Key points arising from discussions on ES classification(s) for ecosystem accounting

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Introduction

- Quick review of key results from workshop in Wageningen in 2016 (organised by EEA + US-EPA with support from UNSD and WUR)
- WS aimed at comparing and contrasting rather than evaluating quality or fit for purpose
- To create a better understanding of respective starting points and conceptual frameworks that have influenced system design and approach
- Workshop paper & PPTs are available under: https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/ecosystem-capital-accounting/library/ecosystem-service-classification-ws-nov-2016

Key issues to be covered

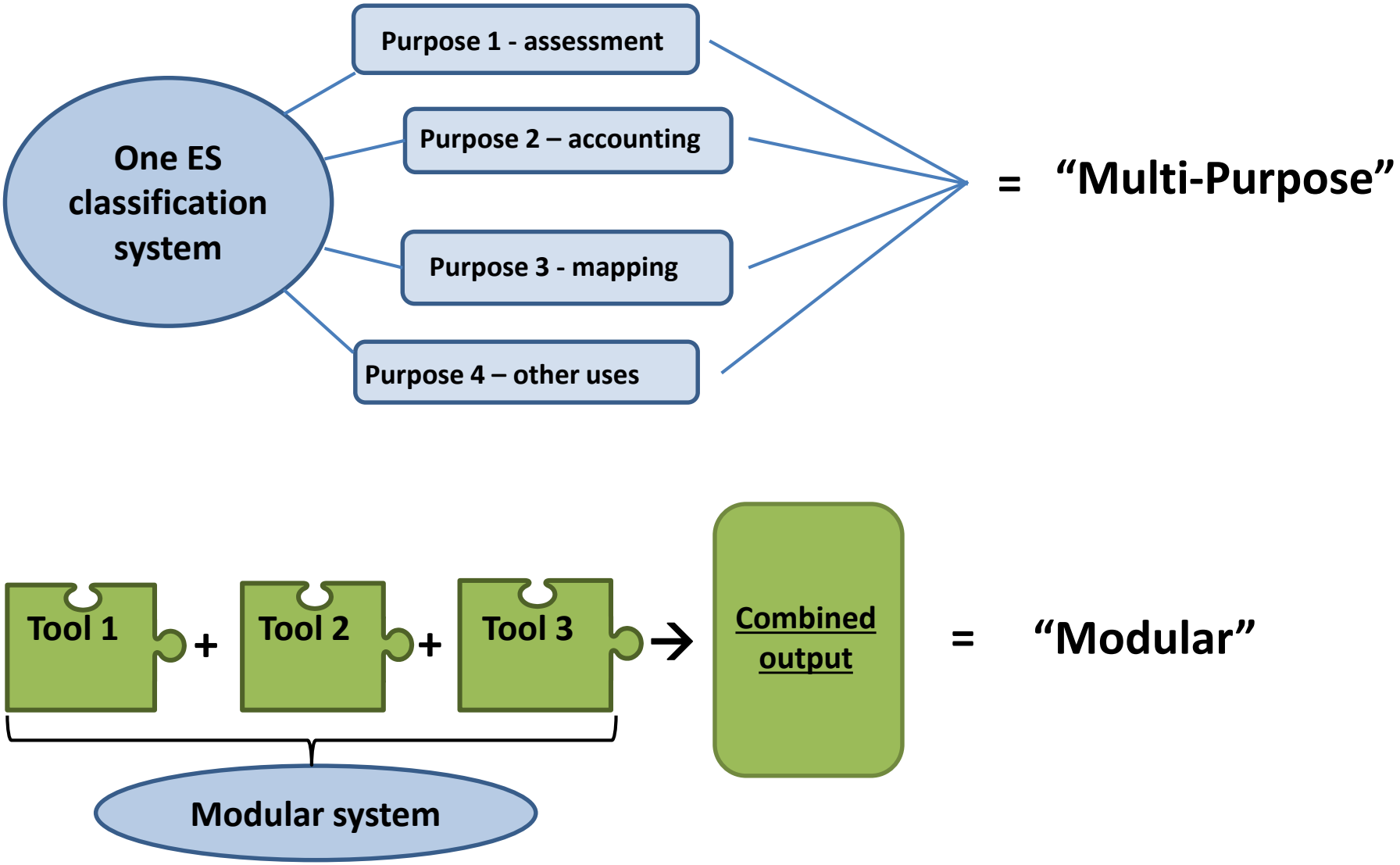
a) Defining the ‘gold standard’ – clarity of purpose and criteria against which to judge ‘success’ [see proposal in Wageningen paper]

b) The ‘one and only’ and/or modular ES classification [slide 4]

