



## MAIA Final Newsletter

*While marking the end of MAIA, let's celebrate the project achievements in this final newsletter!*



Four years of mapping and assessment for integrated ecosystem accounting have passed and we are happy to say that we have greatly advanced to mainstream natural capital and ecosystem accounting in EU Member States. This might be the end of the MAIA project but the consortium is eagerly looking into future research endeavors and collaborative actions towards improving ecosystem accounting in the EU and beyond.



**A word from the Coordinator**



## Lars Hein

MAIA Project Coordinator  
Wageningen University,  
The Netherlands

*Now that the MAIA project has come to an end, we can look back upon a very successful project with 20 partners from 11 European countries working closely together to compile and test ecosystem accounts in Europe.*

*The project led to major advances in ecosystem accounting, following the UN methodology of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting, helped build a users community, and generated over 20 scientific papers presenting new insights in methodologies for ecosystem account compilation.*

*On behalf of all partners, I would like to thank the European Commission for funding the project, and I hope that MAIA will have a lasting impact on better monitoring and sustainable management of European ecosystems.*



## Recent Highlights

### MAIA: Final Project Conference

September's meeting in Brussels, Belgium marked the end of the four-year research collaboration MAIA (Mapping and Assessment for Integrated ecosystem Accounting). On 20 and 21 September 2022 representatives of all partner institutions gathered at the [Research Institute for Nature and Forest \(INBO\)](#) to celebrate the project achievements over the course of a fruitful research collaboration.





**MAIA**  
Mapping and Assessment for  
Integrated ecosystem Accounting



## Final Project Meeting

20-21 September, 2022

Hybrid event: **Brussels, Belgium**

In conclusion, big steps have been made towards the achievement of MAIA specific objectives:

- Assessing policy priorities for accounting;
- Testing, piloting and mainstreaming NCA in EU Member states;
- Developing and testing innovative approaches for NCA in the European context;
- Supporting NCA in EU Member states through strong communication.

[Read more](#)

## The MAIA country fact sheets

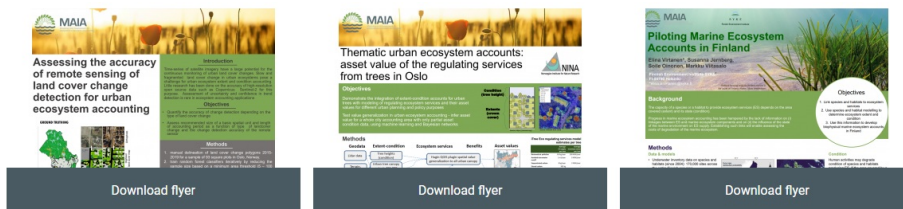
The MAIA country fact sheets have been updated to reflect the current progress and achievements in the MAIA-involved countries. The materials summarise the state of affairs on natural capital accounting (NCA) in the countries connected to the MAIA project.



[Access the fact sheets](#)

## The MAIA scientific posters

We have developed a collection of MAIA scientific posters which represents the progress on NCA in each of the project-involved countries. The full collection of posters is available in the Media Center on our website.



Assessing the accuracy of remote sensing of land cover change detection for urban ecosystem accounting - PDF 1.60 MB      Thematic urban ecosystem accounts, asset value of the regulating services from trees in Oslo - PDF 1.06 MB      Piloting Marine Ecosystem Accounts in Finland - PDF 1.06 MB

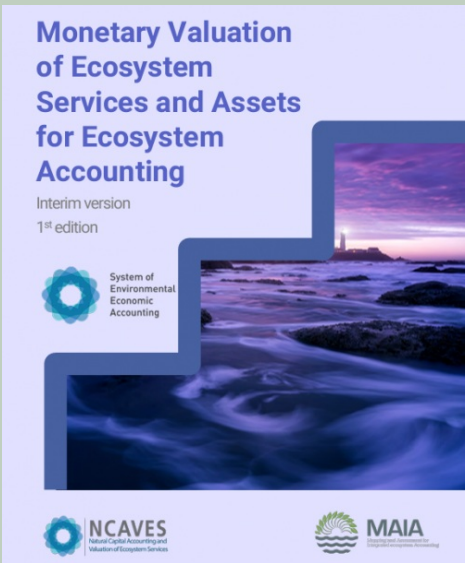


Modelling aesthetic ecosystem services using social media and computer vision - PDF 369.16 KB      Flood regulation ecosystem services accounting of mountain watersheds in Bulgaria - PDF 540.31 KB      Natural Capital Accounts in the Netherlands - PDF 784.83 KB

**Access the scientific posters**

## Scientific progress

### Monetary valuation for ecosystem services and assets for ecosystem accounting



A new report on the Monetary valuation of ecosystem services and assets for ecosystem accounting, developed jointly by the [NCAVES](#) and [MAIA](#) projects is now available on the [United Nations's website](#).

