



Professor Paul van Gardingen
The University of Edinburgh

ESPA Director
&
UNESCO Chair in International Development

www.espa.ac.uk

ESPA

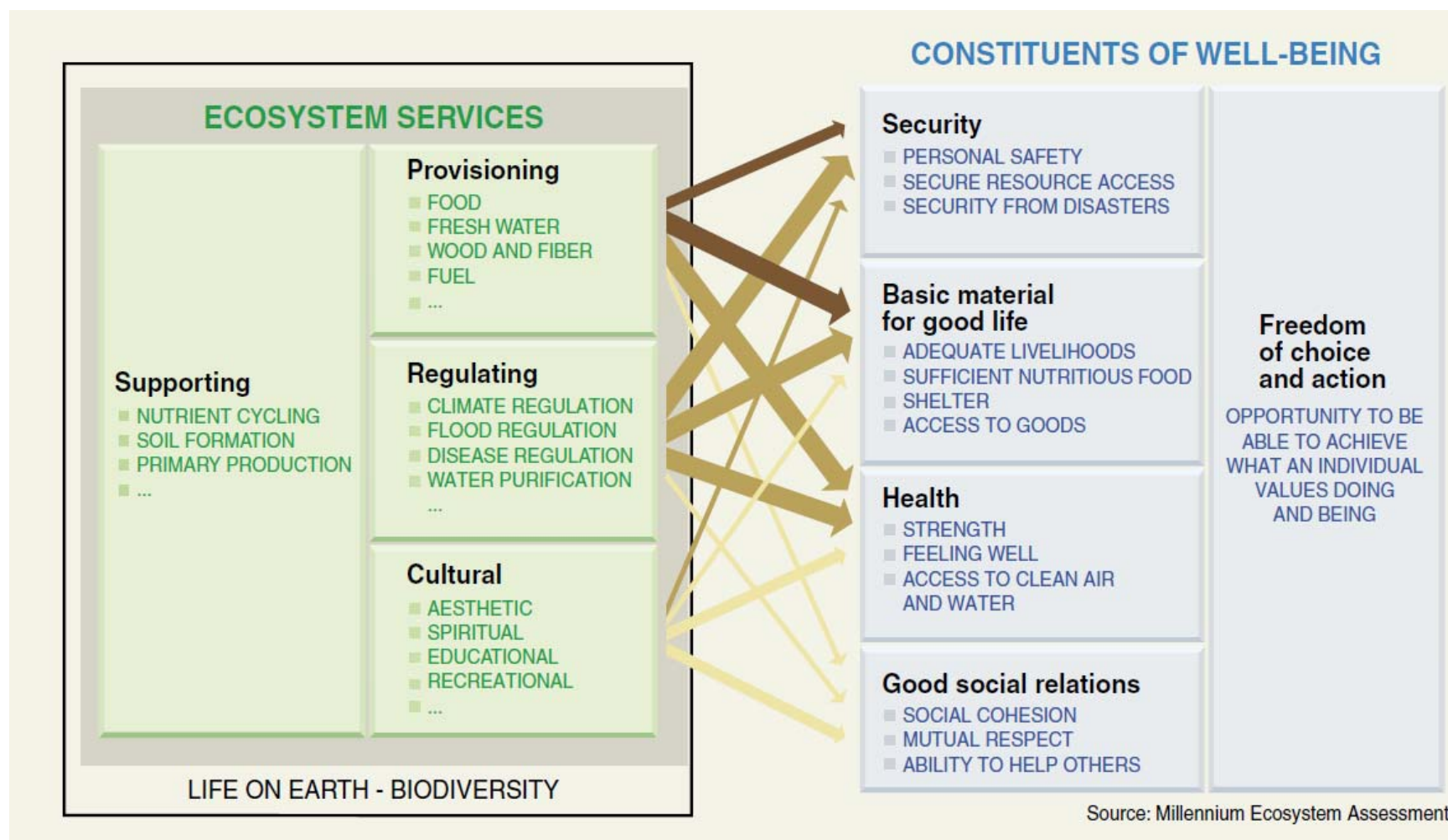
- Part of the Living with Environmental Change Programme
- Funded by the UK's:
 - Department for International Development
 - Natural Environment Research Council
 - Economic and Social Research Council



DFID:
development and development research
poverty reduction / alleviation



Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



The ESPA Directorate



Imperial College
London



International
Institute for
Environment and
Development



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ESPA Situation Analyses

- Six studies were commissioned to inform the design of the programme:
 - Africa
 - South Asia
 - China
 - Amazonia
 - Coastal Marine
 - Desakota (peri-urban)

