SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

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SCALES

Securing the Conservation of biodiversity across Administrative Levels and spatial, temporal, and Ecological Scales

Anthropogenic and environmental pressures on biodiversity act differently at different scales. Consequently, effective conservation responses to these threats must explicitly consider the scale at which effects occur.
The general objective of SCALES is to provide the most appropriate assessment tools and policy instruments across ecological scales and administrative levels and to disseminate them to a wide range of users.

http://scales-project.net

Project main tasks

- Assess and model the socioeconomic drivers and the resulting environmental pressures affecting European biodiversity across scales;
- Synthesize and improve the methodology for analysing the scale-dependent impacts of these pressures on components of biodiversity;
- Develop and evaluate new methods for upscaling and downscaling;
- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of policy instruments to address scale-related conservation problems, and improve multilevel biodiversity governance;
- Test and evaluate the practical suitability and matching of methods and policy instruments under applied constraints to deliver effective European biodiversity conservation across scales;
- Translate the results into policy and management recommendations and integrate them in a web based support tool kit.

SCALES

Methodology

SCALES employs a variety of methods and models, adapted to the project's diverse components. The project develops and evaluates new methods to facilitate the provision of environmental, ecological, and socioeconomic information at relevant and matching scales.

SCALES assesses and models the scaling-properties of natural and anthropogenic processes and their scale-dependent impacts on biodiversity from genes to ecosystem functions. It tests the most promising approaches, methods, and policy instruments in EU-wide and regional case studies, focussing on UK, Finland, Poland, France, and Greece.

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