

Tools and approaches for monitoring and measuring ecosystem services at the national and sub-national levels (WG 15)

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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....**

Objectives of the Working Group

1. To identify the:

- ✓ **knowledge gaps** in selected tool sets available to assessment practitioners
- ✓ **challenges** in applying these tool sets in SGAs
- ✓ **steps & solutions** required to fill knowledge gaps & address the challenges in application of these tools

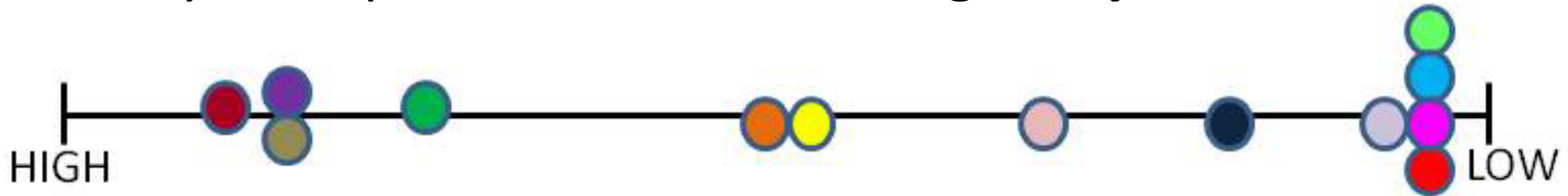
2. To **build capacity** of participants to carry out & identify the need for ecosystem assessments (through a case study approach)

3. To **increase** participants' **awareness** of the SGA Network & its purpose

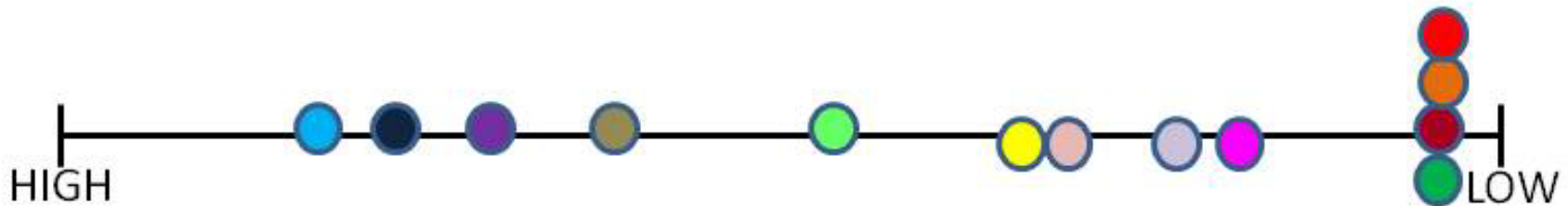
4. To **promote exchange & networking** amongst practitioners involved in developing & applying assessment tools

Introducing the participants

What is your experience of **undertaking ecosystem assessments**?



What is your experience of **using tools**?



Knowledge gaps

- ✓ “Ecosystem assessment tools” – **no definition** in literature

Valuation:

- ✓ Issue of **replacement cost** – restorative value vs. direct value
- ✓ Better able to measure **production functions**

Cultural services:

- ✓ Lack of **consensus on conceptual frameworks** & measurement inc. indicators

Scenarios:

- ✓ Call for greater scientific credibility by improving the **logic chain** between drivers & outcomes

Indicators:

- ✓ Tools that allow measurement of the **demand for services** – current focus on the supply side

Challenges

Include:

- ✓ **Lack of data**
- ✓ Ability to apply tools in respect to the **expertise available**
- ✓ **Common / useful conceptual frameworks**
- ✓ Efficiently **facilitate communication** between (& amongst) researchers & stakeholders to best select /use tools
- ✓ Effective **communication of the findings** to different audiences



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Considerations

Before selecting & applying tools.....



- ✓ **Scale**
- ✓ **Purpose** of the assessment & for generating data
- ✓ **State** of the data
- ✓ **Funding**

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Solutions

Keep in mind:

- ✓ Careful definition of the:
 - **purpose** of the assessment from the outset
 - **context** that the tool will be used (ecosystems/habitats or systems or place-based?)
- ✓ Need to **document lessons learnt** – avoids having to recreate the wheel
- ✓ Undertake a **gap analysis** at an early stage to identify what is known & what isn't --> select appropriate tools



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Case study approach

An interactive, participatory exercise

- ✓ **Put into practice** what was highlighted during Day 1
- ✓ Defined the **main components** of the assessment process
- ✓ Considered the **steps & tools** needed to undertake an assessment process
- ✓ Tried to **communicate the importance** of sub-global assessments to policy makers
- ✓ **Reflected** on the definition & description of **what sub-global assessments are**



Next steps

Outcomes will:

- ✓ Feed into a **gap analysis document** which will....
 - identify knowledge gaps in the available tool sets &
 - highlight recommendations for improving the development & application of tools.
- ✓ Enrich the Network's **database** of sub-global assessments



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Thank you!

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- Yossi Mossel



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