

EbA: Knowledge management and stakeholder engagement in Austria and in the EU

**UNFCCC technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation
21-23 March 2013, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

Overview

- EU legislation
- Examples
 - Austria
 - Czech Republic
 - Germany
- Conclusions

EU Funding Instruments & Co-Operation

- LIFE Programm
 - LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects; since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 3708 projects, contributing approximately €2.8 billion to the protection of the environment.
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
 - Modernizing and diversifying economic structures
 - Attention to urban, remote, mountainous, sparsely populated, and the outermost regions

EU Funding Instruments & Co-Operation

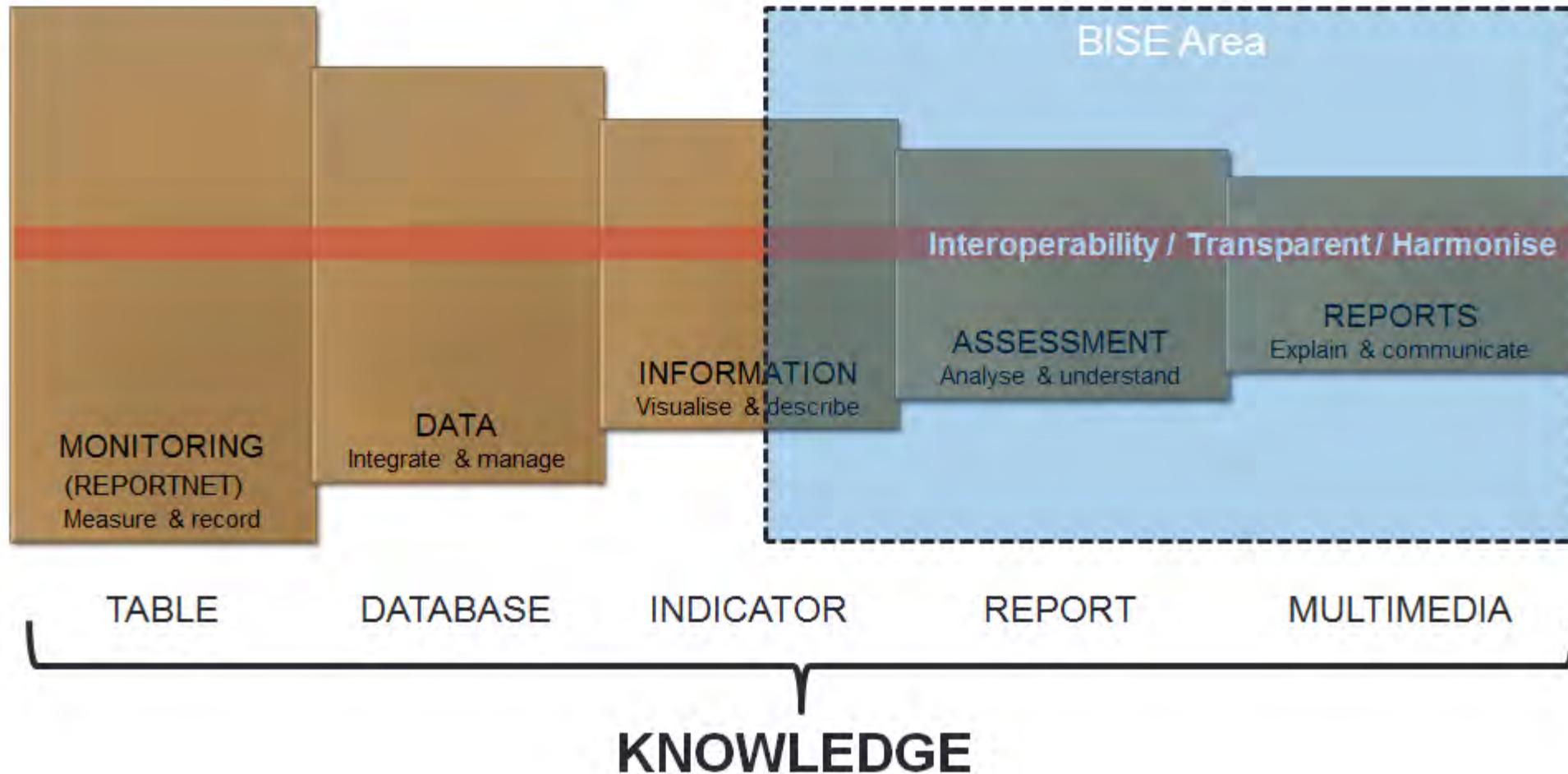
- **CAP: Communication (2010) on „The CAP towards 2020“**
(goal: have the CAP reform in place by 1 Jan 2014)
- Goal: Contribute to sustainable development of rural areas, in particular through helping the agricultural sector to adapt to new challenges, protecting the environment and the countryside, especially in view of climate change, and improving the quality of life in rural areas, whilst ensuring growth and jobs in the countryside and contributing to the improvement of quality of agricultural products.

