BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NET IMPACT OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Investing in research increases our ability to discern the net impacts of today's land management and improves decision-making for tomorrow's

Why we need to act

The EU's prosperity and the well-being of its citizens are underpinned by natural capital, e.g. biodiversity and its ecosystem services. Intensive land use to meet growing demand for food, housing or bioenergy inevitably comes with ecological, economic and social impacts. Such impacts affect both the present and future generations. Only if we gain a sufficient understanding of the consequences of land management will we be able to take decisions that will contribute to growing a low carbon, resource efficient economy with a sustainable supply of raw materials.

What we will gain

Investment in research will yield the necessary knowledge to further develop impact assessment methodologies that will enable us to more systematically evaluate the consequences of alternative land use-decisions at different spatial and temporal scales. Such investment will help us recognise the impacts of still poorly understood risks and the potential benefits of novel land management practices, policy and administration, in both public and private sectors, and better informed consumers and citizens. Understanding the potential of co-production of knowledge and empowering people in decision-making will even further facilitate the transformation towards a more sustainable use of land, soils and water. This will help us build a liveable society within the limits of our natural capital.

Key research areas

INPSIRATION's bottom up approach revealed the most pressing research needs for understanding the net impact of our land management in the following areas (see INSPIRATION's SRA for details):
*   develop indicators to monitor complex ecological systems
*   exploit big data,
*   understand impact of integrated valuations of land use management and land use change (recognizing ecological, economic and social impacts);
*   improved understanding of the impacts of climate change on land use, of new and/or mixed contaminants on human health and ecosystem functions and of policies, planning and regulation on the (over-)exploitation of our natural capital;
*   develop tools for trade-off analysis and decision support to resolve conflicting land management goals
*   develop tools for spatially optimized land use strategies;
*   enhance knowledge transfer from research into practice , increase acceptability of policy interventions by awareness-raising and stakeholder participation, and foster policy integration across different land use related policy sectors (e.g. agriculture, housing, traffic, environment).

How to become active?

Get in contact with your INSPIRATION national contacts at www.inspiration-agenda.eu to express your interest in collaborative funding of research to increase understanding of the net impacts of land management.

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