



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Session 3b: Ecosystem condition



United Nations

Finding consensus/a way forward

- **Definitions** and **concepts** of ecosystem condition (value framework)
- Condition accounts and **biodiversity** (with reference to species related indicators in the **typology**) [biodiversity issues paper, Emily]
- **Reference** levels (reference condition) [reference issue paper, Heather]
- Flag issues for common discussion with the spatial units area

Definitions of ecosystem condition

- *“Ecosystem condition reflects the overall quality of an ecosystem ~~asset~~ in terms of its characteristics (United Nations, 2012: SEEA EEA 2.35)*

Definitions of ecosystem condition

- *the overall quality of an ecosystem asset in terms of its characteristics. Measures of ecosystem condition are generally combined with measures of ecosystem extent to provide an overall measure of the state of an ecosystem asset. Since ecosystem condition also underpins the capacity of an ecosystem asset to generate ecosystem services, changes in ecosystem condition will impact on expected ecosystem service flow.” (SEEA EEA Glossary)*

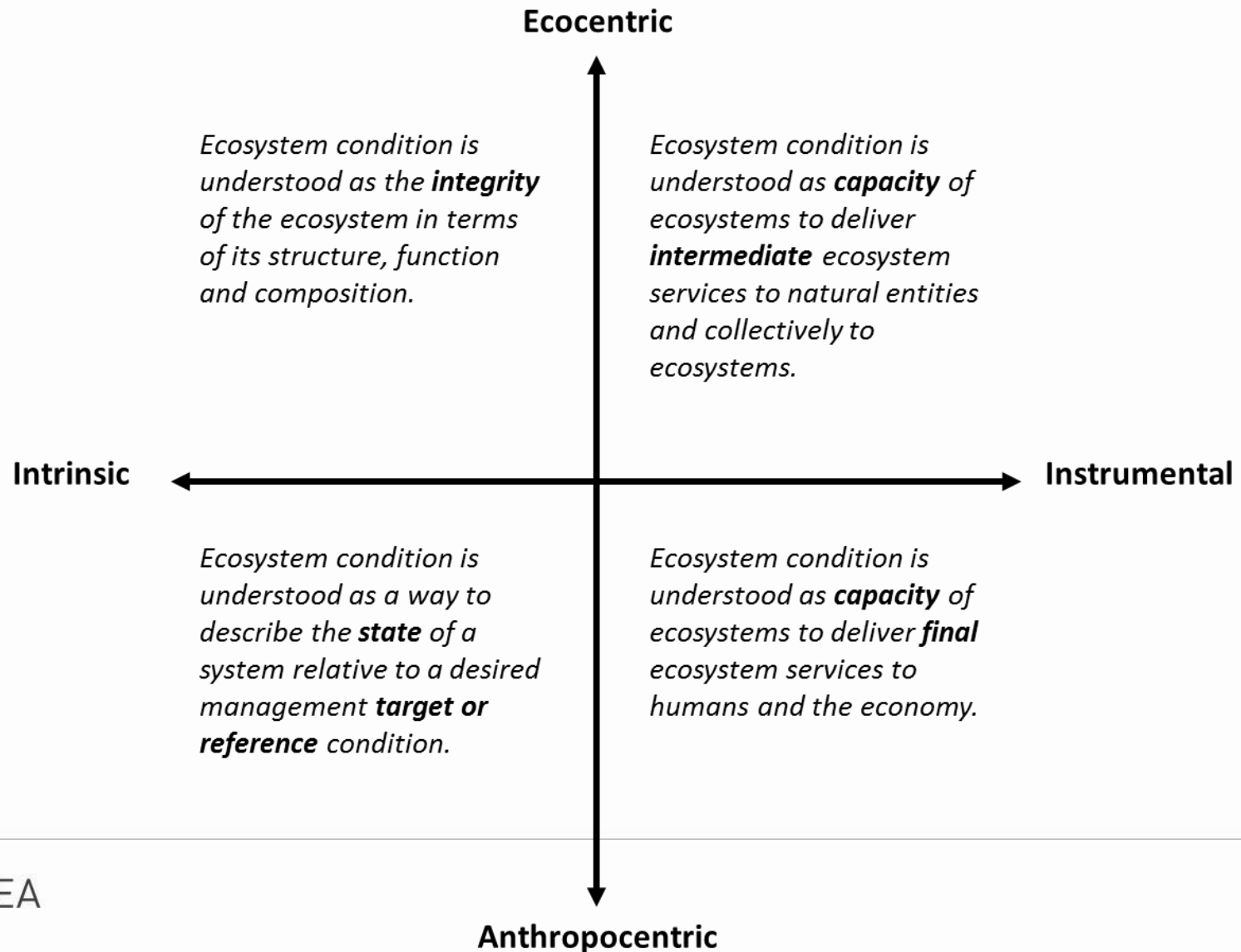
Definitions of ecosystem condition

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Definitions of ecosystem condition

- “the ~~overall~~ quality of an ecosystem ~~asset~~, in terms of its *abiotic and biotic* characteristics, *which may reflect multiple values*” (Discussion paper 2.1)

Definitions of ecosystem condition



Questions

- Do you agree with a revised definition of ecosystem condition reflecting different values.
- Can the value framework be used to define what is "good" or "high" ecosystem condition

Biodiversity Issues

- From Tom Brooks:
 - > clarify the distinction between local and global species populations. Imperfect nestedness among levels of biodiversity
- Can various biodiversity indicators (species abundance, species diversity metrics, presence or absence of single/key/iconic species, functional metrics such as trophic level) be classified in using the current typology
- Overlap with the thematic accounts

ECI class and subclasses

I. Species-based indicators (compositional characteristics)

- birds
- trees
- fish
- *...other relevant species groups*

II. Vegetation and biomass (structural characteristics)

- tree cover (density / biomass)
- shrub cover
- litter
- pelagic (chlorophyll, phytoplankton, ...)
- *...other relevant vegetation layers*

III. Physical and chemical state (abiotic characteristics)

- air
- soil
- water
- *...other relevant (abiotic) ecosystem compartments*

IV. Ecosystem processes (functional characteristics)

- disturbance intensity (fire, flood, ...)
- *... other relevant ecosystem processes*

V. Landscape pattern (landscape-level characteristics)

- landscape diversity (overall)
- connectivity/fragmentation (specific to an ecosystem type)

Reference values / Desired values

- Issues note by Heather
- Individual statements
- Make a list of all issues and problems that need to be addressed (see issues note)
- Discuss how to address these in a paper (pro and cons of each these options)



THANK YOU

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