

Guidance notes - Ecosystem Approach Principles

People	1a	Principle #1: benefits from nature are important for all of society
	<p>Explanation: Different people get different benefits from the natural environment. The environment should be managed so that all of society can benefit from what it provides.</p> <p>Your project: Is the project helping different groups in society to identify their needs and benefit equally from the environment?</p>	
	1b	Principle #11: all knowledge and perspectives should be valued
<p>Explanation: All forms of scientific knowledge, local knowledge and practices should be considered as different people see and understand the land differently.</p> <p>Your project: Is the project engaging different groups, capturing the values and perspectives of all? Are people from different backgrounds, professions, of different ages or levels of education participating?</p>		
	1c	Principle #12: involve more of society in decisions
<p>Explanation: All relevant experts at a range of levels (local, national, regional, international) should be involved in decision making. It may be that knowledge input is required beyond the local and/or by a specialist.</p> <p>Your project: Is the project involving those with relevant expertise?</p>		
Management	2a	Principle #2 local is best
	<p>Explanation: Decisions made locally can lead to greater efficiency and equity as they are made by those closest to the environment and those that the decisions will affect. Decisions need to balance local need with public interests.</p> <p>Your project: Are decisions being made locally by those directly engaged with the environment and the people affected by its management?</p>	
	2b	Principle #3 think of others
<p>Explanation: Indirect and “downstream” effects may have a negative effect on surrounding areas of land and people, species and natural processes.</p> <p>Your project: Think about how your project may have impacts beyond its geographical boundaries.</p>		
	2c	Principle #4 understand economic context
<p>Explanation: The environment is often undervalued in economics, however the ecosystem approach recognises that the environment has economic value in the services it provides for people.</p> <p>Your project: Have any economic analyses been undertaken? For example, ecosystem service valuation, natural capital accounting or payments for ecosystem services schemes?</p>		

Scale and dynamics	3a	Principle #7 work at the right scale
	<p>Explanation: Geographical boundaries should be chosen that make it easier and more efficient to fulfil project aims. The project should also work to timeframes that match natural processes, such as seasons.</p> <p>Your project: Why has the geographical scale you are working to been chosen, and how does it help fulfil your aims? What timeframes does your project work to, and does this match natural processes?</p>	
	3b	Principle #8 look well ahead
<p>Explanation: Considering the long-term rather than just short term benefits is central to managing the environment; it creates more stability and sustainability.</p> <p>Your project: How is your project attempting to create timeframes that look to the future? What goals and plans do you have beyond 10 years?</p>		
3c	Principle #9 be adaptable to change	
<p>Explanation: The environment changes as a result of natural processes and the (positive and negative) impact of people. Climate change is likely to facilitate change in ways that are unknown and out of our control.</p> <p>Your project: Is your project adaptable or flexible in dealing with natural changes and the extremities of climate change?</p>		
Functions, goods and services provided by the environment	4a	Principle #5 maintain the health of nature
	<p>Explanation: The benefits we get from the environment are reliant on healthy ecosystems. Maintaining healthy functioning ecosystems is important for providing ecosystem services.</p> <p>Your project: What benefits does your project provide? What efforts are made to maintain the natural processes and functions that provide ecosystem services? Consider the range of services: Provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.</p>	
	4b	Principle #6 don't overexploit
<p>Explanation: Ensuring that the environment is not over exploited is crucial to allow it to provide goods and services in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Your project: What measures are in place to ensure that the environment is not overexploited in your project area, and that goods and services can be maintained?</p>		
4c	Principle #10 balance the demand for use and conservation of the environment	
<p>Explanation: It is important to allow people to gain from nature whilst not jeopardising the natural processes that provide benefits. We must remember that we are dependent on nature and benefit from it hugely; whilst we also have the capacity to threaten it and consequently reduce the benefits available.</p> <p>Your project: How does your project balance the protection of nature with that of encouraging people to use it for its multiple purposes and benefits?</p>		