

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES CONSERVATION AS A VALUABLE ASSET TO LOCAL COMMUNITY'S SUSTAINABILITY

PH.D. RESEARCH
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1. PURPOSE

Explore the potential of municipal ecosystem services (ES) conservation schemes to generate economic revenues, and the potential application of these revenues to ensure the sustainability of local communities.

Specifically:

- I. Develop a local revenue-generating mechanism based on ES conservation through Municipal Plans;
- II. Contribute to a perception of ES conservation as an opportunity for the sustainability of local communities.

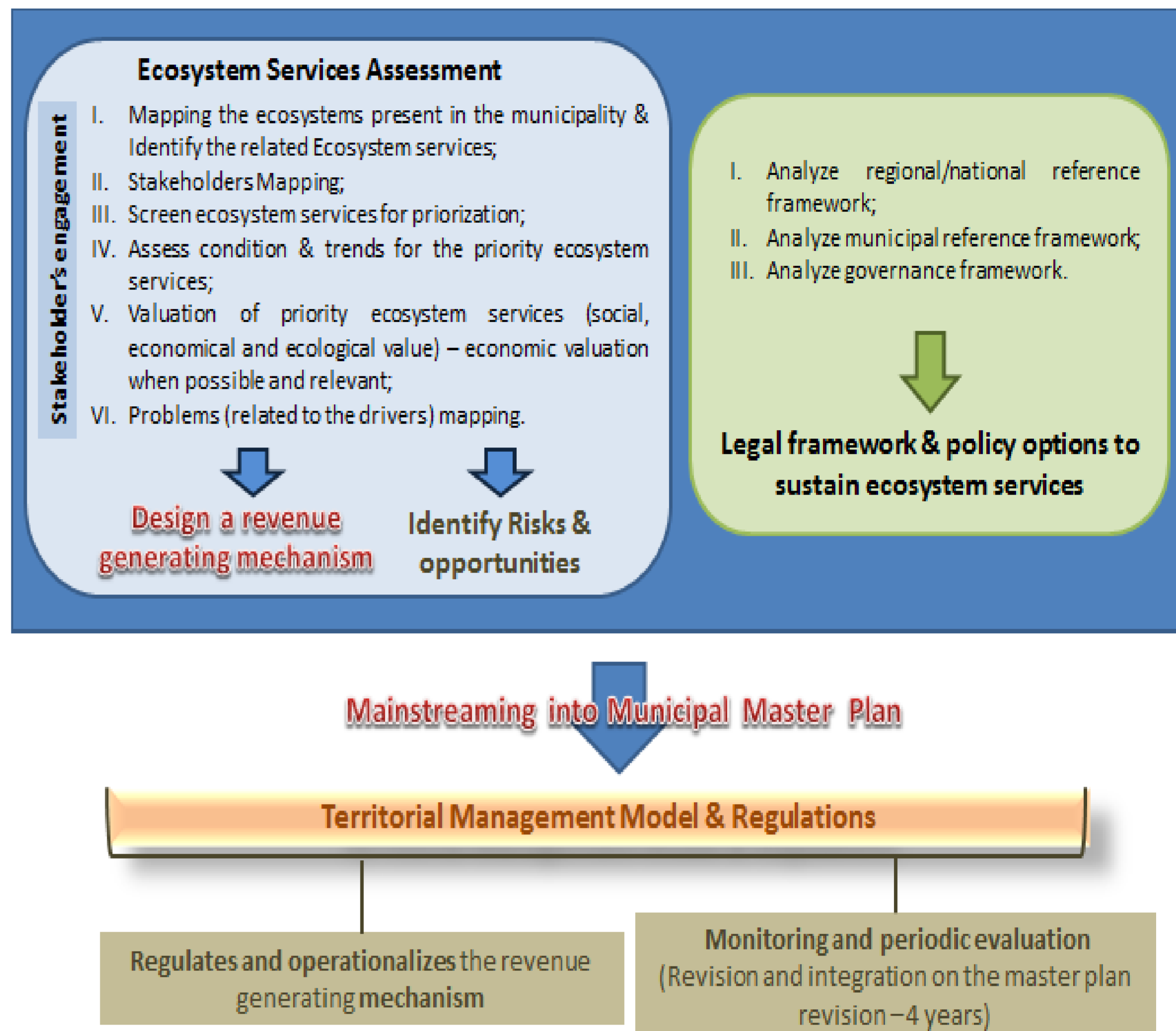
Research questions:

- I. How to mainstream ecosystem services (ES) in local planning and management?
- II. How to finance a sustainable and equitable local management of ES?

