



Work Package 4 (WP4): Understanding ecosystem services and the economic value of minerals sites restoration

WP4 aims to measure ecosystem services (ESS) and the potential public benefits from nature that can be realised when restoring minerals sites for biodiversity and landscape. Here, the methodological focus lies on state-of-the-art economic valuation methods. By conducting this research, WP4 seeks to identify the restoration alternative for each reviewed site which is valued most by society.

A significant problem in making safe decisions about the after use of minerals sites is that not all benefits can be assessed easily. Unlike identifiable economic values of some market-based after-uses such as agriculture, other benefits like biodiversity gains or public access to new green space need special scientific approaches to be measured monetarily. Therefore, the latter benefits are often under-valued by decision makers.

To date, the scale of these benefits has not been objectively assessed for the range of restoration types and qualities of minerals extraction in North-West Europe (NWE). WP4 will use new and innovative techniques to compare the relative scale of ESS benefits from different restoration options, and will undertake an economic analysis of them.



RESTORE

This Work Package will help develop a clear, comparative ESS assessment into a more applied tool, providing tangible outcomes for decision-makers:

This is achieved by refining methodologies for applicability to the minerals extractive sector in NWE. Spatially-well-dispersed case studies in NWE enable decision-makers to determine after-use choices objectively across the RESTORE project area and across NWE.

The results will reveal the value of biodiversity restoration for people, wildlife and economies and will help secure changes in policy and practice across NWE, delivering long-term impact and contributing to sustainability objectives.

The WP4 approach requires the close co-operation and the engagement of partners and key stakeholders around each restoration site. Furthermore, WP4 profits by the involvement of international experts of the four partner countries in the fields of minerals extraction, policy and planning, ESS and economic valuation, who will steer the approach with profound guidance.

WP4 will provide legacy values beyond the end of RESTORE for all sector stakeholders in NWE, which will be disseminated through the networks of the industry's European trade bodies, representing the majority of minerals extraction operations across NWE.



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