



# Re-conceptualising monitoring & evaluation for post-2020



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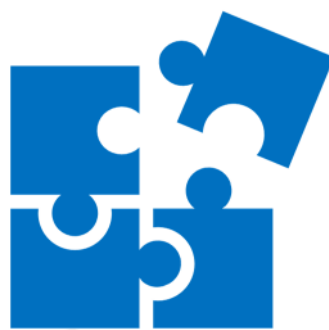
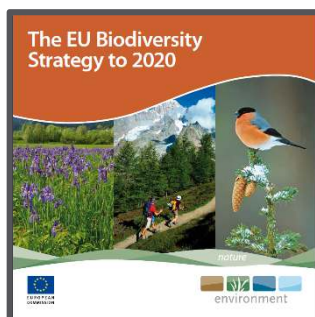


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- MEEM rationale, methods, findings  
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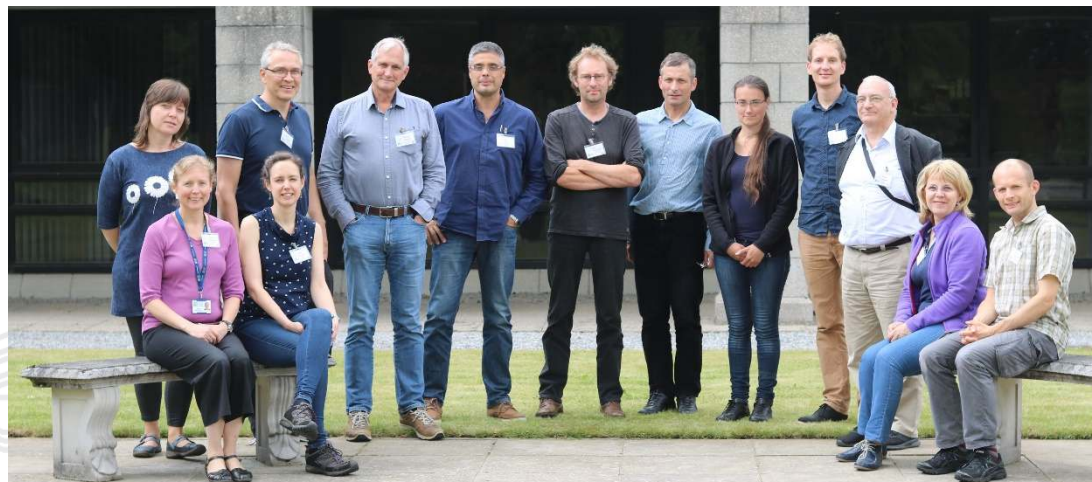
- Implications for the post-2020 EU biodiversity strategy
  - Knowledge gaps & urgent research questions
  - Reflections on key messages



# MEEM rationale

- Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) key to adaptive management of ecosystems, but often imperfect
- Europe has high profile environmental policies with much influence: How do these shape M&E?

→ AHIA 'MEEM'




# MEEM methods

- 9 partners = 9 study countries
- Site-level M&E under 3 policies
  - The Water Framework Directive
  - The Natura 2000 network
  - Agri-Environment Schemes under CAP
- Public docs on official monitoring programmes
- Compare to criteria of 'ideal' M&E for adaptive management



What is monitored?	To understand (eco)system processes, both biotic and abiotic, with a focus on the interactions that form the system or subsystem. To understand social and economic aspects of systems, likely entailing coverage of demographics, economics and policy. To understand system change, influential aspects of the economic and policy context should be monitored.
How is monitoring is carried out?	Monitoring should use targeted collection of primary data where available. Data provision can involve a range of individuals and organisations as well as engagement Monitoring data should be accessible to its users and the public. Monitoring should use targeted collection of primary data where available.
Does monitoring inform and influence decision-making?	The process by which monitoring data are expected to be transparent Monitoring data should be used to inform and update policy Monitoring data should be used to inform and update policy

## MEEM Findings (1)

- Policy-driven M&E is producing useful information, especially on environmental state and trends 
- However, some common problems...





## MEEM Findings (2)

1. Hard to understand **the effect of management actions**
2. Overly **focused on understanding a few issues** (e.g. many water qual measurements) not the system
3. Rarely much attention to **social issues**, even though these can be vital e.g. hunting in a PA
4. Little **attention to context factors** that might affect target systems e.g. climate change
5. Often **limited public access** to monitoring data
6. Little **transparency about use of data in evaluation**; nor clear evidence as to if & how it ultimately influences decision-making at any level



# Implications

- Start with  not 

Focus on decision-making and work backwards:  
what will help us improve management?

- Broaden scope of monitoring to drivers of problems (even if these arise beyond sites)
- Capitalise on other sources of data e.g. EU/ms-led (unrelated) initiatives, citizen-science.
- Prune where redundancy in monitoring (WFD?)








# The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020





# Knowledge gaps



-  What *are* decision-making needs at different levels?
  - Site-manager to EU-level policy development
-  To build systems perspectives, what *actually* should we monitor?
-  How to balance efforts?
  - To study interventions vs understand state & trends
  - To understand cause & effect in systems (e.g. to track both RDP interventions & outcomes?)
-  To satisfy different decision-makers' needs
-  'Right' allocation of resources for M&E (10%?)

## Reflections on key messages

Overall, communicate need for a fresh look at M&E

Ask why we monitor, be explicit about expectations of use

Consider asking for increased resources for M&E



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