EBSAs & Multi-criteria decision analysis

*MCDA provides a systematic way of representing alternative viewpoints in management decisions and finding a good compromise in a transparent way.*

Why is selecting EBSAs a complex problem?

- Meaningful objectives are not easy to quantify and progress against them is difficult to monitor (e.g. there is no agreed endpoint)
- There are multiple categories of information, including data-products, expert and local knowledge
- There is a large set of alternative solutions that will meet many of the individual and network objectives
- Both the scientific and decision-maker communities are diverse with often conflicting interests
- Different objectives and semantic ambiguity can make reaching consensus especially difficult in such a diverse community

The schema on the reverse side suggests a process that could be used to evaluate nominated candidate EBSAs. An MCDA approach would be chosen that provides a robust, repeatable and transparent process in steps 2 and 3 of the schema. This will provide the capacity to revisit nominations as new information becomes available and provide a clearer idea of the options available for selecting candidate EBSAs that meet local, regional and global goals.
Evaluating candidate EBSAs with Multi-Criteria decision analysis

This schema suggests a process that could be used to evaluate nominated candidate EBSAs. An MCDA approach would be chosen that provides a robust, repeatable and transparent process in steps 2 and 3 of the schema.