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FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

## Land Use Valuing Ecosystems Services

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## Valuing Ecosystems Services

- Approach developed in response to UN request
- Defra published Action Plan
- Requested regions to raise awareness
- East of England decided to go one better



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## What is an ecosystem?

- a system involving the interactions between a community and its non-living environment
- They can be terrestrial or marine, inland or coastal, rural or urban.
- Vary in scale from
  - global e.g. rainforests, deserts and coral reefs to ...
  - local e.g. woodlands, marshes rivers rocky shores
- Can also be extended to the urban environment e.g. parks and gardens, rivers and streams
- They can overlap and interact.



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## What are ecosystem services?

### Definition:

The benefits people obtain either directly or indirectly from ecosystems.

### These include:

- provisioning services such as food and water;
- regulating services such as flood and disease control;
- cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and
- supporting services such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.



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## Land use – Not only...

Land is used for:

- Food
- Energy
- Recreation
- Biodiversity
- Growth
- Infrastructure



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## But also.....

- Flood defence
- Carbon sequestration
- Wellbeing
- Water retention and filtration



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## Valuing benefits

- Provides evidence for a true value of land
- Could determine what that land should be used for
- Allows comparison between management practices
- Could influence changes in incentives for land managers
- Could ensure better targeting of resources
- Could influence where growth should be



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## What is going on?

- East of England pilots
- Shared findings December 2009
- Phase 2 being developed
- Land use is at centre
- Farming will form part



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## Land Use Futures

- Government Foresight project
- Launched Thursday 25th Feb 2010!
- Defra, RSPB and Natural England all welcomed it!
- Many of its recommendations are already within the planned Phase 2 work
- = loads of Brownie points!



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## Anyone still awake?

For more info, or interested in getting involved, contact:

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