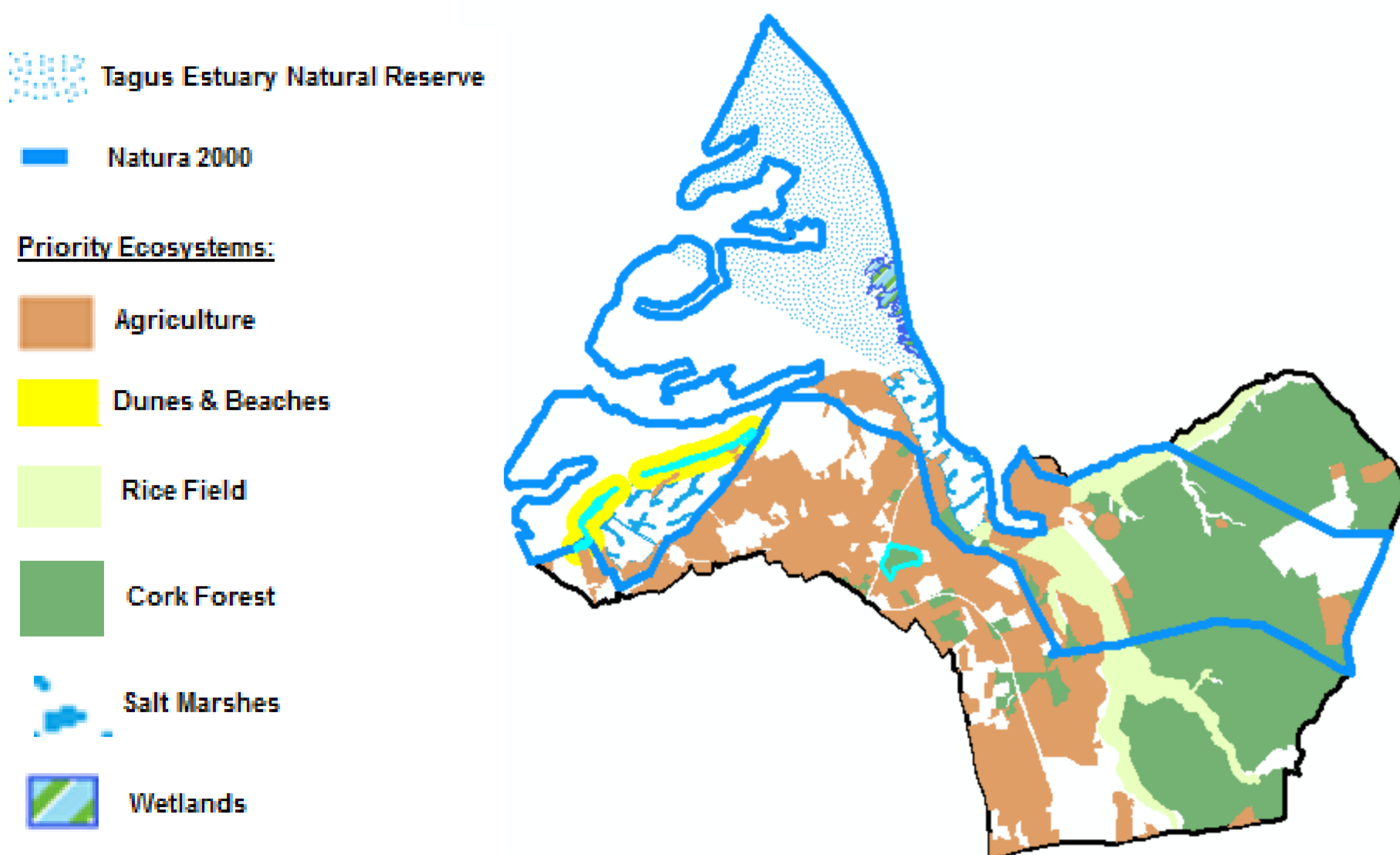
Hypotheses:

- I. Municipalities can incorporate ES conservation into territorial planning, through Municipal Master Plans;
- II. Municipalities can implement ES conservation mechanisms that generates economic gains;
- III. The economic gains generated are likely to finance ES conservation and improvement, contributing to the local economy sustainability.

2. METHODOLOGY (DRAFT)



3. CASE STUDY: ALCOCHETE MUNICIPALITY



Why Alcochete Municipality as case study?

- Coexistence of a diverse and rich natural heritage of high conservation concern;
- Strategic position in the metropolitan area of Lisbon;
- Municipal Master Plan under review and a Strategic Environmental Assessment being developed.

Expected Outputs:

- More informed decision making;
- Facilitation of communication between municipality and stakeholders, increase capacity for participation and involvement of various stakeholders (which may lead to the facilitation of participatory processes in the future) and/ or for partnerships establishment;
- Mechanism to generate funding for sustainability projects that will improve communities well-being;
- More effectiveness in land management.

