

# Mapping & Assessing Ecosystems and their Services in Flanders (Belgium)

## Nature reports for the Flemish government

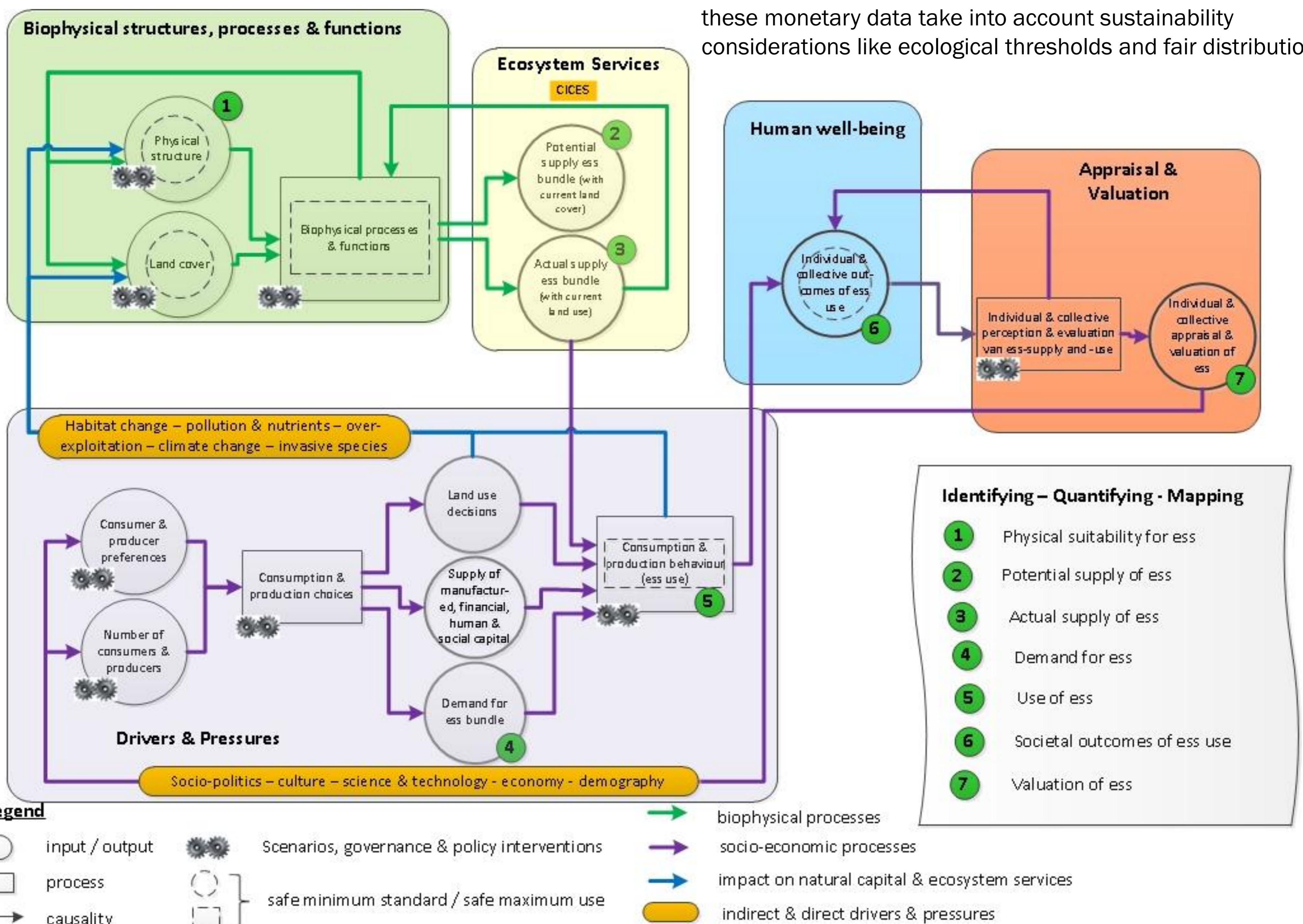
The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) is an agency of the Flemish government. It conducts research and supports policy and other stakeholders on conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature. One of INBO's statutory tasks is the biennial publication of the Flemish nature report.

The next **Nature Report (2014)** will map and assess the status and trends of 9 ecosystems and 16 ecosystem services for the Flemish region (13.552 km<sup>2</sup>). It will also explore their links with biodiversity, well-being & wealth and drivers and it will analyse trade-offs between services.

The report is compiled by staff from INBO with co-operation from University of Antwerp, University of Leuven, University of Ghent and the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO). It is reviewed by other scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Subsequent reports will assess policy response options and scenarios for green infrastructure.

## Service supply, demand and use : a framework



## European and international policy context

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, Target 2: Maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services by 2020 and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems

- action 5: **Member states will map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services by 2014 (...).**

CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:

- Aichi targets 1, 11, 14 and 15.

## Supply, demand and use of ecosystem services

Ecosystem service maps, accounts and indicators often conflate biophysical capacity, actual supply, demand, actual use and outcomes ('benefits') of ecosystem services. Analytically distinguishing between these constructs is essential when trade-offs and synergies between services are assessed or when economic values are calculated.

## In search of wealth and well-being

Exploring societal outcomes of (changes in) ecosystem services and making them explicit in monetary and other valuations will show to what extent we are currently able to inform such assessments. We also assess to what extent these monetary data take into account sustainability considerations like ecological thresholds and fair distribution.