

# Experience Calculating A.2

European Environment Agency  
(for EU-27 area)

Jan-Erik Petersen, EEA

# Institutional Arrangements

## **Institutional set-up:**

The CBD Reporting Focal Point for the EU-27 is hosted by the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) which coordinates the **European Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSCC)** of the CBD

## **Arrangements with data providers:**

The EEA has used two types of data sources for calculating A.2:

EU-wide data sets that it produces on behalf of the EU (e.g. CLC land cover data) – in support of calculating ecosystem extent

Modelled or research data – which provide information on degree of naturalness (or lack of)

# Status of developing Indicator A.2 for EU-27

## **Progress achieved:**

- Methodological background paper produced (V.3.1)
- Use of current EU ecosystem extent data for EU-27 explored
- Review of likely fit with A.2 categories (anthrop. & semi-nat./natural) per Level 1 ecosystem type of EU ecosystem typology
- Application of use of (modelled) geo-spatial data that represent intensity of use and/or ecosystem 'quality' for ecosystem types in the IUCN GET intensive land use biome
- Calculation of Indicator A.2 for the terrestrial area of the EU-27 (i.e. excluding freshwater and marine ecosystem types) for 2018

# Status of developing Indicator A.2 for EU-27

## **Work to be completed:**

- Calculation of Indicator A.2 for entire territory of the EU-27 (i.e. including freshwater and marine ecosystem types)
- Completing conceptual approach to use of variables that represent different degrees of naturalness for freshwater & marine ecosystem types
- Developing a time series for EU-27 Indicator A.2 data set
- Developing an approach for transposing geospatial data on EU ecosystem or habitat distribution into corresponding IUCN GET functional ecosystem groups

# Key results for Indicator A.2 for EU-27 (2018)

Initial result for Indicator A.2 for **terrestrial ecosystem types** of the EU-27 (based on CLC 2018 data and additional condition parameters):

- Share of anthropogenic ecosystem types: 54.5 %
- Share of semi-natural and natural ecosystem types: 45.5 %
  - of which natural: 11.3 % of total terrestrial area
  - and semi-natural: 34.2 % of total terrestrial area

# Challenges and lessons learned

## Top 3 challenges:

- Conceptual definition of term ‘(semi-)natural’
- Finding suitable geo-spatial data that define extent and naturalness
- Transposing EU ecosystem classifications and data sets into IUCN GET categories

## Three main lessons learned:

- Conceptual approach to identifying A.2 categories may need to differ between realms
- Matching (geo-spatial) data to certain conceptual definitions or thresholds is not easy to do
- Europe’s diversity and land use history may be an outlier at global level

