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Project acronym: TESS

Project full title: Transactional Environmental Support System

Instrument: Collaborative project (Small or medium-scale focused research project)

Theme 6: Environment (including climate change)

Deliverable D6.4 Workshop to propose TESS for SEA, SIA, EIA and land use decisions

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PU	Public	√
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

REVISION CONTROL

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TESS Conference, Brussels, 25th May 2011

Introduction

As part of Work Package 6 a Conference was organised by the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in the European Parliament, Brussels on May 25th, 2011 to present the TESS project and its results to EU policymakers and other interested parties. The Conference served to present the project to a wider audience of policy makers and to discuss the results and potential policy applications emerging from the project. All the presentations are in a CD supplement accompanying this deliverable.

TESS conference

The TESS conference aimed to address a broad audience, beginning by briefly introducing the project and going on to focus on the application of the results, an explanation of the TESS portal and the potential policy guidelines generated through the TESS project. The conference was attended by a wide range of stakeholders and had a high presence of MEPs in the audience. The conference was hosted by MEP Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines who advocated the empowerment of local communities and emphasised their role in developing effective environmental policy.

The conference was opened by Professor Basil Manos, who gave the floor to Olivia Chassais (DG RTD) and Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines (MEP - Co-chair of the Intergroup). OC opened the conference by first commenting on the main merits of the TESS project. These included the timing and relevance of the project given its link to Europe's transition towards a more resource efficient world, and the strong role ecosystem services have to play in this. Secondly, the process/ tool being developed by TESS are considered to have a very real role to play. She commented that resource efficiency has to come from the bottom and be a shared responsibility, requiring public consultation and participation. The tool TESS is developing has the potential to encourage wider public participation. In addition, it was commented that one of the key strengths of the tool is that it is not only for expert use, but is instead accessible to the wider public, which is vital to the development of evidence based policy. It was suggested that the use of the tool and the resulting wider public engagement will allow for better understanding of best practice and the needs of different regions. Further to this, she commented on the project's ability to bring together different groups of stakeholders and land users, including the involvement of the local authorities. The importance of including local authorities in the process was based on the need to have an understanding of the needs of local regions in order to ensure development of effective strategy and policy. She concluded by stating that TESS is a unique project requiring effective dissemination of the results and the resulting tool.

Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines followed on and discussed why the TESS project is a necessary component of the development of resource efficient policy development. Currently there is no effective system for bridging the gap between local stakeholders and policy makers, something that is key to generation of effective policy. Gutiérrez-Cortines commented on the fact that often local land users and stakeholders don't have an understanding of the language surrounding biodiversity and ecosystem services and therefore rarely understand

the holistic and systemic view of biodiversity held by policy makers. Given this, she championed the inclusion of local authorities (LAs) in the process as an important tool for knowledge transfer, identifying LAs as the way in which environmental information and the TESS system could be included in education. She finished by stating that people needed to have a better understanding of the links between biodiversity and development and the holistic approach being proposed by TESS.

Basil Manos went on to welcome the audience and speakers to the conference, introducing the presentation of the results of the TESS project to date. He went on to introduce the conference sessions, highlighting the round table session as an opportunity to discuss the application of TESS to the development of policy.

Session one began with a presentation from Stratos Arampatzis (Tero Ltd.) who gave a brief introduction to the TESS project, the rationale behind the project, the work packages and the deliverables of TESS. The rationale for the project stems from the concerning global loss of biodiversity and the resulting impact on ecosystem services, and that local individuals and stakeholders cannot use formal environmental assessments for decision-making. The aims of TESS were to design a support system for management with a need to establish what each group required. The presentation was concluded with the statement that TESS aims to complement the formal management systems through use of an informal method of integrating information for effective decision making.

