financial and Administrative Guidelines](#)
- [Guidelines for applicants](#)
- [Amendments](#)
- [Partnership agreements](#)
- [Key Project-level Indicators \(KPI\)](#)
- [Timesheets](#)
- [European Solidarity Corps \(ESC\)](#)
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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

More about the LIFE programme at the following address: ec.europa.eu/life



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