

**Ecosystem service classification and
links to ecosystem function & conditions
– reflections in the perspective of CICES**

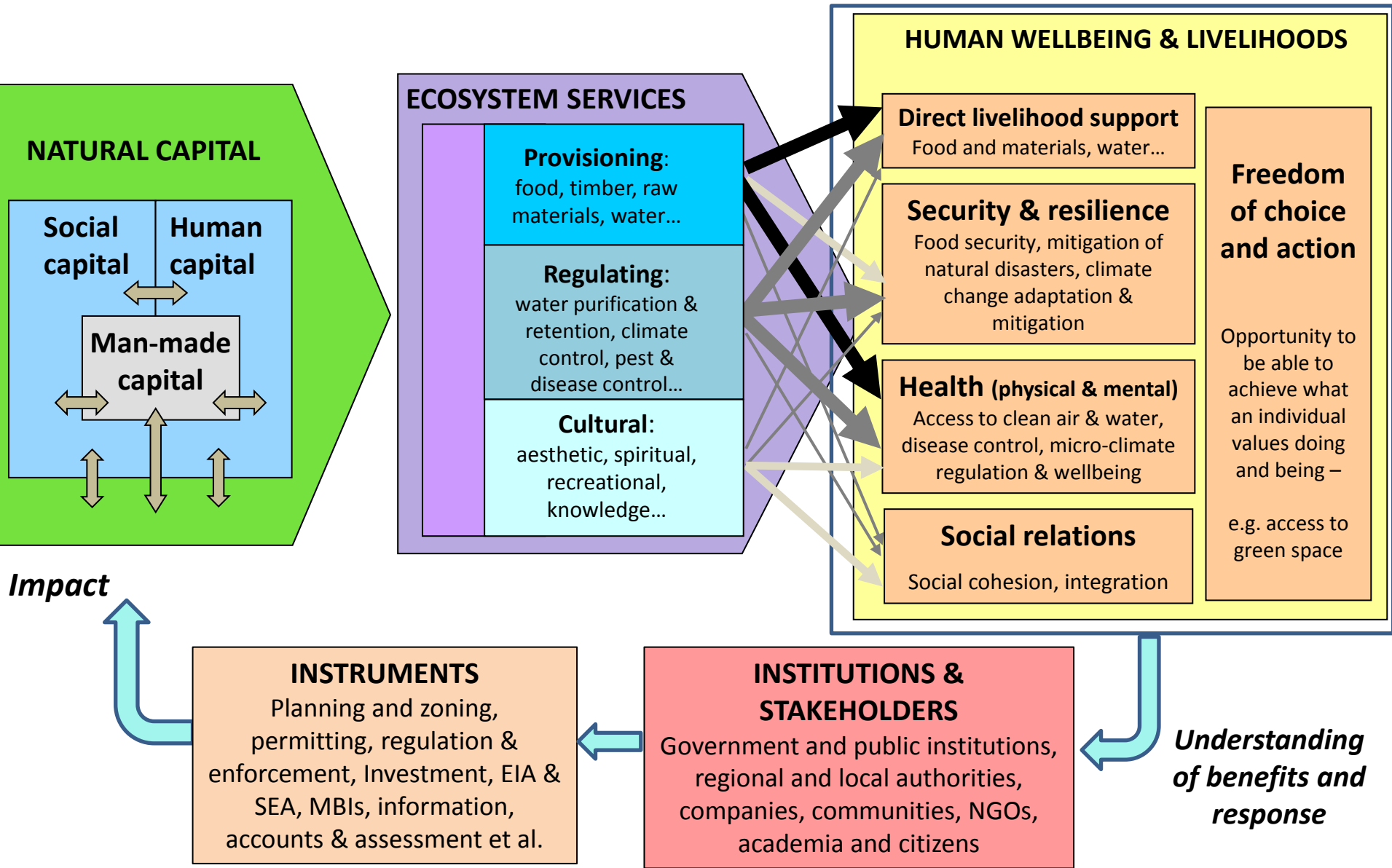
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My main points

- 1) Reflections on the overall challenge
- 2) Origin and purpose of CICES
- 3) Feedback on methodological questions
- 4) Suggestions for moving forward