Following this introduction to the TESS project, Dr Pedro Beja (ERENA) delivered a presentation outlining the implications of policies on land use and economic activities and the impact these have on trends in ecosystem services and biodiversity. This analysis was conducted in a bid to establish indicators of best practice across a Pan-European Network. The key conclusions of this work were as follows:

- Analysis of the data collected suggested that structural and socio-economic capacity features can have lasting impacts on biodiversity trends and can influence society's perception of biodiversity;
- In contrast, the research suggested that governance processes and management priorities were seen to have weaker impacts on biodiversity, thought to be due to short term approaches being used;
- And finally, that there was variation between countries' approach to environmental management and governance which was thought to reflect a variation in societal perception of biodiversity and use of ecosystem services and processes.

A brief overview of some of the results gathered through case studies (Work Package 5) was presented by Dimitra Manou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and Dr. Ion Navodaru (Danube Delta National Institute for R&D). Dimitra first introduced the case study phase of the project, outlining the objectives of this phase of data collection. The local case studies were conducted in a bid to ascertain how best to meet the decision support needs of local communities, to establish whether local monitoring programmes can meet government requirements, and finally to assess local attitudes and capacity to conduct the environmental monitoring required. She gave a brief overview of the methodologies used throughout this phase of data collection and presented some of the collated results from all of the local case studies conducted across Europe. The floor was then given to Ion who had the opportunity to present some of the results specific to the Saint George Commune Case Study. The aim of the project was to involve the local community in establishing an alternative resource to the traditional activity of fishing. This local case study concluded that biodiversity mapping could be used to include local information in decision making processes. Although another resource was established (the sea-buckthorn), it was identified that the local community

would be reluctant to move away from their traditional activities and that this would be a major challenge to the implementation of future projects of this type.

Dimitra continued her presentation; the main conclusions were that local communities expressed a desire to have access to more data and the availability of an accessible data base would be welcome. Although the motivation behind local communities' involvement in the project varied, it was found that local communities were generally willing to participate voluntarily with projects of this type. It was found the local communities could provide valuable information, although, as suggested by Ion's presentation, there are some challenges to the projects of this type such as a lack of IT training and poor relationship between communities and authorities. Finally, it was found that the information provided by local communities could be easily incorporated into environmental decision making.

After this synthesis of the case study results was presented, Professor Mari Ivask (Tallinn University of Technology) presented an evaluation of the currently available models suitable for bio-socio-economic prediction (WP4). This review highlighted the fact that although there were over 198 models identified, most of these were either not fit for purpose, no longer available or were deemed inaccessible to non-experts. Following questions from the audience, it was further explained that these results showed that although the science is being conducted, the resulting models are being used at a professional level and knowledge transfer to local levels is not being facilitated.

The design of the TESS system was presented by Prof Robert Kenward (TESS science supervisor). He introduced the high level requirements that the model would need to meet and gave an overview of how the online model would work. He highlighted the need to build a portal that is accessible, attractive and that benefits the livelihoods of land users. He presented the results of a survey to establish willingness to pay and information priorities from organisations whose members would be using the portal. The key observation was the identification of habitat maps as the primary area in which individuals would welcome more information. He also presented the features that would be most appreciated on the website. All of this information is being used to develop the final TESS portal, the pilot version of which will be online in the coming weeks.

Eighteen draft policy guidelines derived from the results of the earlier work packages were presented by Robin Sharp (Chair Emeritus, European Sustainable Use Specialist Group of IUCN/SSC). He began by linking the objectives of TESS to the CBD Malawi Principles of an Ecosystem Based Approach stating that there needs to be balance, integration and should consider all forms of relevant information. The eighteen draft policy guidelines are aimed at a wide audience including governance and research communities, as well as being accessible to local land users.

Following the presentations from the TESS partners, two key note speakers were asked to take the floor. Professor Jacqueline McGlade (Executive Director of the EEA) gave the first presentation. She began by commenting on the transition that environmental governance is currently experiencing, and highlighted the importance of community involvement in environmental resource management and policy development. She acknowledged that although there are benefits associated with higher levels of community engagement, there are a number of challenges. It was stated that "awareness needs to be harnessed...and there needs to be development of tools and meaningful public consultation". She also commented on the traditional time lag between the development of environmental theory and its incorporation into policy and management strategies. She went on to discuss two EU projects which currently focus on encouraging community engagement with environmental monitoring. These were "Eye on Earth" and "Nature Watch", both of which are interactive systems and are aimed at drawing citizens into science and encouraging a sense of ownership within local communities for their environment. She stressed that she felt there

were good links between these existing projects and the objectives of the ongoing TESS project and felt that there was scope for collaboration between the TESS partners and the EEA. She felt that the TESS project offers a ‘phenomenal way to reach civil society’ and make something of local knowledge and expertise, concluding her presentation by offering the EEA as a “home for TESS”.