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/espa/analyses.asp>

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/espa/resources.asp>

6 Research Themes

- **Water** – impacts of climate variability and change on the water cycle, ecosystem services and water security
- **Health** – ecosystem services, disease ecology and human well being
- **Forests** – forests, land use change and ecosystem services
- **Biodiversity** – biodiversity and ecosystem services, ensuring a sustainable flow of goods and services to enhance human well being
- **Coasts** – strengthening the management of coastal ecosystems to support sustained ecosystem service delivery for reduced poverty and vulnerability in coastal zones
- **Political Economy** – the political economy of sustainable ecosystem services for poverty reduction and sustainable growth

4 ESPA “Regions” +

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- China
- South Asia
 - Including: *India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.*
- Amazonia
 - Including: *Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia*, i.e. the Amazon basin catchment.

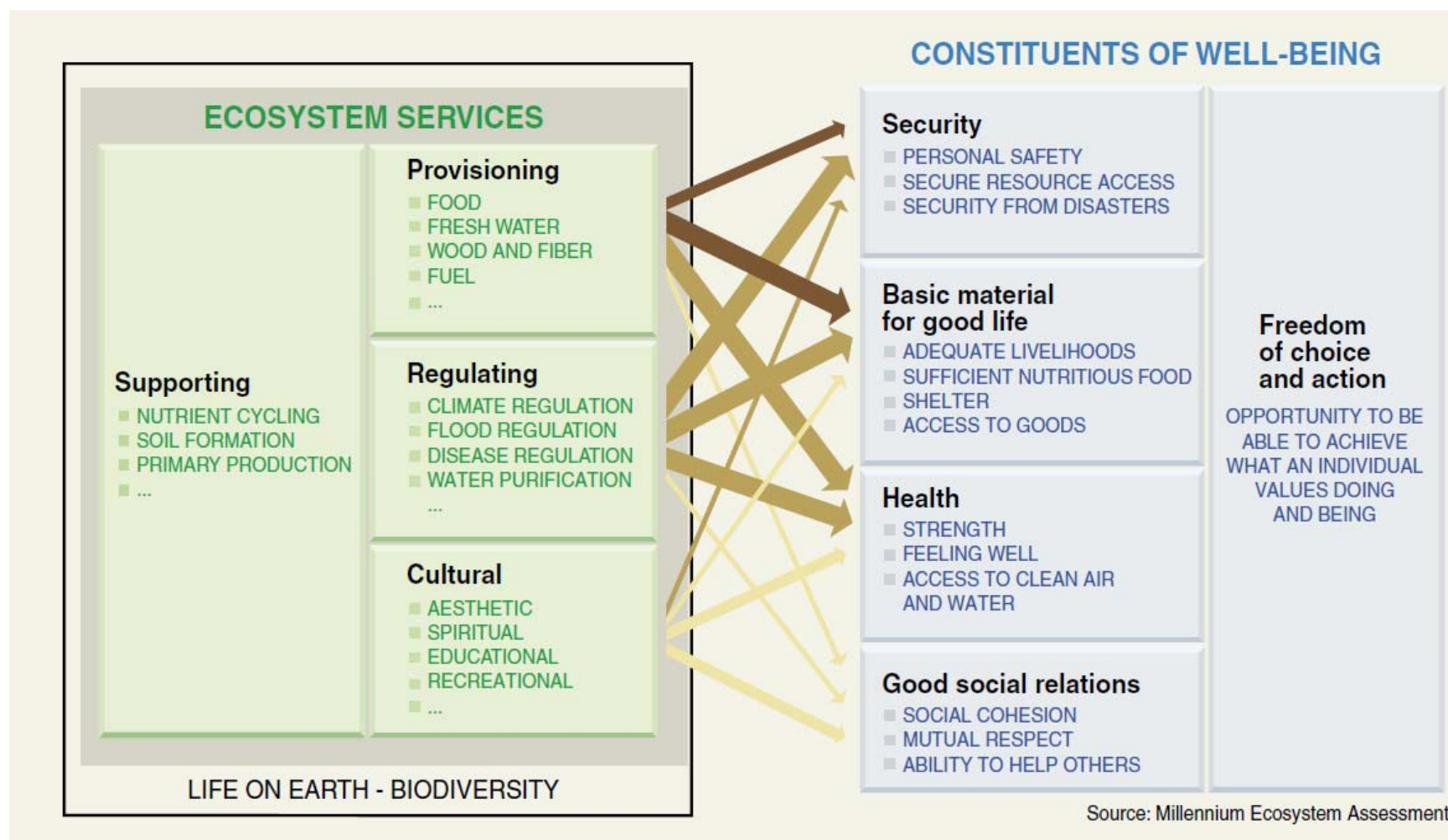
ESPA projects *may* work in other low income countries *where there is a well-justified case* in terms of benefits to ESPA regions or the generation of Global Public Goods (knowledge!)

