

***Sustaining Environmental Capital:  
Making it Happen***

**Assessments**

**President's Council of Advisors on  
Science and Technology**

**September 12, 2013**

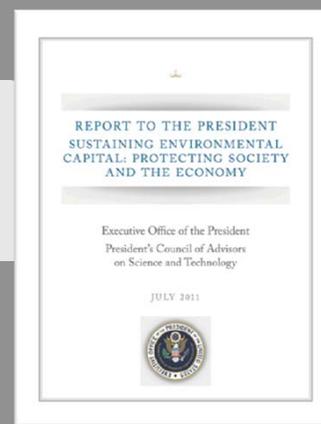
**Dr. Ann Bartuska**

**Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education & Economics**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

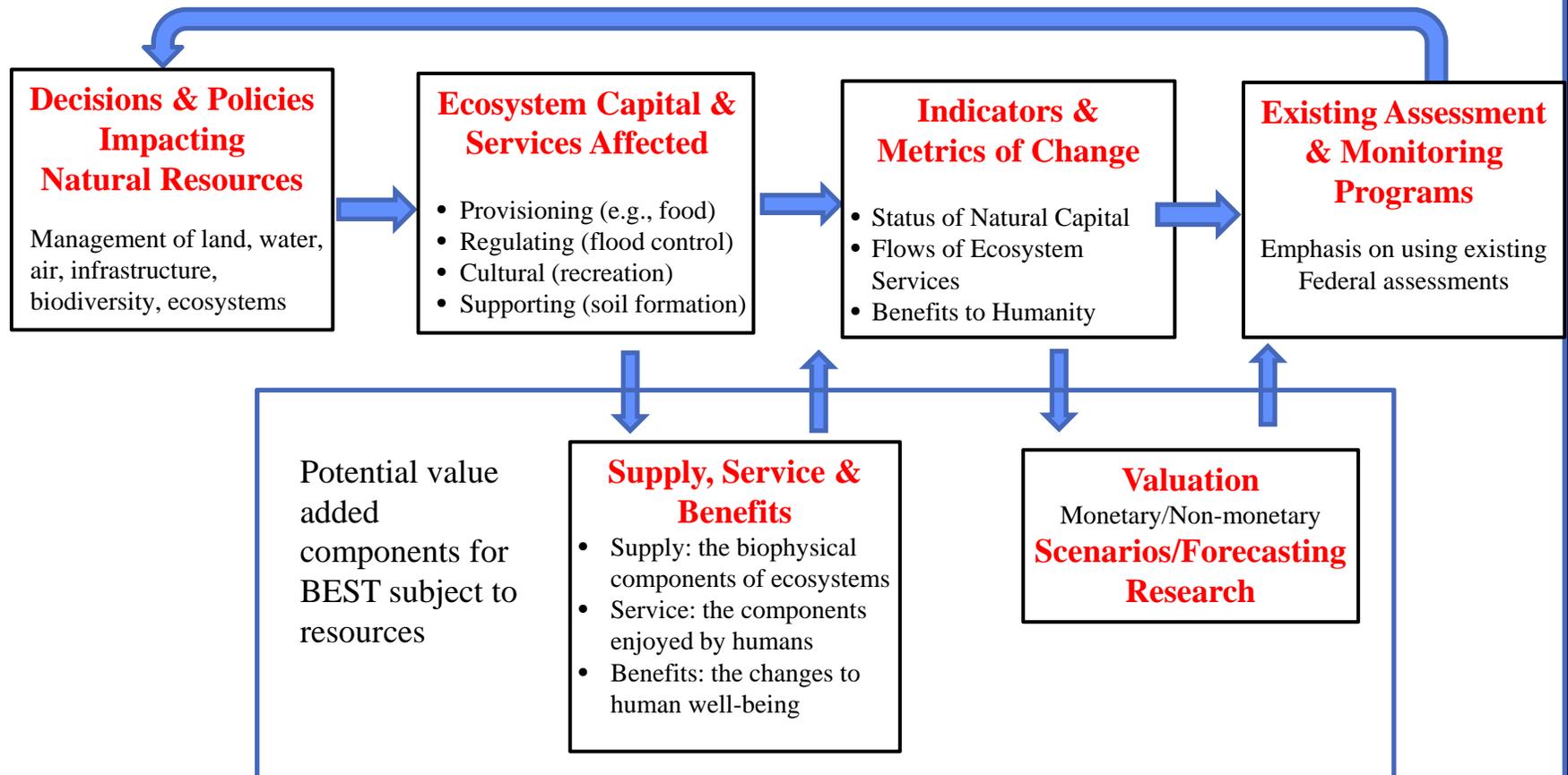
# Overview

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>Quadrennial Ecosystem Services Trends (QuEST) Assessment</b>	<b>CENRS SES BEST – within existing resources</b>
<b>Ecoinformatics-based Open Resources and Machine Accessibility (EcoINFORMA)</b>	<b>CENRS SES BioEco Informatics Working Group</b>
<b>Biodiversity inventories and monitoring</b>	<b>CENRS Civil Earth Observations Strategy-USGEO</b>
<b>Cost efficiency expenditure prioritization</b>	<b>Pending</b>
<b>Ecosystem services in decision-making</b>	<b>CENRS SES Ecosystem Services Working Group</b>
<b>Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)</b>	<b>State Department</b>



# BEST Approach

## Framework: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Trends (BEST) Assessment



## **BEST Approach (continued)**

- **Build On and Improve Existing Federal Activities**
- **Identify Coverage and Gaps in Current Assessments and Activities:** Pilot survey of Federal agency assessments and assessment programs
- **Seek Lessons from Previous Status and Trends Assessments:** Federally-sponsored stakeholder outreach workshop
- **Identify Stakeholder Needs:** Canvass stakeholders at existing workshops to identify their needs
- **Seek Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities**

## **Moving Forward**

- **Pilot projects proposed on biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services in decision making and assessment – learning what works**
- **Collate common understandings, methodologies, and definitions**
- **Support guidance for agencies**
- **Expand partnerships with other agencies and non-governmental organizations**
- **Research, synthesis, & filling of data gaps**