Morten Thoroë (CEPF) began his presentation by introducing CEPF as the “voice of European forestry” primarily representing small forest owners. Having worked with community based land owners, CEPF have found that encouraging a sense of environmental ownership is key to developing effective policy. Based on his own experience with CEPF, he finished his presentation by identifying a number of potential challenges facing the effective implementation of the TESS system, inter alia on data confidentiality for landowners and data quality of other observers. He finished by providing two questions for discussion in the Round Table Session.

- 1) Is a focus on species, sites or ecosystems the correct approach to managing environmental resources?
- 2) Can we really survey an environment that is changing so rapidly?

Once the presentations were complete, the audience were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the results and policy guidelines that had emerged from the project. Issues were raised regarding the capacity of local land users to collect high quality data. There were also some questions regarding the lack of IT training and knowledge and the barriers that this presented to the successful dissemination of TESS. The key points to come out of the open discussion session were the need for credible data, the need for effective promotion of the portal among land users and the need to ensure that users are motivated to be involved in the project and that they will use the system. During the question session, MEP Paul Rubig (Committee of Industry, Trade, Research and Energy) emphasized the need for a decision-making system that provides better support for both policy makers and local communities.

Following the talks from the guest speakers and the open discussion session, Robert Kenward presented an overview of the project and reminded the audience of the complexity and challenges of the TESS project. He presented the overall conclusions of the TESS conference and commented upon:

- TESS conducted extensive surveys assessing the governance and information requirements for policy making,
- High levels of interest and competence in citizen based science, and a high engagement in activities that could inform mapping projects,
- There is a current lack of useful and accessible software that could be used to support stakeholder decision making,
- A survey conducted during TESS informed the development of an online portal constructed to provide stakeholder decision making support and to act as a further stakeholder survey. The second survey will assess the efficiency of the portal and allow any necessary changes to be made.
- The development of policy recommendations were based on the findings of the project and support the implementation of a TESS system,

- Finally, that TESS needs to work in closer collaboration with stakeholders and the EEA to provide good environmental governance that encourages and empowers stakeholders.

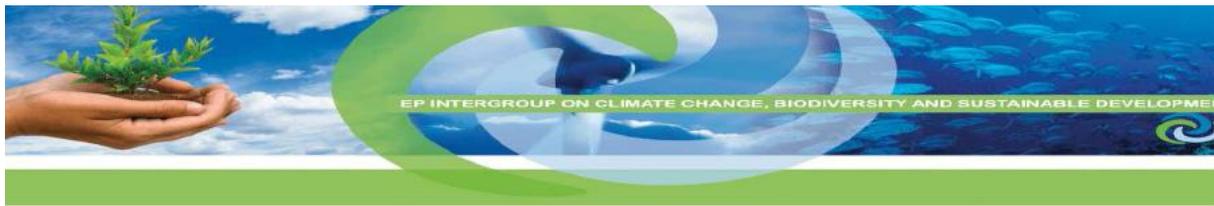
List of conference participants

Name	Organisation
European Parliament	
Aisling Fenton	Assistant to MEP Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines
Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines	MEP - Co-chair of the Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
Gergely Hegyeshalmi	Assistant to MEP Csaba Tabajdi
Hannah Rowley	Assistant to MEP Julie Girling
Paul Rubig	MEP
Ashley Fox	MEP
European Commission	
Olivia Chassais	DG RTD
Katarina Grgas Brus	DG ENV
Luisa Prista	DG RTD
Permanent Representation & Embassies	
Marton Bruder	Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU
Kazi Ehsanul Haque	Embassy of Bangladesh
Emmanuel Lalsomde	Ambassade du Burkina Faso
Mirza Pinjo	Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union
Andria Rajaon	Embassy of Madagascar
Altagracia Reyes	Ambassade République Dominicaine
Tuala Falani Chan Tung	Embassy of Samoa
Partners and Stakeholders	
Nicholas Aebischer	Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)
Stratos Arampatzis	Tero Ltd.

