

What do we know and which information is lacking?

Expert workshop: Environmental effect of
floods and flood protection measures
28-29/05/2015, EEA, Copenhagen

State and trends: loss

- Same numbers about loss of floodplains come back in different publications, but what do they mean exactly?
- Be very careful with wording, what is the baseline, what is the definition, where is the bias (e.g. size of catchments)



Data

- (Environmental) Impact data at EU level have a clear output in several indicators. What's the real added value for the national/local level?
- Let WISE and BISE transform into BWISE for more integrated assessments



Working at many scales

- EU overview?
 - Clear distinction between different areas within catchments (mountains versus lowlands, rural versus urban etc.)
 - as these have different objectives, different goals and also different measures are applied
 - Local solutions are ok if contributing to the overall objectives
 - eligible for (EU) funding without artificial international justification



Time scale

- 6 years cycle of reporting is ok as a pragmatic choice to evaluate the environmental effects
- Time scale for environmental measures is much longer
 - Is this reflected clearly enough in the project stages for the FRMP?
 - Building back better for nature



Working together

- Agriculture insufficiently covered in water management plans
- Similar in RDPs: little attention for WFD
- Must be more than just papers (EU), the power is in the implementation (national to local)



Working together (2)

- How to deal with “unwanted” land uses in restoration projects?
 - as these contribute to other agendas as food security, renewable energy, ... and cannot simply being kicked out
- Quality over quantity in restoration
 - Maybe less but more effective projects
 - contradictory to start working asap (?)



CCA

- Involvement (beyond information provisioning) of actors outside government quickly goes down from planning to implementation to monitoring and evaluation
 - (see EEA report 4/2014)
- Similar for restoration: bottom-up and top-down need to meet for increased efficiency/effectiveness



Environmental Impacts

- Use (quality) ✓
- Water level ?
- Connectivity ✓
- Water quality ✓
 - Workshop didn't discuss much about water level, e-flows, river training etc.



Environmental impacts (2)

- From stock to flow to approach
 - As done in economics
- ESS can play a role in this shift
- Time frame!
- Monetarisation not always possible
 - Quantification as first fall-back step before descriptive information only



Flood risk

- Not decreased significantly for big events by ecological measures
- Where's the risk?
 - in many smaller events or in a few big ones?
 - Is discussion far beyond scope of workshop but important when describing the efficiency/effectiveness of green measures



The more restoration...

- The more grey infrastructure
- Focus on functions, not on km/ha/..., of infrastructure
- Success of restoration has to be seen together with keeping what we still have