

Maarten Stevens, Marijke Thoonen, Heidi Demolder, Sander Jacobs, Anik Schneiders, Peter Van Gossum, Toon Van Daele, Wouter Van Reeth, Johan Peymen

An Ecosystem Assessment for Flanders (Belgium)

Nature report Flanders (NARA)

The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) conducts research and supports policy and other stakeholders on conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature. Every two years their Nature Report evaluates the status of nature in Flanders (Northern part of Belgium).

The next Nature Report (2014) will assess ecosystems and their services (ES) in Flanders. The Nature Report contributes to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 that calls member states to assess the state of ecosystems and services. It aims to support the implementation of ES in Flemish policy and stimulate intersectoral communication and social awareness about ES. The assessment builds on Belgian and international assessments and valuation exercises.

Reporting structure

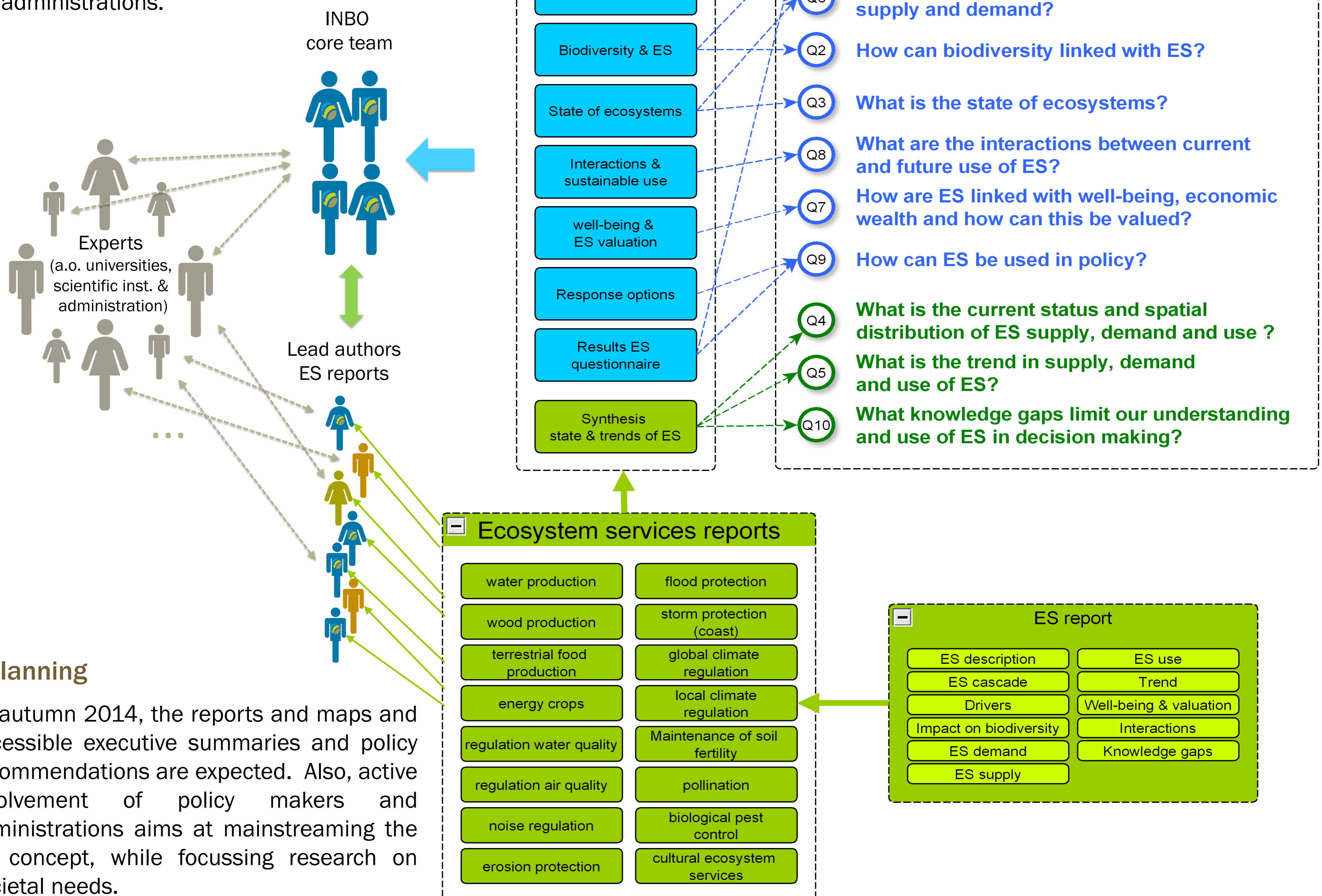
The Nature report is coordinated and written by an interdisciplinary core team at INBO. This team is aided by experts which co-author or review the reports.

The data base consists of technical reports for each ES, which are compiled by lead authors mainly outside the core team.

The lead authors for the technical reports again rely on cooperation with research projects, experts in the specific fields and relevant research institutions and administrations.

Research questions

The assessment is designed around 10 key questions, to gain insight in the socio-economic ecosystem and provide policy guidance for sustainable resource use and land management.



Planning

By autumn 2014, the reports and maps and accessible executive summaries and policy recommendations are expected. Also, active involvement of policy makers and administrations aims at mainstreaming the ES concept, while focussing research on societal needs.