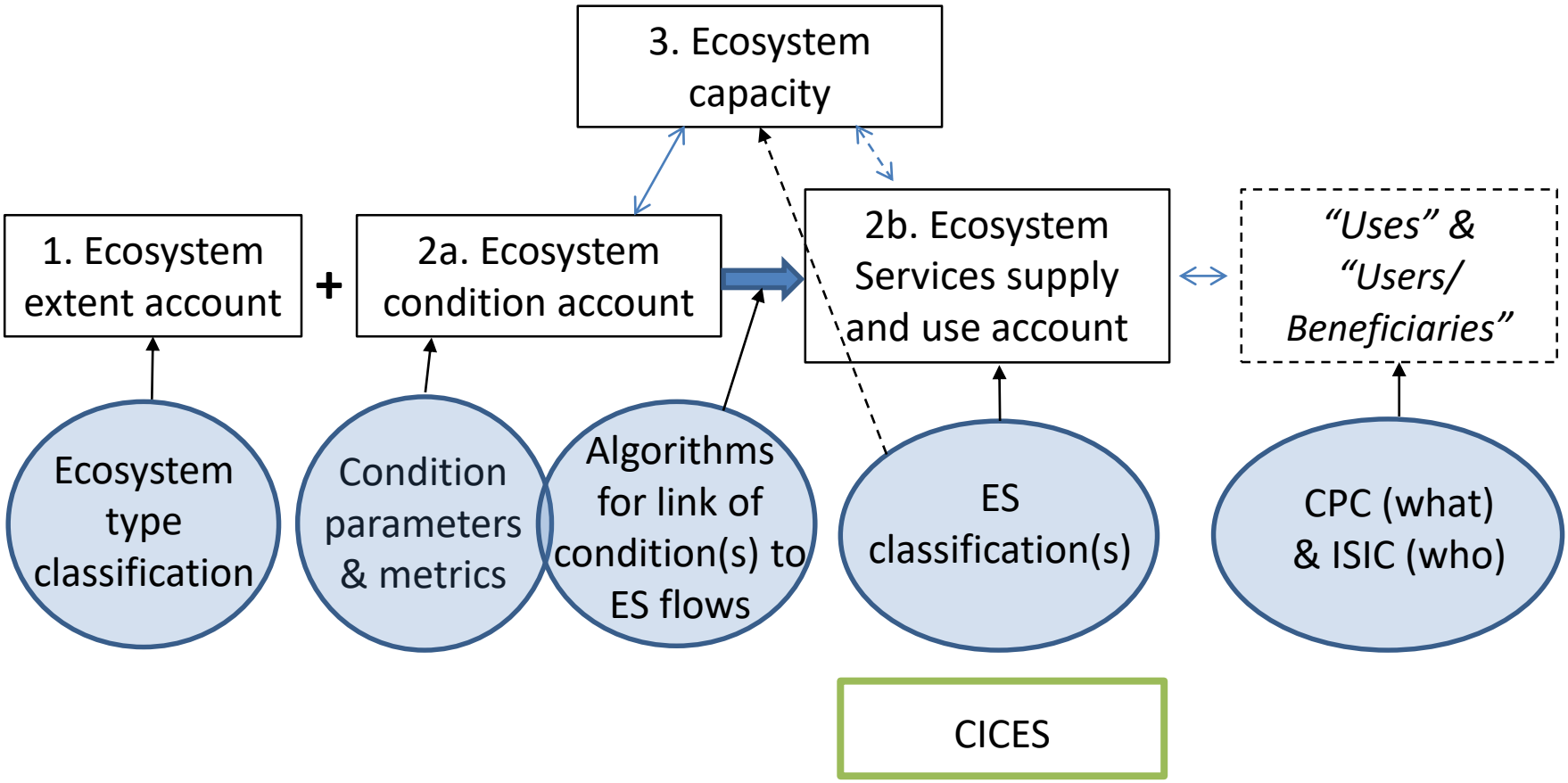
c) Key points of juncture and definition [slides 5+6]

d) How to move forward [slide 7]