BISE – Biodiversity Information Europe



- BISE is a single entry point for data and information on biodiversity in the EU.
- Bringing together facts and figures on biodiversity and ecosystem services, it links to related policies, environmental data centres, assessments and research findings from various sources
- It also serves as the EU Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism to the Convention on Biological Biodiversity.

Building a biodiversity knowledge base for Europe



What BISE could do

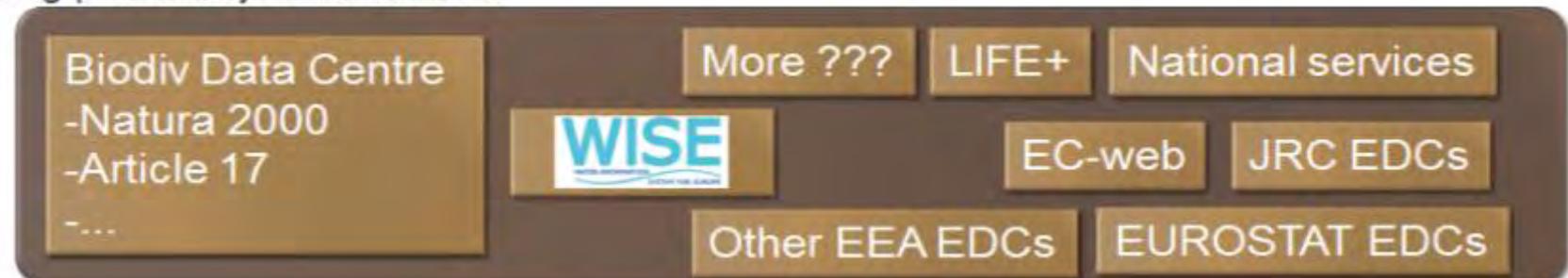
Bring it all together (Glue systems wrapped around context)



