



The Sub-global Assessment (SGA) Network: Update and Potential Synergies with IPBES

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The SGA Network.....

- seeks to create a common platform
- for practitioners - individuals and organizations
- involved in ecosystem assessment
- at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- with the intention of promoting and facilitating improved capacity for undertaking and using assessments

History of the Network

- 34 SGAs catalyzed during the MA
- 2007 – UNEP and a consortium of partners convened a process to provide ongoing support to SGAs
- Since 2007 – significant increase in the number of sub-global assessment initiatives emerging around the world (80)
 - need for emphasis to be placed on building capacity
 - collaboration and coordination of efforts
- Hosted by a Secretariat which operates through a joint arrangement:
 - UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and The Cropper Foundation (TCF)

The Objectives of the Network

Create a common platform to:

- ✓ Build capacity to undertake and use assessments
- ✓ Facilitate learning and exchange between and amongst SGA practitioners
- ✓ Support relevant global and regional processes by providing critical inputs from the sub-global scales

Open; Relevant, not Prescriptive; Iterative;
Building Partnerships

Who is the network aimed at?

- ✓ SGAs that were a part of the MA and continue to be active
- ✓ Initiatives that incorporate the ecosystem assessment approach
 - Any stage of development
 - All or a selection of ecosystem services
- ✓ Initiatives using a specialized approach in context of a decision- making framework
- ✓ Projects that seek to develop or refine tools and approaches for ecosystem assessments

Structure of the Network

- ✓ **An Advisory Committee** has been appointed
 - Albert van Jaarsveld
 - Anne Teller
 - Dolf de Groot
 - Dolors Armenteras
 - Håkan Berg
 - Hal Mooney
 - Neville Ash (UNEP representative)
 - Salvatore Arico
- ✓ **A Secretariat** – UNEP-WCMC and TCF
- ✓ **The Network members** (app. 200 members)

Main activities and achievements to date

- ✓ Capacity Building
 - Workshops and training sessions
 - Development of tools; synthesis of information and lessons
- ✓ Communication and Exchange
 - 4 Annual Network meetings
 - Website : Tools and information
 - Facebook and Twitter
- ✓ Maintaining the Network: Questionnaires to members
- ✓ Establishment of a Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Other emerging Hubs: Africa; ASEAN region

Pilot Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean

- ✓ Objective: provide more hands-on support to LAC SGAs
- ✓ Scaled-down work programme of SGA Network
 - Capacity building opportunities
 - Exchange of expertise, learning and information
 - Assistance in mobilizing financial and technical capacity
 - Catalyzing interest for new assessment work
 - Support to relevant regional and global processes
- ✓ Careful documentation of lessons and experiences

Countries represented in LAC Hub

Argentina, Barbados,
Brazil, Chile,
Colombia, Costa Rica,
Guatemala, Mexico,
Nicaragua, Peru,
Trinidad and Tobago,
Wider Caribbean



LAC Hub: Successes and Challenges

- ✓ Capacity & institutional knowledge – several LAC SGAs date back to MA
- ✓ Manageable # of SGAs; high level of interest
- ✓ Good scope to expand the # and range of SGAs
- ✓ Testing ground for integration of indigenous/ local/ traditional knowledge
- ✓ Testing ground for transboundary assessments
- ✓ Day to day management of Hub - The Cropper Foundation
 - ✓ Large variations in scope, scale and resources of SGAs
 - ✓ Difficulty in receiving feedback – mechanisms?
 - ✓ Financial needs of SGAs
 - ✓ Language barriers

The SGA Network & IPBES

Structured knowledge sharing network;
experienced assessment practitioners involved
in SGAs:

- Multi-disciplinary knowledge, including traditional knowledge
- Skills and expertise in a broad range of technical areas
 - Ecology, economic and social valuation; mapping and modeling; scenarios, participatory management
- Working at multiple scales

The SGA Network & IPBES

- ✓ Facilitate access to existing SGAs as a foundation for IPBES assessments and catalogue of assessments
- ✓ Support capacity building function of IPBES
- ✓ Provide access to best practice, case studies, tools, indicators etc.
- ✓ Provide access to individuals
- ✓ Assist in identification of gaps and needs in knowledge at a range of geographical scales
- ✓ Contribute to enabling harmonization across IPBES assessments

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Thank you