ESPA's Evidence Challenges

- What values do ecosystem services hold and for whom?
- What drivers are degrading and/or preventing realisation of the values provided by ecosystem services, and how can we better manage prevailing trends?
- What are the most critical dynamics and processes that influence the provision of ecosystem services in the context of poverty alleviation?
- How can we safeguard ecosystem service values of particular importance to the poor?
- How can we manage ecosystem services sustainably, and realise more out of their values, for poverty alleviation and growth/the economy?
- *And other challenges identified by local stakeholders*

Illustrating Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation around the world.

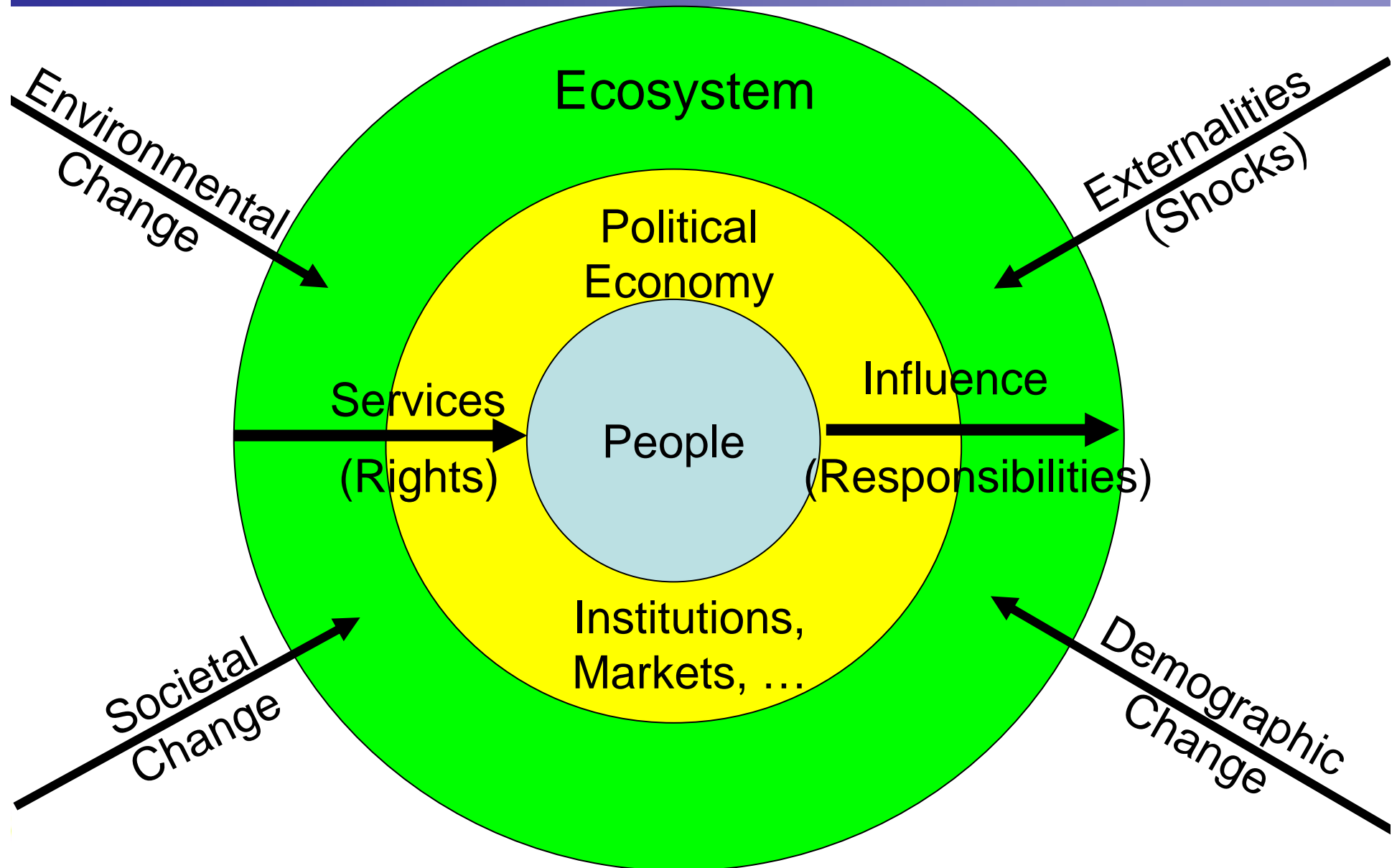
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



