



Transactional Environmental Support System

Working with central policy and local activities
to help livelihoods and biodiversity

Environmental Information Workshop 15-16 September 2009

Kensington, London

The Workshop presented the results of the first phase of the TESS project to guide the formulation of its succeeding stages. These results were set in the context of international perspectives on Environmental Impact Assessment and the use of environmental information for decision making at national to local levels.

Among the 60 participants were experts from the 14 TESS partner institutions, survey coordinators from the European Union 27 and neighbouring countries, presenters and invited representatives from national and local government and wild resource beneficiaries.

One of the workshop premises was that the internet offers the way to implement commitments of CBD parties towards incentive based conservation. Thus participants discussed how an internet based decision support system for environment & land use can enable policy makers to integrate knowledge from the regional & local level into the decision making process, while also encouraging local people to maintain & restore biodiversity ecosystem services.

A report will be available by December 2009 on the project's web site (www.tess-project.eu)

- (i) describing information flows from local and regional to central,
- (ii) assessing local decision making processes, including the use of participatory approaches,
- (iii) bringing these together for EIA, SEA, and other environmental decision making at all levels.

A number of reports will be issued towards the end of the project (2011) to make available all the analytical evidence and results from individual case studies, together with a pan-European survey of assessment processes, including recommendations and guidelines based on how biodiversity trends relate to the different practices across Europe.