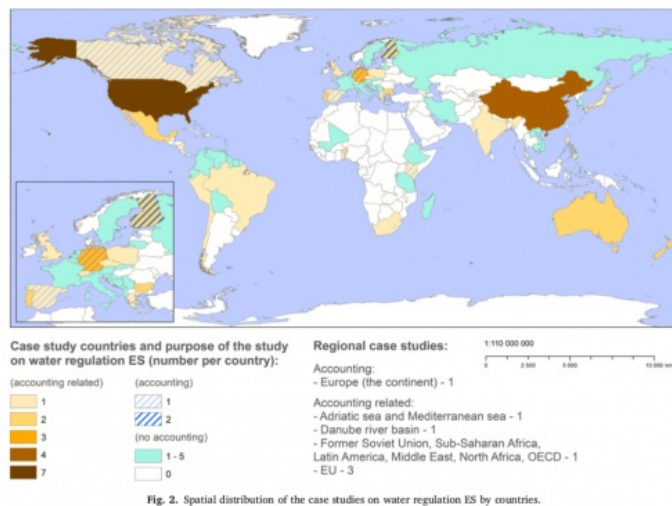
The publication is intended to provide a useful starting point with suggestions on valuation methods and references for countries that are undertaking monetary valuation as part of the SEEA EA national implementation.

**Read more**

### New MAIA study proposes a framework for classification of different models for water regulation ecosystem services

Natural capital accounting (NCA) is a tool used for measuring the changes in the stock of natural capital at a variety of scales and for integrating the value of ecosystem services into accounting and reporting systems at the international, EU, and national levels.



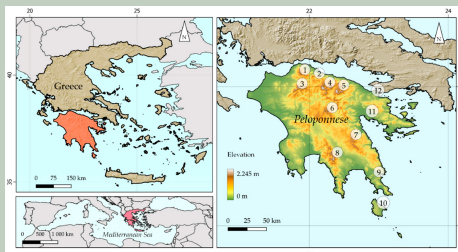


Spatial distribution of the case studies on water regulation ES by countries.

In an article from August 2022, published in the journal [Ecosystem Services](#), written by MAIA project partners, a new classification scheme is proposed that organises different models and modelling approaches. This newly created framework can be efficiently used in water regulation ecosystem services (ES) assessment.

[Read more](#)

## Assessing the Ecosystem Services Potential of Endemic Floras: MAIA-derived paper



Representation of the study area, the region of Peloponnese (Greece), depicting main mountain massifs and areas of interest.

A systematic review on the Greek endemics of Peloponnese, which aims to assess the ecosystem services potential of endemic floras has been conducted by a team of leading experts, amongst whom are the MAIA project partners Dr. Ioannis Kokkoris and Prof. Panagiotis Dimopoulos of the [University of Patras](#), Greece. The newly published MAIA-supported paper is available in the [Sustainability](#) open access journal.

