Art.17 reporting – Polish perspective

Maciej Bonk

INSTYTUT OCHRONY PRZYRODY PAN

Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences

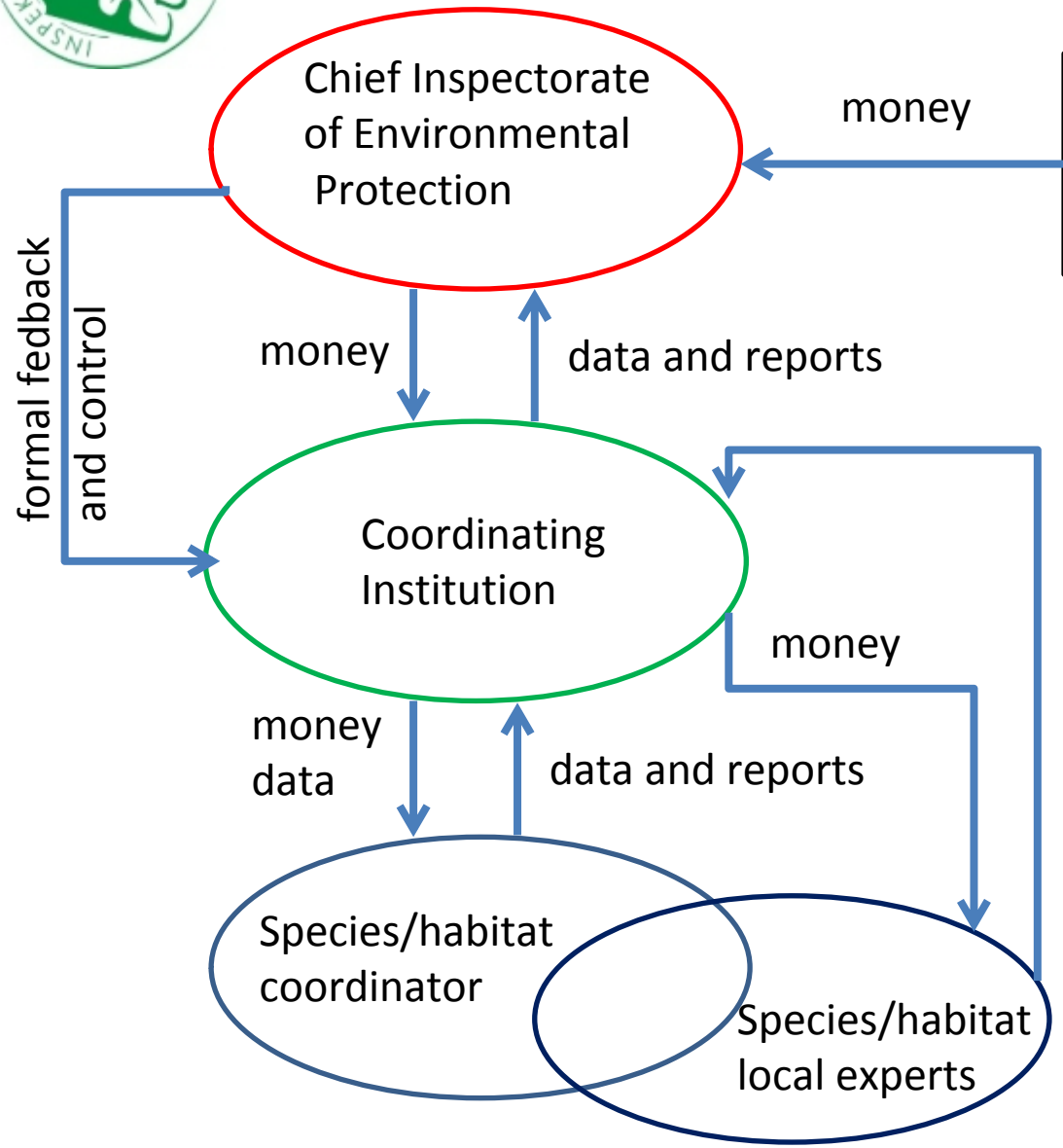
A brief history of reporting

- 2007 – the first report, based mostly on existing data (often fragmentary, atlas type) and expert opinion;
- 2013 - second report, based also on dedicated **monitoring**,
- 2019 – increasing impact of monitoring results on **reports**,

