

# ECOSYSTEM APPROACH / ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

## POLICY DRIVERS

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# Major ongoing initiatives

- NEA - National Ecosystem Assessment
- TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- Model Ecosystem Framework

# National Ecosystem Assessment User Group context

- Key stakeholders with a strong interest in the outcomes of the project
- c. 20 members from throughout the UK
- We expect the outputs of the NEA project to be highly influential and to have a substantial impact on the direction and focus of Government and Agency scientific research and policy/strategy development

# Possible implications for policy/strategy development include:

- A policy direction focus on ecosystem health
- Conservation & enhancement of biodiversity to underpin continued provision of ecosystem services
- A more holistic approach to land-use decisions
- Tuning policy instruments to deliver multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.
- A people-focus to environmental management through a greater consideration of the impacts of change on ecosystem services and human wellbeing

# Science needs to underpin policy:

- Assessment of the resilience of ecological systems and the position of “tipping points”
- Mapping of key ecosystem services in Scotland
- Identification of broad ecosystems requiring remedial management
- Techniques to value ecosystem services, especially the “non-market” values associated with cultural services
- Identification of keystone species within ecosystems and the roles that they play