Eve Aruvee	Tallinn University of Technology - Institut of Sustainable Technology
Basak Avcioglu Cokcaliskan	WWF-Turkey
Estelle Balian	Belgian Biodiversity Platform
Pedro Beja	Odenamento e Gestão de Recursos Naturais (ERENA)
Roxana Bucioaca	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Nick Casey	Anatrack Ltd.
Adem Cigdem	European Environment Agency (EEA)
Patrick Degeorges	French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development DGALN-DEB - Water and Biodiversity Directorate
Teresa Dent	GWCT
Peter De Smedt	SVR Research Centre
Robert E. Kenward	Anatrack Ltd.
Julie Ewald	GWCT
Rosario Galan	IUCN
Tetiana Gardashuk	Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Citizen Group "Green Ukraine"
Marta Gaworska	Confederation of European Forest Owners
Ilse Geijzendorffer	WUR Alterra
Alexander Griffin	Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE)
Mari Ivask	Tallinn University of Technology
Jan Kappel	European Anglers Alliance
Sonya Keremidchieva-Zlatanova	IUCN
Annely Kuu	Tallinn University of Technology
Ligita Labane	RIGA
Anna Liro	UK Nature and Landscape Office
Hugh Laxton	General Directorate for Environmental Protection

Dimitra Manou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Jacqueline McGlade	EEA
Emma McKinley	Bournemouth University
Federico Melchioni	OPERA Research Centre
Ion Navodaru	Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development
Olympia Papadopoulou	Tero Ltd.
Jason Papathanasiou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Chris Payne	CEMEX
Anouska Plasmeier	IUCN
Werner Pleschberger	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Carlos Rio Carvalho	ERENA
Josiane Riviere	European Environment Agency
David Scallan	National University of Ireland, Galway
Laszlo Szemethy	Szent Istvan University, Hungary
Robin Sharp	IUCN European Sustainable Use Specialist Group
Zenon Tederko	Pro-Biodiversity Service, Poland
Morten Thoro	Confederation of European Private Forest Owners
Linn Tomasdotter	Mid Sweden Office
Frantisek Urban	TESS Country Coordinator for the Czech Republic
Gabor von Bethlenfalvy	Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation of the EU
Kai Wollscheid	IUCN European Sustainable Use Specialist Group

Annex 1. Final Conference agenda



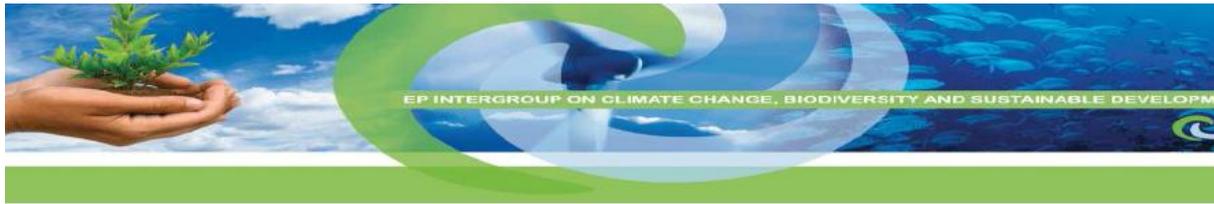
Transactional Environmental Support System (TESS) Conference

Place:	European Parliament, Brussels - Paul-Henri Spaak - PHS P7C050
Time:	May 25, 2011 - 14:00 - 18:00
Goal:	TESS - Presentation of results & findings

The **Transactional Environmental Support System - TESS** (www.tess-project.eu) is a research project supported by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. It assists the integration of biodiversity information from the local level into planning and land-use decisions, while at the same time encouraging local people to collect such information in order to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services. The aim of this system is to aid restoration and maintenance of biodiversity and natural resources by reversing the processes that caused degradation.