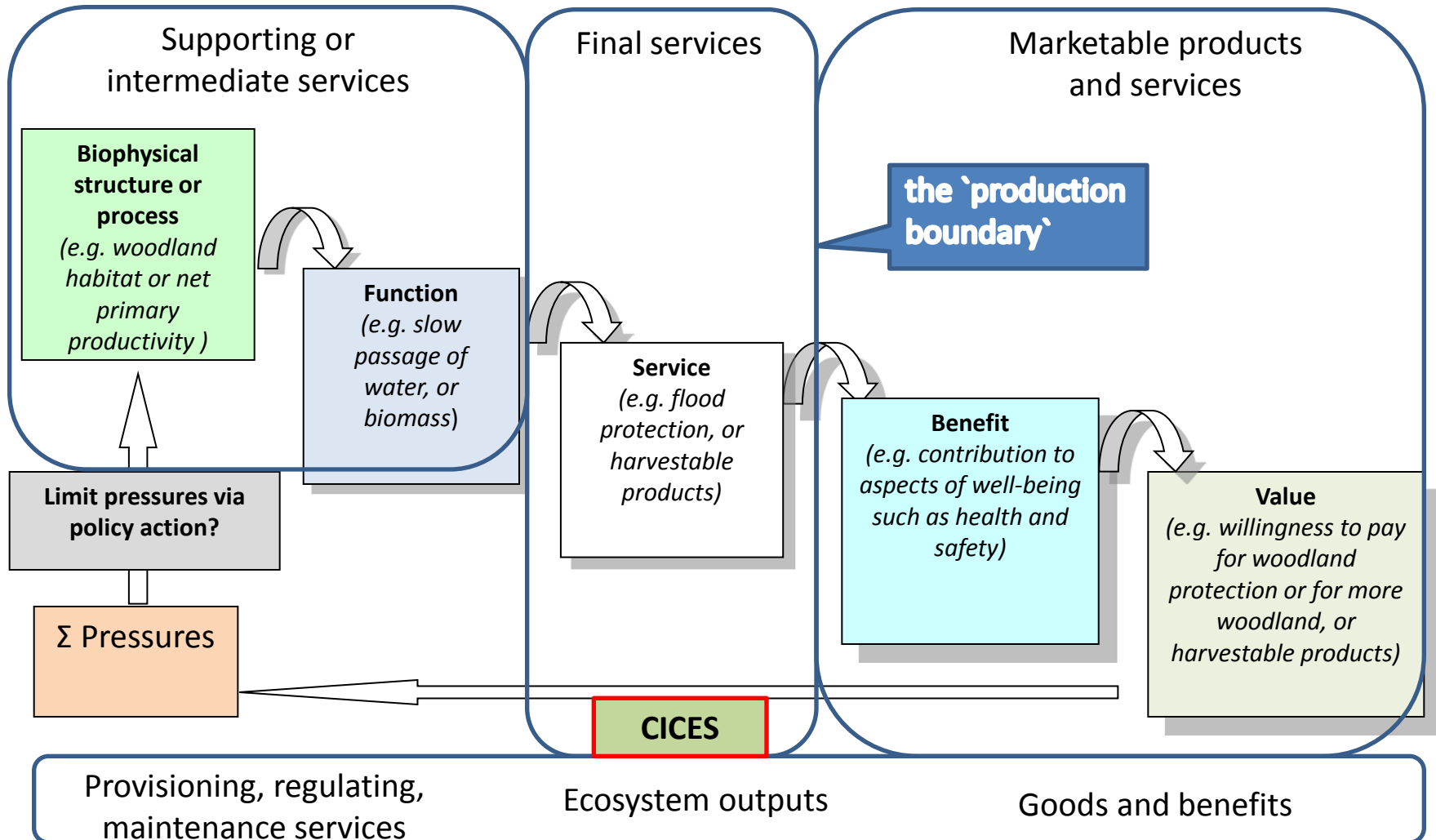
'Natural capital supports human wellbeing & livelihoods'



Source: P. ten Brink, building on MA (2005) and TEEB (2011a)

Environment

The Social and Economic System



Messages arising

- Ecological processes are very dynamic and involve different types of feedback loops
- Ecosystem accounting is a very complex challenge
 - Need to keep it simple!
 - Use a modular approach rather than aim for full integration across all dimensions (?)