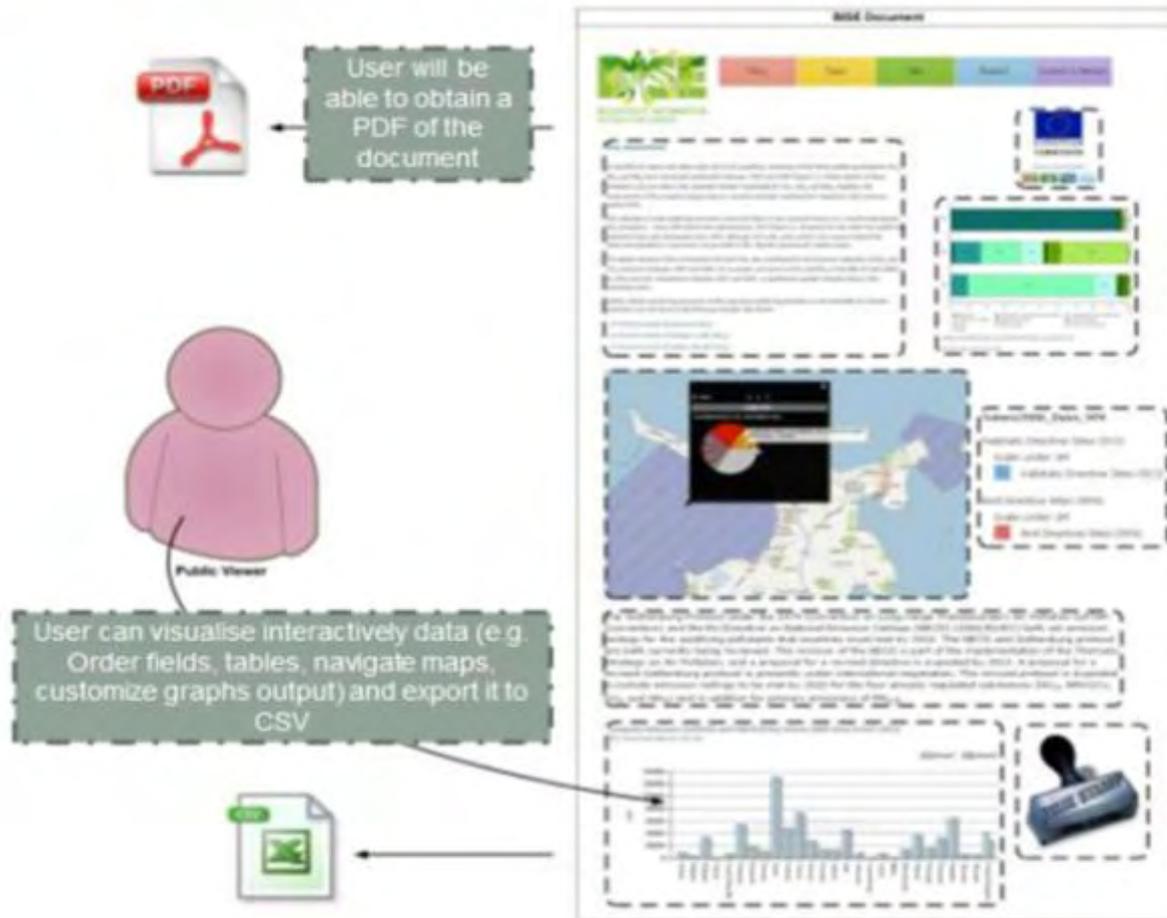
Available sharing mechanisms



Existing products/systems/web-sites



End user



More information

European Commission Environment homepage

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/policy/>

BISE webpage

<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/>

Contacts

- BISE, indicators: Anne.Teller@ec.europa.eu

Austria

Examples for ecosystem based adaptation (EbA) in Austria:

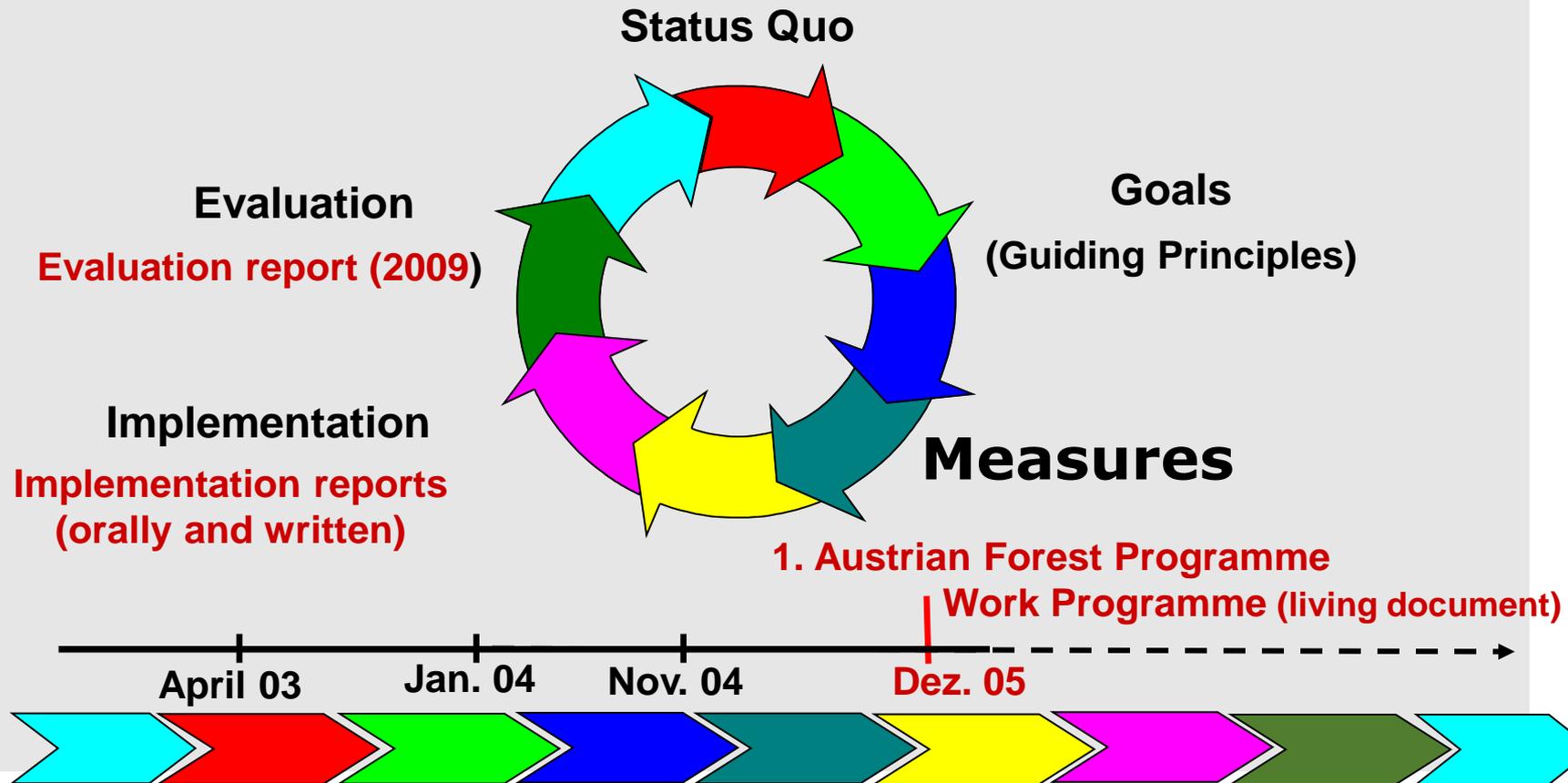
- Protection forests: to protect settlement areas from avalanches
- Retention basins: to manage storm water runoff to prevent flooding and downstream erosion
- Shelter belts: to provide shelter from the wind and to protect soil from erosion
- Nature conservation areas: land that has been awarded protected status in order to ensure that natural features, cultural heritage or biota are safeguarded

Why an National Forest Programme in Austria?

- Strengthen the sector
- Balance conflicting interests
- Raise awareness about forests and forestry
- Keep leadership in forest matters
- Gain support for forest measures
- Create new partnerships and co-operations
- Fulfil international commitments

➤ **Forest Policy Dialogue**

Phases of the Austrian Forest Dialogue



Main Results

The Austrian Forest Programm and the Work Programm

The Austrian Forest Programm



Status Quo, Trends and Challenges for 7 Thematic Areas



**28 Principles
52 Goals**



66 Sets of Measures



Annex: 92 Indicators

Work Programm for implementing the Forest Programm



**Concrete actions,
actors, timeframes**



**„Best practice“
examples**



**Indicators and
target values**

Living Document!