Reported/monitored species and habitats:

-animals: 138/96,
-plants: 60 (10 not listed in HD annexes),
-habitats: 83 (2 not listed in HD Annex I)

Monitoring organization



Institutions coordinating monitoring are also resposible for preparation of **reports on CS**; individual reports are prepared mostly by experts, mostly coordinators of species/habitat monitoring

Main problems in reporting

- **Gaps in knowledge:**
- distribution,
- **population size,**
- **Problems with status categories (FV, U1, U2),**
- **Assessment of trends,**
- **Species habitat status,**
- **Pressures and threats,**
- **Area and Structure & function (habitats),**
- **Favourable References Values (FRV).**

Gaps in knowledge

- Inventories of habitats and many species started after 2006 (after HD implementation in Poland),
- **For most species, population data were not available (with exception of large mammals, very rare plants),**
- Species habitat quality assessments were expert opinions. Now, it is possible to obtain the relevant data from monitoring schemes.



Conservation status categories

- FV, U1, U2 – too little, too much or enough?

- Should always the lowest category parameter decide about general conservation status?

Species habitat status

- Problems with the first report (before monitoring program started)…
- … how to extrapolate monitoring results into the overall quality of species habitat in biogeographical region? (local scale vs. global factors) – **this problem refers also to pressures and threats.**

Emys orbicularis

Pressures and threats

- In amphibian monitoring one of the reported major threats is decrease in water level; in fact very important threat is exotic disease *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, recently detected in Poland, but it is not possible to detect *Bd* during monitoring field work.
- Despite not being detected in monitoring survey *Bd* should be included as one of major threats in country/bioregion report.

Trends assessment

- Lack of robust comparative data from before reporting,

- Data from monitoring which started in 2006 do not allow to asses trends as yet.

Favorable references values

- Still well preserved habitats and species,
- Operators commonly used to assess FRV (precise values are exceptional),
- Changes in knwolegde requires set a new FRV(?)

Favorable references values

- FRP, as most problematic FRV,

- What should be the FRV for habitats in natural succession?

10x10km data accuracy

- Collected atlas data are sufficient to provide distribution map and assess range but not precise enough to assess population size in new units (in 2013-2018 reports, a 1x1km grid will be a population unit for most species);
- Problem in Poland – transforming 10x10km data into 1x1km unit data – how many 1x1km grids are occupied in 10x10km unit?

Structure and function (habitats)

- Definition of natural habitat type (new concept in nature conservation),
- Is the same habitat in Poland and elsewhere really the same?
- Good and not good condition of a habitat type (lack of clear definition in Guidelines). Different MS may have different concepts of good condition.
- Habitat area: how to assess it without dedicated inventory (in Poland monitoring schemes focus on habitat quality),

How to solve problems?

- Gaps in knowledge – national **inventories** program,
- Trends assessments – national **monitoring** program,
- Species habitat status – an **(carreful)** algorithm for monitoring results extrapolation in region,
- FRP – at least in some cases FRD may be a goog proxy of populations (i.e. when no comperative data available),
- Pressures and threats i region should (if needed) include p&t not detected during monitoring.

Conclusions

- It is important to establish large-scale monitoring program, including so far existing monitoring schemes
- Monitoring schemes should be as simple as possible (in case of species it should focus on distribution and population data)
- Very important are large-scale inventories (particularly of habitat types)
- Monitoring surveys should be performed mostly by experts, as the determination of certain indices requires best expert judgment