



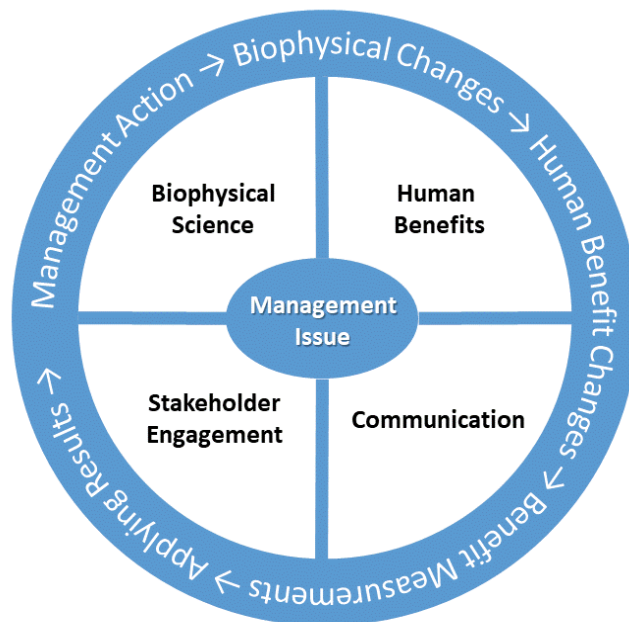
Preliminary Assessment

Ecosystem Services Framework

“Ecosystem services” represent the human benefits that healthy ecosystems provide, including water purification, flood protection, and recreational opportunities. To better understand these services, officials and resource managers need a framework that integrates four key elements: *biophysical science*, *human benefits*, *stakeholder engagement*, and *communication*.

Use this questionnaire to explore these four elements and how integrated they are in your ecosystem services project. The questions are designed to assess whether the ecosystem services framework is right for you, as well as help you prepare for the planning process. While this quick reference is no substitute for a comprehensive guide, describing your management issue and completing the early assessment checklist provides a preliminary assessment to steer projects toward the right path.

A comprehensive ecosystem services project integrates the four components, but any combination can be incorporated into projects. For some questions, the answers may be uncovered as the project progresses. If your response to any of the checklist questions is “no” or “unsure,” you may need additional reflection or planning.



What's Your Issue?

Clearly defining the management issue (or question) is an important first step when starting an ecosystem services project. Complete the following questions to help define the issue, desired outcomes, and potential stakeholders, which can include beneficiaries and users of this information.

What is your management question or issue?

Example: When are living shorelines optimal for use, for both individuals and the environment? What are the costs and benefits of living shorelines?

What are the desired outcomes of this work?

Example: Managers, decision-makers, and property owners making informed decisions based on the best available science on living shorelines. This may include estimates for costs of implementation as well as costs avoided.

Who might benefit from or use this information?

Example: land owners, planners, engineers, developers

Early Assessment Checklist

Section I. Does your project align with the ecosystem services framework?	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Is there a clear management question or issue?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you know what actions you are going to take to address your management issue?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you know what the biophysical changes and corresponding impacts to services and human benefits would be?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you know which stakeholder groups are involved in your management issue?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you know who would benefit from your management scenario?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you have a desired future outcome of the ecosystem services project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section II. What expertise and data do you need?	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Do you have the necessary expertise on your project team?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you know what data or information you will need for your project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Could highlighting multiple benefits or co-benefits contribute to funding and collaboration opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section III. How ready are you to begin project planning?	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Have you identified a method, or methods, for measuring the change in biophysical health and function?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you identified a method, or methods, for measuring human benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you have a plan for engaging stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Have you thought about how the team will communicate the project results to partners and stakeholders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you know how the project results will be used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have you thought about potential barriers and solutions for using the results of your project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

