# Summary of initial evaluation findings for the process of developing the NoK

## Moving from KNEU to a European Network of Knowledge

One objective of the KNEU project is to analyse the issues involved in establishing a prototype Network of Knowledge and identify ways in which difficulties can be overcome. To do this, WP4 of the KNEU project seeks the opinions and perspectives of knowledge providers and users through a variety of methods. The evaluation findings are being fed back into the project as well as circulated to participants to enable an interactive process where lessons are learned and applied as the project progresses. This document is a summary of the evaluation findings to help KNEU overcome the challenges and move to a NoK for Europe.

### What could be the added value of a NoK?

- Provide a single entry point to access information across scales to answer complex questions.
- Unite and strengthen existing networks and better access knowledge and expertise.
- Develop links across disciplines (engineers, biodiversity experts, economists etc), foster understanding and bring together disparate groups.
- Involve a wide range of stakeholders by creating an open, accessible platform.
- Reduce reaction time to policy issues and encourage decisions based on science.
- Assure quality and raise awareness of issues.
- Strengthen policy developed on medium term issues (1-3 years) at a European level.
- Include other types of knowledge (especially local, field and indigenous).
- Develop strong literature which is clearly cited throughout reports (line of sight for policy makers throughout).
- Change the way things are done and communicated between scientists and policy makers.

(N = 14)

### What ideas are there to help us overcome challenges to move from KNEU to a NoK?

- Undertake a stakeholder analysis to identify who the stakeholders are, what their needs are and what they can offer the project and the NoK. Use this as a basis to identify and facilitate wider and deeper collaboration.
- Develop a targeted communication strategy to identify how to ensure the two way flow of information for the longer term communication needs of a NoK.
- Develop the website as an interactive platform to expand the NoK.
- Clarify the long-term aims and role of the NoK.
- Consider whether using NoK as a route to IPBES could provide an incentive for participants.
- Use alternative technology to work in virtual groups and provide alternative methods of communication.
- Build on existing information/data/networks to avoid duplication and/or competition.

(N = 24)

### What are the challenges which need addressing in KNEU to move to a NoK?

- Will linking to IPBES mean that some key stakeholders are overlooked?
- How can we demonstrate the benefit/ provide an incentive for participation?
- How can we avoid an overly bureaucratic process?
- How can we avoid duplication and competition across networks?
- How can we ensure the NoK is independent and flexible?
- How can we ensure the NoK is useful for policy development and practical management?
- How can we ensure sufficient capacity within the NoK (devising questions, digesting knowledge)?
- How can we ensure a multidirectional flow of knowledge for increased understanding across the NoK?
- How can we ensure the NoK is accessible to all, not just large organisations with funding?
- How can we ensure that different types of knowledge and expertise are included (field, local, indigenous knowledge and across disciplines)?
- How can we promote participation in the NoK (users and providers across scales)?
- Are there more innovative, creative and dynamic tools we can use for better interaction with groups in the project and beyond?
- How can we make it easier for participants to promote the NoK?
- How can we encourage national level support for the NoK?
- How do we include additional skills needed for the NoK interface beyond scientific knowledge?
- Do we need a long term vision for the future of the NoK?
- How can we identify and incorporate research infrastructure needs (physical and virtual) as a core component of the NoK?
- How can we ensure NoK is a platform for better collaboration and KNEU integrates existing initiatives?
- What are the incentives to engage with NoK for organizations and individuals?

(N = 24)

Source: Client dialogue group questionnaires (5) and interviews from the regional workshops (9) and the first conference in May 2012 (10).