

# Session 4

## Break out session #1

Area #2

Ecosystem Condition

# Agenda

- 14:15: Measuring the condition of Europe's ecosystems (Joachim Maes)
- 14:30 : Discussion round 1: What are the main characteristics of the condition account?
- 15:30: Discussion round 2: Reference values and reference conditions

# Objective

- Collect and taking stock of opinions and broad ideas on the key issues for this research area
- Develop options for the Review

# Characteristics of ecosystem condition

- Can we make a proposal for a common classification or a typology of ecosystem condition indicators
- Advantages:
  - Facilitates reporting and comparison between ecosystem types or countries
  - Useful to detect redundant indicators (avoids duplication)
  - Facilitates aggregation of indicators
  - Connects to other accounts

# Characteristics of ecosystem condition

- What components (broad categories) should be part of a of a condition account ?
  - Example: species related information, soil, physico-chemical quality, functional diversity, habitat structure
  - Justify your choice during the discussion

# Characteristics of ecosystem condition

- In your proposal :
  - Indicate if non-ecological characteristics have to be considered in a condition account (e.g. the physical structure of an ecosystem). Why (not)?
  - Indicate if pressures be considered in a condition account? Why (not)? What if some services are pressures?
  - Consider marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystem types

# Discussion method

- Discuss per tables (3-5 people) (35 minutes)
- Group discussion
  - Feedback from each sub-group (<5 minutes per group) + questions
  - Synthesis (5 minutes)

# Reference values

- Key questions:
  - Should accounts include information about a reference state, reference condition or reference values for individual indicators
  - Do we need to define reference values for pressures (if they are part of the condition account)
  - Can a desired condition be used to set a reference condition (e.g. restoration targets, reference for social-ecological systems such as urban, cropland)
  - What alternative methods are available to define a reference condition in absence of a pristine condition
  - Is it correct to account for ecosystem condition given the current land cover, land use and land management



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