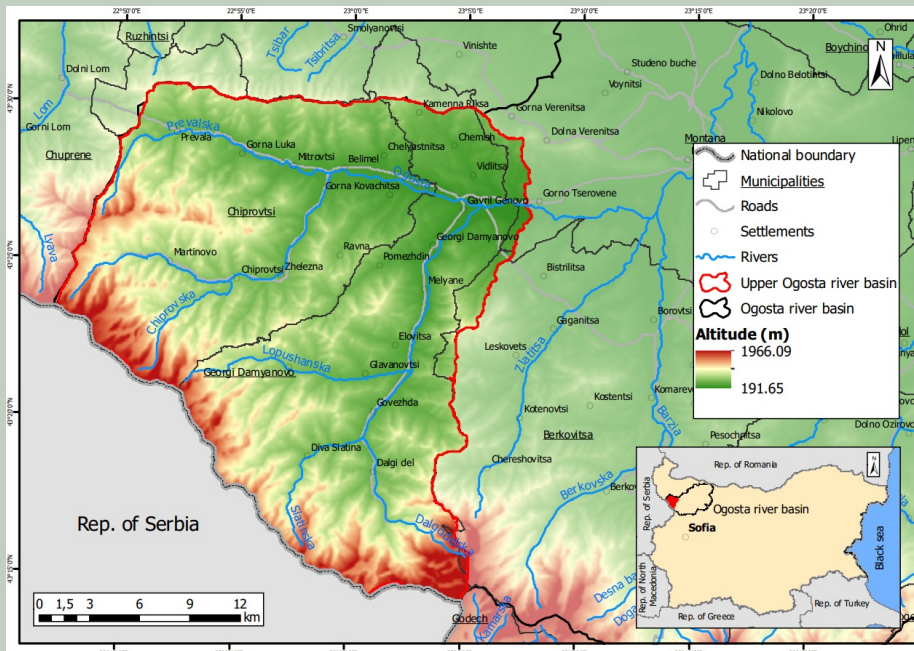
As the interest in new, natural, sustainable products arises in many fields, wild plants are reconsidered as providers of traditional or innovative applications. The notion of ecosystem services (ES) provides a frame to evaluate their benefits, but is still scarcely applied to endemic floras. The conducted study reviews the available literature on the ES provided by the 494 taxa endemic to Greece that are present in Peloponnese. Six main categories are isolated: medical, aromatic, folk medicine, antimicrobial, environmental and craftsmanship interests.

[Read more](#)

## Flood regulation for ecosystem accounting in the Ogosta river basin: MAIA-supported study

A recently published MAIA-supported paper looks into the available SEEA EA water flow regulations for ecosystem (ES) accounting in order to define an

approach for accounting flood regulation at a local scale, within the case study region of Ogosta river basin in Bulgaria. Developed by a team of leading experts, amongst whom MAIA's partner Desislava Hristova of the [National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography](#), the paper is available in the journal of the [Bulgarian Geographical Society](#).



Case study area - the upper part of Ogosta river basin.

The study shows that hydrologic modeling ensures appropriate data for quantification of water balance parameters which can be used for indicators of flood regulation ES. This confirms the conclusions made in previous studies on the modeling of flood regulation ES.

[Read more](#)



## MAIA Workshops & Webinars

### Ecosystem Accounting and SEEA EA 2021: MAIA workshop in Madrid, Spain

The MAIA team had the pleasure to hold a workshop on Ecosystem Accounting and SEEA EA 2021, where the Immediate action and the road ahead were the main focus. The hybrid event took place on 29 March 2022 in Madrid, Spain, where participants joined both onsite and online.