The Austrian Forest Programme

- Thematic area 1 - Contribution of Austrian Forests to Climate Protection
- Thematic area 2 - Health and Vitality of Austrian Forests
- Thematic area 3 - Productivity and Economic Aspects of Austrian Forests
- Thematic area 4 - Biological Diversity in Austrian Forests
- Thematic area 5 - Protective Functions of Austrian Forests
- Thematic area 6 - Social and Economic Aspects of Austrian Forests
- Thematic area 7 - **Austria's International Responsibility for Sustainable Forest Management**

What is different now?

- Broader knowledge of values, interests, positions and conflicts
- New commitments for action
- New coalitions, partnerships and cooperation
- New culture of discussion and decision making
- Quick opinion on emerging issues
- Pragmatic, implementation-oriented Strategy Programme
- Structural Platform for tackling diverse forest relevant issues
- Challenges
 - keep the momentum
 - continuous evaluation

Czech Republic - Project Wetland and ponds Hladoměř (1)

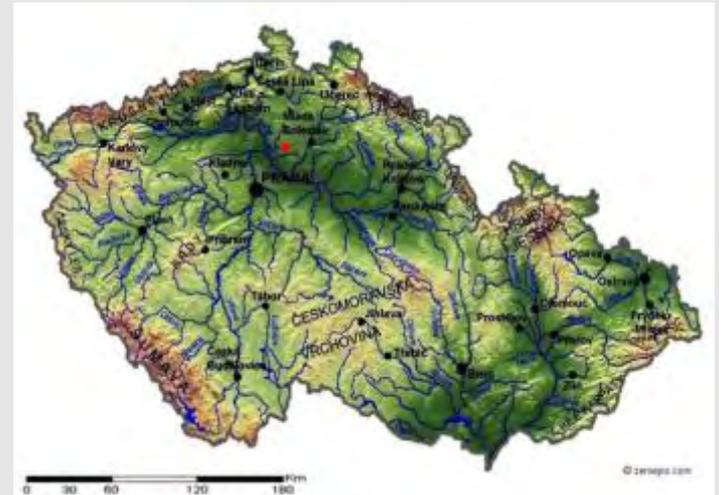
Adaptation measures on watercourses and floodplains

Objectives:

- slow water runoff from the watershed
- ensure the protection and creation of habitats for aquatic and water-bound ecosystems,
- increasing self-cleaning water flows,
- Interaction between groundwater and surface water
- Create space for extensive recreation of locals

Czech Republic - Project Wetland and ponds Hladoměř (2)

- Location: Community Stará Lysá
- Finance: Co-financing from EU fund, village and State Environmental Fund
- Total excavation system of 5.61 ha
- Lessons learned:
 - Good cooperation of local and national authorities
 - Positive impacts on local population, fauna & flora
 - Importance of good co-operation with land-owners



Germany – KLIMZUG (1)

- Objective: Managing climate change in the regions for the future
- contributes to the German High-Tech Strategy on Climate Protection as well as to the German National Adaptation Strategy.
- adopts network development in regions and their implementation as a main instrument.
- networks pool the scientific, planning, technical and entrepreneurial strengths of the stakeholders involved in a region.

Germany – KLIMZUG (2)

Facts about KLIMZUG:

- **funding period: 2008 to 2014**
- **7 joint projects in 7 regions of Germany**
- **project duration: 5 years**
- **financial volume: about 80 million €**

For more information: www.klimzug.de

Conclusions

- Financial incentives (support) is key to engage landowners in ecosystem-based adaptation activities;
- Frequently this funding is needed to compensate for opportunity costs;
- For member States of the EU funding by EU-Instruments is very relevant;
- Raising awareness, contact to landowners, engagement of the community and sub-national level are other important prerequisites;
- Challenges remain: monitoring, evaluation, increase of efficiency and effectiveness

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a range of rugged, rocky mountains with sharp peaks. The mountains are reflected in a calm body of water in the foreground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The foreground consists of green, grassy slopes.

Thank you for your attention!