“Multi-purpose” and “modular”



Comparing SEEA-EEA 'work flow' with underpinning tools and classifications



(Environment →) FEGS-CS (← Beneficiaries)

(Classes & Sub-Classes reflect extent, condition, capacity) (not ISIC)

NESCS

Environment (Classes & Sub-Classes reflect extent, condition, capacity)	End-Products	Flows of Final ES	Direct Use/ Non-Use	Direct User (incl. ISIC)

Key points of juncture and definition

- Where does ecosystem condition end and ES supply begin?
- ‘Ecological endpoint’ and ‘ES capacity’ as key concepts in this discussion
- How to establish an algorithm for the contribution of nature:
  - Can we mathematically disentangle joint production?
  - Use of (ecological) production functions
- Think about a pragmatic use of conventions in calculating ES flow but be very clear about the role of the different SEEA-EEA components

How to move forward ?

- IPBES has changed the context of discussion
- One ‘all-singing, all-dancing’ ES classification for all purposes is probably not feasible
- ES classification for SEEA EEA purposes: yes, but ‘if it ain’t broke do you need to fix it’ ?
- Make sure not to confuse classification and application issues (cf section 4)
- Support mutual learning by nesting of systems and cross-walks (where feasible) & testing
- Develop guidance for use of ES classification(s)

Thank you very much
for your attention!

Reserve slide below

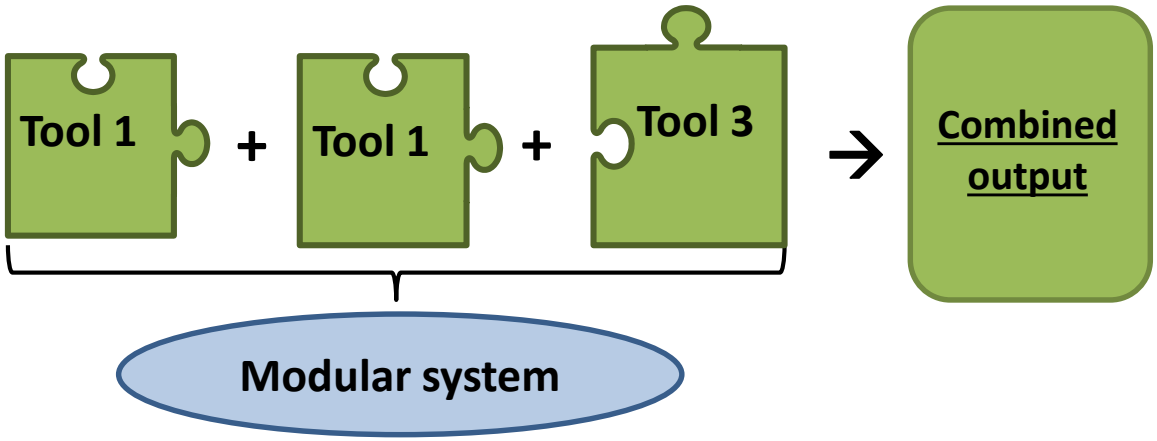
The meaning of “modular”

“Modular” as a combination of independent classifications for one joint purpose (aka Steurer & Obst)

Classif’n of ecosystem types **&** ES classif’n (e.g. CICES) **&** Classif’n of beneficiaries (e.g. ISIC) **=**

Inventory of final ES for any specific context described by a combination of the 3 classifications;
less precise?

“Modular” as in connected modules that together enable the foreseen purpose, e.g. for identification of ‘real’ FFES



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Connected modules in one overall application (as in NESCS) : same result for inventory of final ES;
less versatile ?