

French evaluation of ecosystems and services of ecosystems

The project EFESE (" Evaluation française des écosystèmes et des services d'écosystèmes ")

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Biodiversity conservation and protection is a difficult target to turn into individual and collective decisions while consequences are real and visible such as species mass extinction and natural habitat reduction. These are not the only visible signs: superficial and underground waters pollution, alien invasive species development, low resilience of territories to extreme climatic events, etc.

In natural resources rarefaction and uncertainty context, the time of assessment has come to give clues to policy makers as well as citizens to foresee ecological, social and economic consequences of ecosystem management decisions.

The French national assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services (EFESE) launched in 2012 and led by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development aims at answering these challenges. The assessment constitutes one of the answers to the European commitment in the European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and contributes to meet international targets of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD). The assessment will also fall within the scope of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Last, this assessment aims at precisising the natural capital concept and contributing to international discussions in order to elaborate ecosystem accounting and ecosystem services accounts.