

**Global biodiversity mechanisms:  
a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

MEA Summary Presentations

Ecosystem Approach Issues Working Group

May 2009

Visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/MEA-event>



# **Ecosystem Approach Issues Working Group**

## **– Conclusions**

**Not an additional commitment – a tool and checklist to confirm sustainability**

**Business as usual is not an option – changing to sustainability through the EA approach will require trade-offs and there will be conventional “winners and losers”**

**What services (and how much of each) do we need now and what will we need in a changing world  
And what happens if we can't get them**

# Key implementation requirements

- Language / Terminology – between Conventions and even within the Biodiversity sector –
- Constraints, eg with land tenure – difficult to implement but EA present opportunities w.r.t. legal frameworks
- Cultural & governance landscape (those affected by implementing sustainable approaches )
- Integration across key sectors - Recognise lots of tools implementing sustainability

# Key emerging (on-going) issues and opportunities

- Gaps in the evidence base and using the approach
- Sustainability Assessment language rather than SEA/EIA
- Links to Climate Change negotiations (eg REDD, MDGs)
- UKs NEA opportunity to increase awareness – and communicating the ecosystem approach

# Evidence and research needs

- Better evidence of the added value of the EA on the ground
- Valuation in different systems
- More info on Benefits Transfer
- Case Studies/Lessons learnt Research on winners and losers of EA
- Payments for ecosystems services approach – who are the losers of change, need for compensation?
- Better understanding and recognition of the carbon storage of all ecosystems
- What incentives drive behaviour
- Future implications for genetic resources

# Science-policy interface

- Who gains the benefits
- Decision makers and what they want
- What constitutes a failing Ecosystem service?
- Limits/thresholds
- MA follow up is doing a lot of research needs we have discussed. Need for on-going Global assessment or something more targeted?

# Priority Areas

- Ensure climate change debate fully addresses ecosystem sustainability issues and work with the sector and recognise the extent to which nature based adaptation can help
- Recognition of the carbon role of all ecosystems in relation to mechanisms such as REDD
- Showing the benefits to other sectors eg particularly the development sector