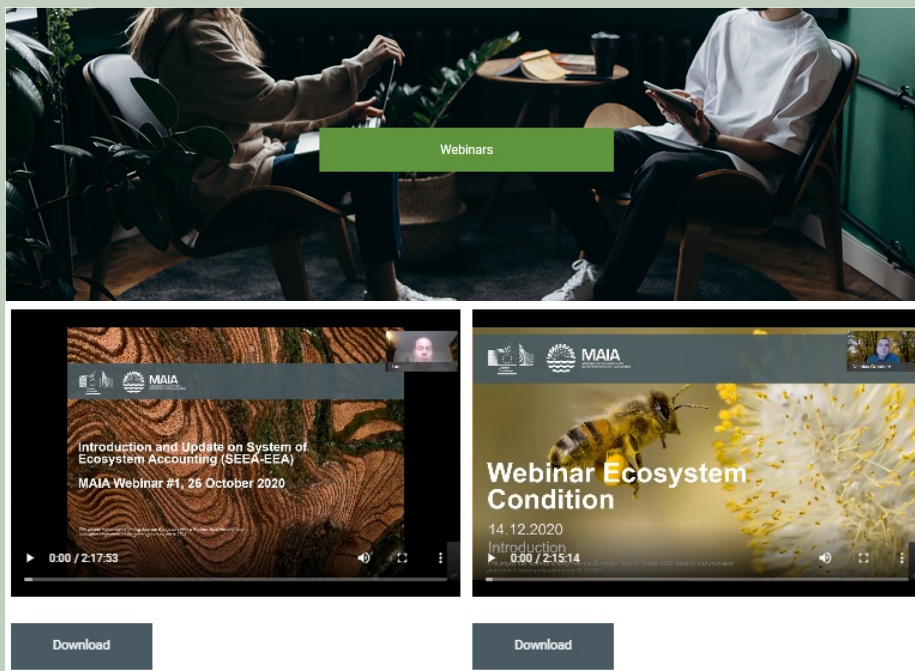


During the workshop, MAIA partners as well as external members from various European institutions and the European Commission reviewed the current status of SEEA EA development and implementation, with presentations on the progress on biophysical and monetary ecosystem accounting in EU member states and globally.

[Read more](#)

## Webinar series

The project has organised and hosted a series of webinars with topics revolving around ecosystem accounting. All webinars are available at your convenience on our website.



[Access the webinars](#)



## MAIA at Events

### MAIA at the 4th ESP Conference: Post-event news

Between 10-14th October 2022, the [Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\)](#) hosted for a fourth year in a row ESP Europe Regional conference. Amongst the participants were MAIA's project coordinator Lars Hein and members Benjamin Burkhard, Soile Oinonen, Bruno Smets, Stoyan Nedkov and others. This time the conference was organised in Heraklion, Greece, and its goal was to highlight pathways for involving diverse societal groups in ecosystem services science, policy and practice.



The MAIA team hosted three thematic working group sessions, namely Ecosystem condition accounting: overcoming operational challenges, Moving forward in ecosystem services accounting: From the monetary valuation barrier to the mainstreaming into policy making and Biophysical models for ecosystem accounting.

[Read more](#)

---

## 28th Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting



The Federal Statistical Office of Germany held the 28th Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting from September 26–29, 2022, in Siegburg, Germany. There were more than 50 attendees from different countries, amongst whom were MAIA’s partners from the [World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(WCMA\)](#). While the bulk of attendees joined in person, several attendees joined online due to travel restrictions to discuss and present their research papers.



During the four days, more than 20 research papers and presentations were discussed, demonstrating the substantial advancement and work efforts linked to the application of SEEA. The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) and the Technical Committee on the SEEA EA provided updates at the beginning of the meeting. The focus of the first two days was mostly on ecological accounting.

[Read more](#)

## MAIA at the European Business & Nature Summit 2021



MAIA's coordinator Prof. Lars Hein ([Wageningen University](#), The Netherlands) presented the project during the European Business & Nature Summit 2021, which took place between 30 November and 1 December 2021. During the session “How businesses can benefit from public sector ecosystem accounts”, Prof. Hein introduced to the audience the goals and objectives of MAIA, as well as the project's online viewer and analytical tool.

[Read more](#)

## Second National Ecosystem Accounting Germany Conference in Hannover

Between 8 and 9 November 2021, the second National Ecosystem Accounting Germany Conference took place in Hannover, Germany as a cooperation between MAIA, the [Leibniz University Hannover](#), the [Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development](#), the [Federal Agency for Nature Conservation](#) and the [Federal Statistical Office](#).



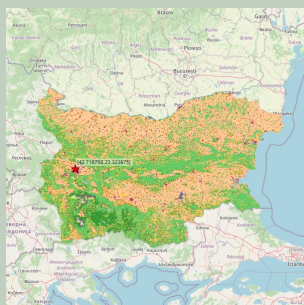
On the first Conference day, the newly adapted SEEA EA standard and its implication for the German Ecosystem Accounting were the focus of discussion. Ongoing project work as well as an overview of the recent results of the German Ecosystem Accounting progress were also presented. On the second Conference day, further insights into recent and upcoming ecosystem accounting actions on ecosystem condition, biodiversity, carbon and cultural ecosystem services were shared.

[Read more](#)



### Scientific tools & advances

**Analytical tool**



[Access the tool](#)

**Account explorer**



[Access the explorer](#)

**E-learning tool**



[Access the tool](#)



### Social media



Our social media reflects all actions performed in the past four years. Dive deep into our channels to find out all about MAIA and stay tuned for the most significant post-project updates!

