

What is the ESMERALDA MAES Explorer?

The ESMERALDA MAES Explorer is designed to direct and advice EU Member States and associated countries alike through the process of Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services.

The tool is a product of ESMERALDA's close work with the European Commission and its working group **MAES** (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services).

Why?

EU Member States are required to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services and to create a knowledge base to be used as a powerful resource in sustaining them.

Who?

This comprehensive knowledge hub will aid national level decision makers, local level spatial planners or entrepreneurs wanting to perform sustainable business in understanding the condition of ecosystems, their ability to provide services and the socio-cultural and economic values related to them.

How?

Starting from various questions arising from policy, business or society, to supporting stakeholder identification and related network creation, the MAES Explorer will provide ESMERALDA-derived practical guidance to mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services all the way to dissemination of respective outcomes and the resulting implementation in policy and decision making.

When?

Final results from mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services as well as their integration into national accounting systems across Europe are expected by 2020.

However, the MAES Explorer serves as a source of knowledge anytime ecosystem services mapping and assessment is topical before and after year 2020.



ESMERALDA (Enhancing ecosystem services mapping for policy and decision making) is an EU-wide Coordination and Support Action focused on assisting stakeholders in EU member states to achieve the aims of Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 in relation to mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services.

Consortium

37 partners from 31 European countries

Duration

February 2015 – July 2018

Website

www.esmeralda-project.eu

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MAES Explorer

Guidance on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services

 www.MAES-Explorer.eu



STEP 1

What questions do stakeholders have?

Are Europe's ecosystems healthy so that they can continue providing ecosystem services in a sustainable way in the future? A set of **policy questions** and anticipated needs of EU policy makers address a range of broad policy needs to guide you at this first step of the MAES process.



STEP 2

Identification of relevant stakeholders

The MAES Explorer will guide you through the identification of relevant stakeholders from policy, science and practice that are needed for successful implementation of MAES. Stakeholders can be determined by their field of interests, media and document analysis, focus group discussions and key-informant interviews in EU member states.



STEP 3

Network creation/ involvement of stakeholders

You will learn how to create a network of stakeholders through the experience of the **Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP)**, which currently hosts eleven Regional Chapters, all containing various National Networks.



STEP 4

Mapping and assessment process

This step acquaints you with ESERALDA's 'flexible methodology' for ecosystem services mapping and assessment, which provides building blocks for regional, national and pan-European assessments. The MAES Explorer offers a comprehensive review of existing studies and detailed methods documentation of biophysical, economic and socio-cultural methods as well as possibilities for their integration.



STEP 5

Mapping and assessment case study applications

Find working examples where mapping and assessment of ecosystem services has been applied in specific policy and decision making processes. While a set of ESERALDA Case Study Booklets describe the process of mapping and assessment of ecosystem services, their respective Method Application Cards synthesize the main characteristics of the applied methods.



STEP 6

Dissemination and communication

From getting your results known to the wider society, via sharing results with national and international media, to placing them across the right existing resources to make sure they reach practitioners and policy alike, dissemination and communication has the power to create impact and make outcomes of scientific work applicable for evidence-based decision making.



STEP 7

Implementation

Learn from ESERALDA's broad experience on how to implement MAES and its different components in all EU member states and associated countries. Based on that experience, recommendations on MAES implementation are provided relative to the various ESERALDA products and other useful sources.