Origin and purpose of CICES

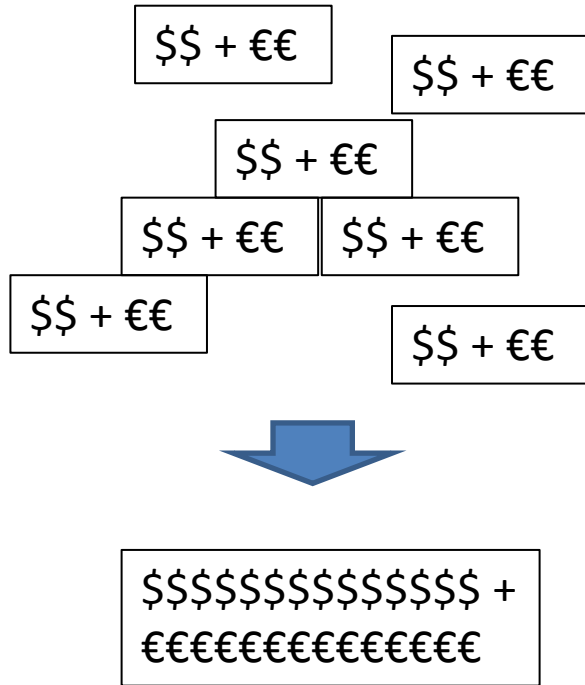
- Work on CICES began in 2008
- Various versions developed on the basis of expert consultation and international workshops
- Open internet-based consultation in 2011/12 -> publication of Version 4.3 in January 2013.
- Purpose of CICES:
 - Develop a classification of ecosystem services
 - To agree on a shared ('common') ESS terminology
 - Classification for accounting -> nested & hierarchical
 - Plus examples of individual services for illustration only
 - No attempt to link through to beneficiaries but that would be welcome (but consider the need to keep it focused)

Some methodological reflections:

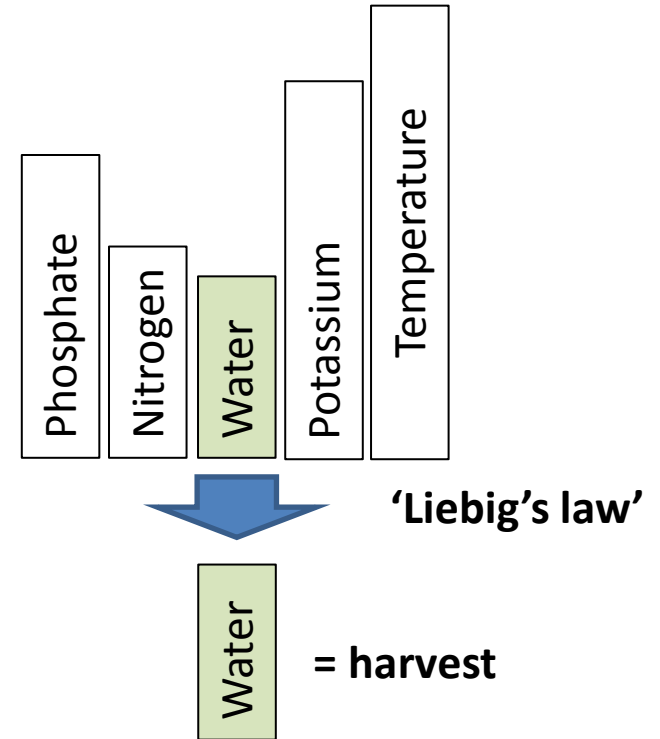
- The boundary question..
 - Difficult to solve, SEEA principles cannot always be applied; be pragmatic, use shared conventions.
- Linking ecosystem / condition to services – this is often not linear, can vary by eco-region and between ecosystems
 - It seems challenging to find rules that apply across the board.

How to add things up / develop a shared index?

Compiling GDP :



Agronomy / ecosystems :



What next ?

- Hear out the discussion today..
- Reflect on a potential link-up with other approaches that look at beneficiaries or functions
- After two years of experimentation there is a plan to compile & solicit feedback via a new consultation round
- We would be happy to put this at the service of developing technical guidance for SEEA-EEA

Thank you for your attention!

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A point to consider:

- Natural and social sciences decompose objects ...



- ... but ecosystems are more than the sum of their parts.