Wessex-BESS

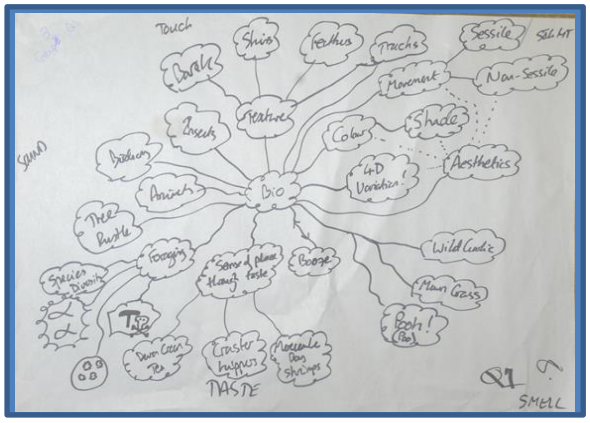
Biodiversity and ecosystem services in current and future multifunctional landscapes

EKN Cultural Ecosystem Services Conference

Biodiversity and Cultural Ecosystem Service Indicators Workshop

The biodiversity and cultural ecosystem service (CES) workshop explored ways of measuring different components of CES linked to biodiversity. Sixty-four nature-sector professionals from academic, government and NGO institutions participated in four group-based workshop activities and an informal plenary session. The workshop aimed to inspire stimulating debate on CES topics for participants, whilst generating useful indicators and insights for the social science component of the Wessex-Bess research project.

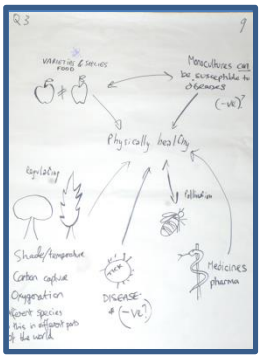
Participants worked in groups of 4-7 people to produce mind-maps on topics related to different CES indicator types: *condition* indicators, *function* indicators, *service* indicators, *benefit* indicators and *impact* indicators. A total of 38 mindmaps created by participants have subsequently been archived and analysed by the Wessex-Bess social science team.



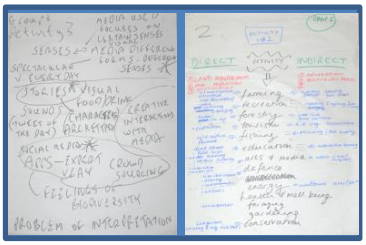
Participants identified a number of **human activities** that are directly and indirectly linked to biodiversity- including both CES activities and those traditionally associated with other ecosystem services (e.g. farming, forestry). Interactions with biodiversity at different **scales** were noted, and participants highlighted a tendency to emphasis the **iconic** rather than the everyday.

Bias in media and research was discussed, as was our overreliance on **visual** representations of biodiversity, and the need to consider other **sensory information** and **movement.** A balanced perspective was attained through discussions on **disservices** associated with biodiversity, and benefits from **non-biodiverse environments**. Participants discussed the effects of **individual** differences, **socio-cultural** norms, and under what circumstances humans should be considered part of biodiversity.

The extensive list of **indicator** suggested by groups included behavioural, wellbeing, geospatial, financial, and time measurements; from **primary, secondary, formal,** and **informal** data sources.



Results from this workshop (and prior Wessex-Bess exploratory workshops) are currently being refined and considered in light of published CES literature. Findings will be developed into a conceptual framework to guide forthcoming Wessex-Bess quantitative research phases



Wessex-Bess would like to thank everyone who participated in this workshop.

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