Results will include recommendations and policy guidelines based on how biodiversity trends relate to different practices across Europe, addressed to those involved in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies - at the European, national, regional, and local levels (public authorities, legislators, citizens and their organizations).





Draft Agenda		
Wednesday May 25		
Opening / Welcoming addresses	Basil Manos (AUTH) Olívia Chassais (DG RTD)	14:00 - 14:20
SESSION 1		
Project overview Aims, approaches and tasks	Stratos Arampatzis (Tero Ltd)	14:20 - 14:40
Project main results and findings 1. Governance nationally: best practice assessment & outcomes. 2. What works best at local level? Information and case studies. 3. Gap analysis, system design and pilot implementation. 4. Policy guidelines	Pedro Beja (ERENA) Dimitra Manou (AUTH) Jason Papathanasiou (AUTH) Ion Navodaru (DDNI) Robert Kenward (Anatrack Ltd) Mari Ivask (IST) Robin Sharp (ESUSG)	14:40 - 16:00
<i>Coffee break</i>		16:00 - 16:20
SESSION 2		
From environmental assessment to local decisions and citizen science Information customers and suppliers	Jacqueline Mc Glade (EEA) Morton Thorøe (CEPF)	16:20 - 17:00
Roundtable discussion - Questions and answers		17:00 - 17:40
SESSION 3		
Final remarks and conclusions	Robert Kenward (Anatrack)	17:40 - 18:00
<i>Cocktail</i>		18:00



Annex 2: Final conference invitation

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP “CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”



MEP Struan Stevenson

Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup
“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

Cordially invites you to the presentation of the findings and results
of the project

“Transactional Environmental Support System” (TESS)

Wednesday 25th of May 2011

14:00 – 18:00

PHS P7C050

European Parliament, Brussels

No interpretation

With the participation of:
European Commission, DG RTD
Prof. Jacqueline McGlade, EEA
Morton Thorøe, CEPF

For more information: www.tess-project.eu

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Annex 3: Press Release



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The European Environment Agency offers to become the home for TESS

Brussels, 30th May 2011: «Local people manage biodiversity and are therefore the solution and not the problem», said Professor Robert Kenward the science supervisor of TESS project to conclude the conference “**Transactional Environmental Support System (TESS)**” on the 25th of May in the European Parliament. Hosted by MEP¹ Cristina Gutierrez-Cortines, the event demonstrated that local knowledge is key and that people can play an active role in collecting information on biodiversity and related environmental matters. Their full motivation and empowerment are therefore of paramount importance.

Ms Gutierrez-Cortines advocated a holistic approach for biodiversity. “TESS can change the things by introducing good practices and using local authorities as [bridges] for knowledge transfer”.

Fully aware of the potential and crucial role of TESS, the European Environment Agency has offered to become the home for TESS. This offer was welcomed with satisfaction and enthusiasm by the coordinator and all the partners, who see a great opportunity to give more visibility to the results of the project and to provide necessary elements to create good environmental governance. Outcomes of TESS include policy guidelines based on how biodiversity trends relate to different practices across Europe, addressed to

¹ Member of the European Parliament.





those involved in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies at the European, national, regional and local levels.

It is now time to take up a new challenge: setting up a knowledge portal aiming to deliver decision support for local people, empowering them to reverse the trend of the loss of biodiversity experienced in Europe during the last decades. Within 3 weeks, a final survey to design this portal will go live at www.naturalliance.eu".

TESS is a research project (www.tess-project.eu) supported by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission coordinated by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It assists the integration of biodiversity information from the local level into planning and land-use decisions, while at the same time encouraging local people to collect such information in order to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The conference was organized by the Secretariat of the European Parliament Intergroup "*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*", run jointly by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

***END

Contact: Secretariat of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

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Annex 4: Photographs from the conference









