

Session 5: Structure and sequence of Accounts

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Where to start?

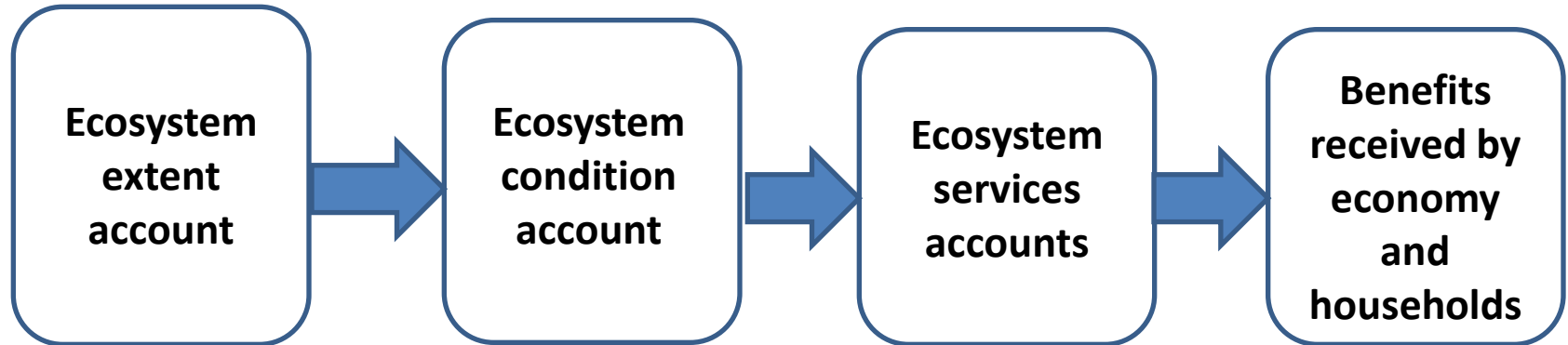
- Have to start somewhere
- UK started with individual habitats – woodland first as good data, particular policy interest, seemed to be easiest
- Process basically

Scoping study => Initial Accounts => Further development

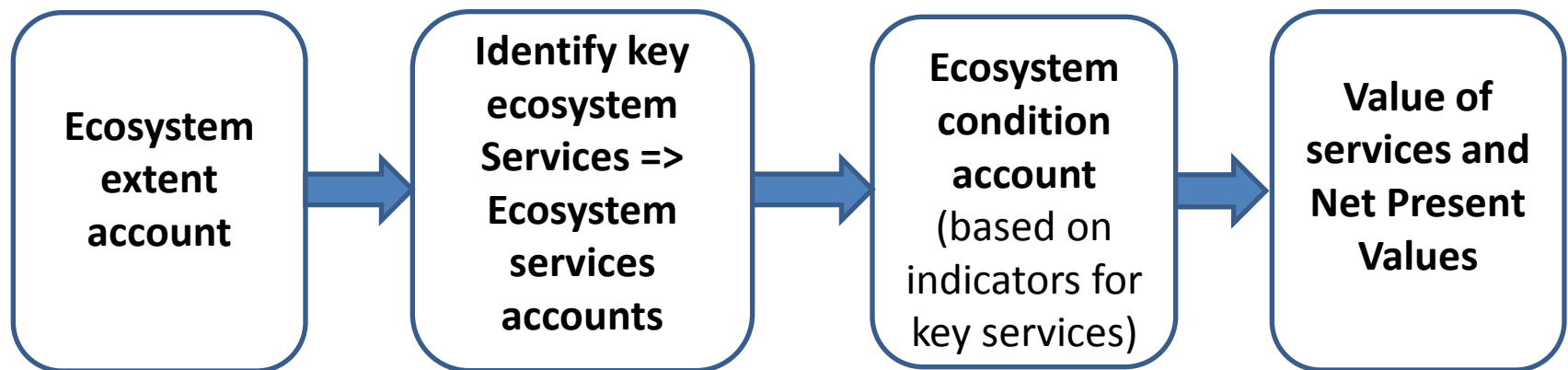
- Very strong focus on actual services

The “golden thread”: sequence of accounts in development phase

Sequence proposed in TG



Process adopted in UK places more emphasis on the condition account being systematically linked to the provision of services



Extent, condition and capacity

UK non-monetary wetland ecosystem asset account

	Ecosystem Extent	Characteristics of condition				
	Land area	Ecological condition		Soil		Accessibility
Indicators		Wetland birds	Mean species richness	Mean total nitrogen stock	Mean carbon concentration	Population with access to wetlands within X kilometres
Units	<i>Thousand hectares</i>	<i>No. of wetland birds ('000)</i>	<i>Diversity of species per pond</i>	<i>Mean total nitrogen in soil (% of dry soil)</i>	<i>Mean level of carbon in soil (gram/kilogram)</i>	<i>Thousands</i>
2008	2,833	4,666	39.1	1.5	401.2	
Net change	0	163	-5.4	-0.2	-17.2	
2012	2,833	4,829	33.7	1.3	384.0	

Source ONS March 2015

Spatial disaggregation: an aspiration (not an aim) in space and time

- A National Account does not require spatially disaggregated accounts (though some elements will need to be built up from spatially disaggregated datasets/models)
- Local applications e.g. management of protected areas require disaggregated data – project underway in UK
- We are trying to ride both horses but in the short term we don't regard comprehensive disaggregated accounts as feasible

Valuation issues and measurement of degradation

- Valuation approaches - still being worked on
- NPV preferred to market value of farmland in SNA (land in South East England is more valuable than elsewhere, not entirely for agriculture provisioning reasons)
- Take 50 years as standard – greater uncertainty but more in line with the nature of the asset – need to take great care over assumed profile of service delivery and rationale for changing it
- Change in value can be due to changes in current services, expected profiles etc – identifying degradation due to anthropogenic activities may not be feasible

Component accounts (= cross-cutting accounts)

- Supporting accounts – can develop first or build up from individual ecosystem accounts
- Land cover account – essential! (What's the issue?)
Also land use account very relevant (for drivers)
- Carbon sequestration services accounts for individual LCEUs - must be consistent with overall stock account
- Water – definitely needs more work. An extension of Central Framework to deal with ecosystem flows?
- Biodiversity – under review. Current focus is on biodiversity indicators which inform us about ecosystem functioning, will look at Lars' options
- Soil?