EKLIPSE
Knowledge & Learning Mechanism
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

Developing a mechanism
for supporting better
decisions on our
environment
based on the best
available knowledge.

Eklipse was created in 2016 to help governments, institutions, businesses and NGOs make better-informed decisions when it comes to biodiversity in Europe.

More information on the processes and on Eklipse at
www.eklipse-mechanism.eu

CALL FOR KNOWLEDGE – Eklipse- CfK 02/2020
October 2020 Responses by November 23rd, 2020

Call extended December 11th, 2020

TOPIC:
Do ecosystem services assessments support biodiversity conservation? - a review of evidence from impact assessments
aka

How can we improve adherence to the Mitigation Hierarchy using ecosystem services with particular focus on the avoid stage?

1   Invitation to share knowledge for informed decision-making

Eklipse is searching for knowledge (published and unpublished, theoretical and practical) to decide if and how to proceed with knowledge synthesis. The policy context is the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, restore, compensate) in France that is used to tackle the negative impacts on biodiversity from development projects. The main challenge identified, also beyond France, is the effective application of the first step, "avoid", in the mitigation hierarchy and impact assessment. While ecosystem services are explicitly mentioned in the legislation, they are rarely applied in practice, or these experiences are not published. The main goal of the request, put forward by the French Agency for Biodiversity, is two-folded:

1. to identify EU-wide cases and practices of considering/addressing ecosystem services in impact assessments, mitigation hierarchies or similar processes
2. to develop guidance on best practice and information on:
   a. if and how ecosystem services consideration/operationalization can be integrated in impact assessments and mitigation hierarchies to enhance biodiversity conservation and understand risks and potential ecosystem service trade-offs.

b. what kind of outcomes, impacts, challenges, solutions, etc. may occur when the ecosystem services concept is used in the impact assessment, mitigation hierarchies and similar processes.

The activities should focus on the mitigation hierarchy's "avoid" stage when possible, but general practices of ecosystem services consideration throughout similar processes are also important to involve.

Eklipse invites you to provide contributions to answering the following questions:
- Do **other EU countries** consider ecosystem services within the mitigation hierarchy, or in a wider sense with their impact assessment procedures? If so, how and where?
- How have '**ecosystem services**' and '**natural capital**' or **similar concepts** been used in combination with biodiversity within mitigation hierarchies and impact assessment processes?
- Do you have any potentially relevant **positive or negative experience** with the **application of ecosystem services or natural capital** in mitigation hierarchies or impact assessments more generally (in particular, experiences from **EIAs/SEAs)?**
- What are the experiences and co-developed approaches in both **policy design** and **development plans** to help developers follow the mitigation hierarchy?

The final framing of the request is being developed through an interactive dialogue between the EKLIPSE scientists and the requester and will be further discussed with stakeholders to ensure policy relevance at the European level. We want to explore the knowledge available, to decide if and with which methodology to answer this request.

Contributing to the Call for Knowledge

Please contribute your comments and knowledge/references through the Eklipse Forum on the [Eklipse LinkedIn page](). Contributions may include: (a) links to open access papers, (b) links to published and unpublished grey literature or case studies, (c) descriptions of ongoing research projects or knowledge compilations expected to deliver results within the next year or (d) your on-the-ground experiences in this field. Contributions should be submitted under the following: (1) literature reviews, (2) empirical studies/practical experiences, (3) modelling studies, and (4) conceptual papers.

Using the LinkedIn Forum

[The Eklipse Forum group on LinkedIn]() is a platform where the public, policy makers, and scientists can exchange knowledge, experience, and advice on biodiversity and ecosystem services, engage with calls for knowledge, share relevant reports and media, and discuss hot science-policy topics. This group is open, and you can also invite others with whom they are connected on LinkedIn to join. (More information about Eklipse LinkedIn Forum can be found on [the Forum's page]()).

2   Background on Eklipse

EKLIPSE started as an EU-funded project in February 2016 and is about to become self-standing. With support from the European Commission and a high-level Strategic Advisory Board (SAB), the project aimed to establish a robust and flexible long-term mechanism for policy support on biodiversity and ecosystem services, communicating and engaging a wide set of knowledge holders and ensuring tailor-made outreach of results to knowledge requesters and society more broadly.

The success of EKLIPSE and its resulting mechanism is in everyone's hands:

- the 'requesters' from policy and society who need to know what knowledge is out there to answer their policy or societal needs;
- the knowledge holders (be they scientists or other citizens) who want their knowledge to mean something; and
- the extensive networks working on biodiversity and ecosystem services who have the enthusiasm and knowledge to make the mechanism work in the long term.

For more details on the process, visit [Eklipse's website about knowledge synthesis](#).