

# Findings from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Prepared for the  
9<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas  
Conventions and Action Plans

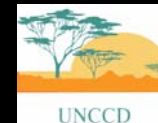
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# The Millennium Ecosystem

## Assessment was:

- An international scientific assessment to be completed in 2005. Conducted by 1000+ scientists from 100 countries.
- Designed to meet a portion of the assessment needs of international conventions, private sector, civil society and others
- Undertaken at multiple scales (local to global)
- Designed to both provide information and build capacity to provide information
- Expected to be repeated at 5-10 year intervals if it successfully meets needs



# Main Goals of the MA

## Create a Mechanism

- to increase the amount, quality, and credibility of policy-relevant scientific research findings. . .

concerning ecosystems & human well-being. . .

...for use by decision makers



# **Basic Types of Questions Addressed**

- **What will be the consequence of a further 30% increase in fixed nitrogen for ecosystems and human well-being?**
- **What policies and actions concerning ecosystems can best contribute to economic development and the reduction of poverty?**
- **What is the impact of economic growth and globalization on ecosystems?**
- **What is the impact of ecosystem change on human health?**

# Main components of the MA approach

- **Ecosystem Services**

The benefits people obtain from ecosystems

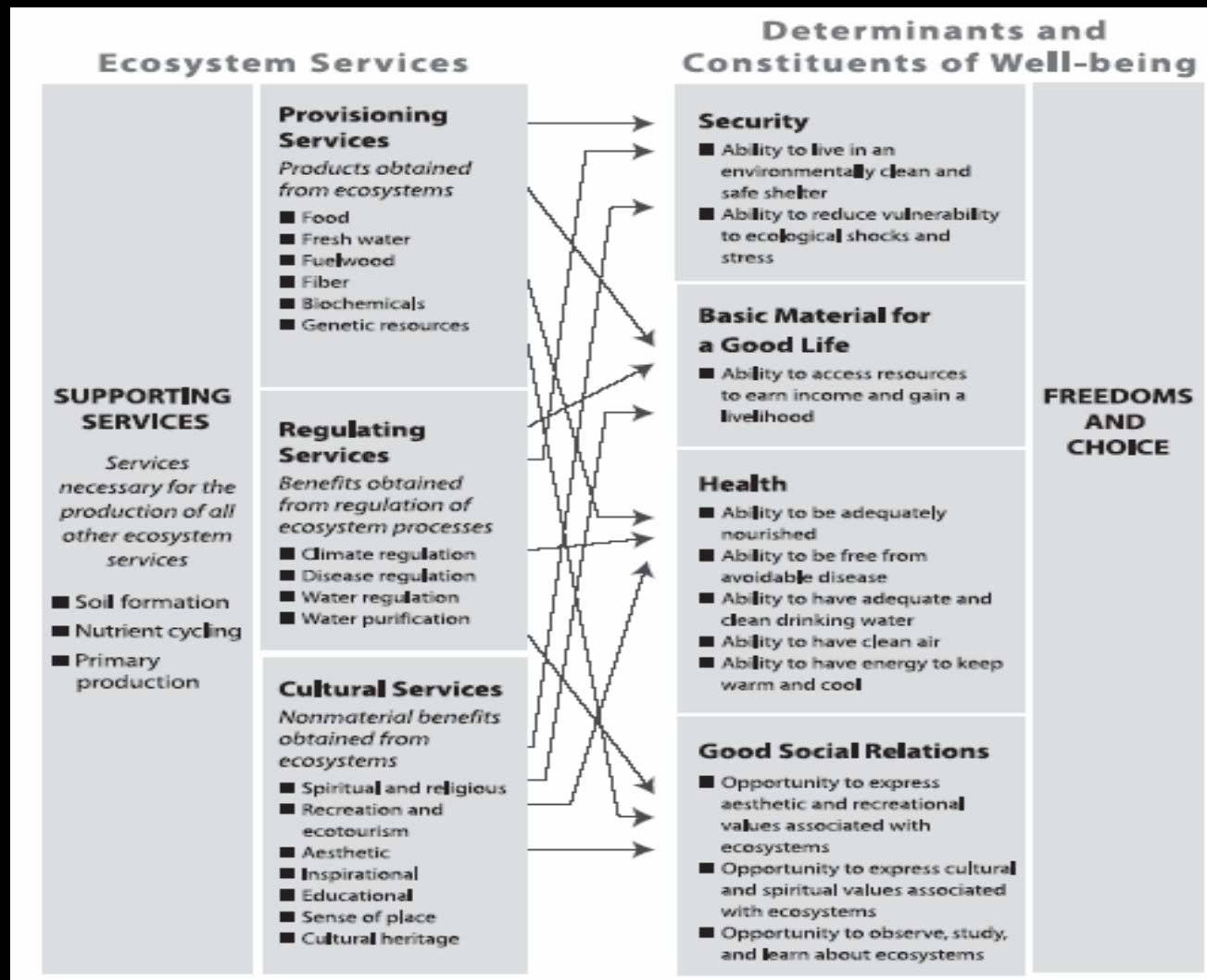
- **Human well-being**

Multi-dimensional and context specific

# Main components of the MA approach

<b>Provisioning</b> Goods produced or provided by ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• food</li><li>• fresh water</li><li>• fuel wood</li><li>• genetic resources</li></ul>	<b>Regulating</b> Benefits obtained from regulation of ecosystem processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• climate regulation</li><li>• disease regulation</li><li>• flood regulation</li></ul>	<b>Cultural</b> Non-material benefits from ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• spiritual</li><li>• recreational</li><li>• aesthetic</li><li>• inspirational</li></ul>
<b>Supporting</b> Services necessary for production of other ecosystem services <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soil formation</li><li>• Nutrient cycling</li><li>• Primary production</li></ul>		

# Links across ES and HWB



# Finding #1

In the past 50 years, humans have changed the environment more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history.

Approximately 60% of the ecosystem services that humans rely on are in decline.



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