The Directorate's Vision for ESPA:

- ***Alleviation of poverty*** through world-class science;
- ***Generating new knowledge*** supporting sustainable ecosystem services;
- ***Empowering local communities.***

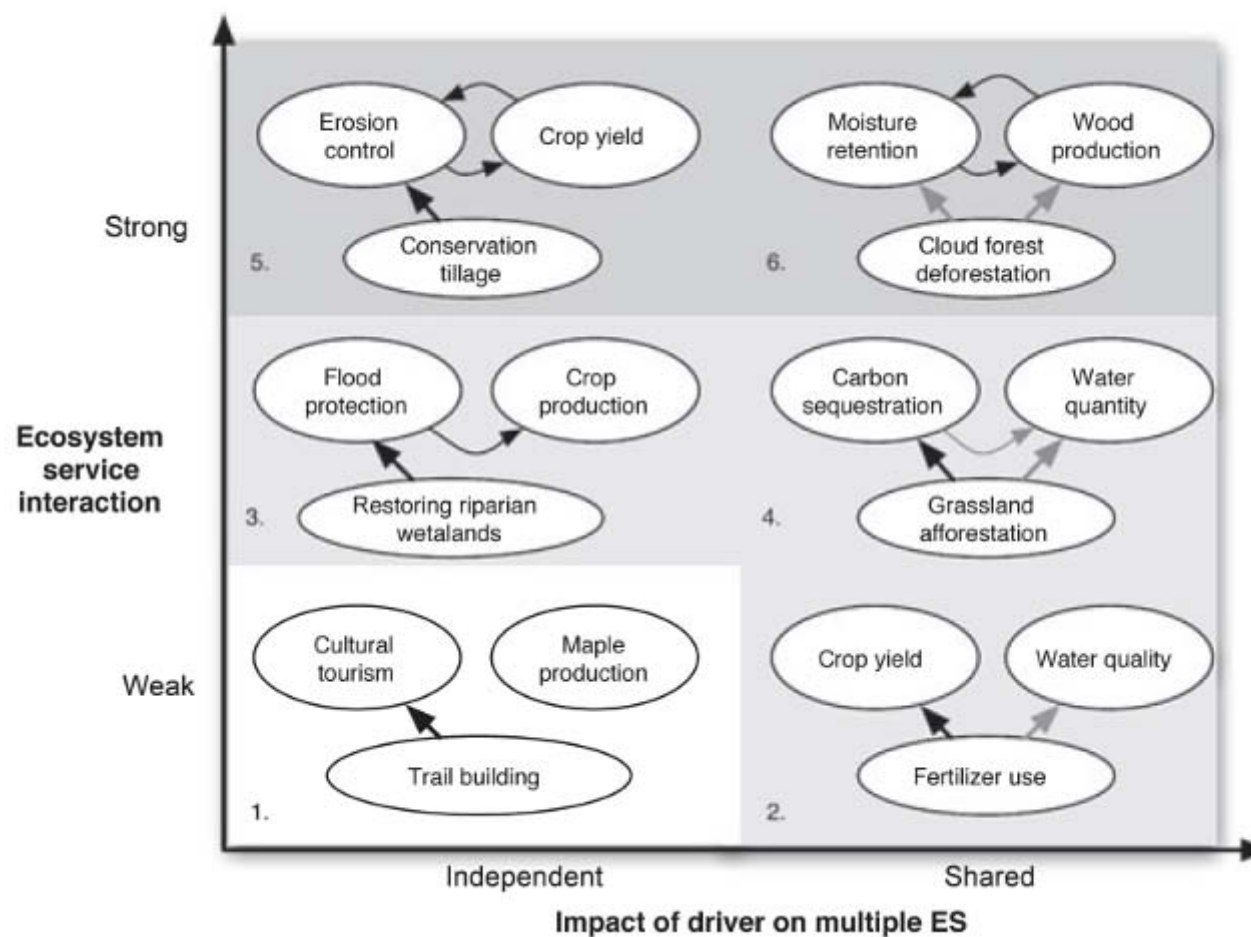
ESPA is focused on People



ESPA Research Framework



Interactions and trade-offs among ecosystem services

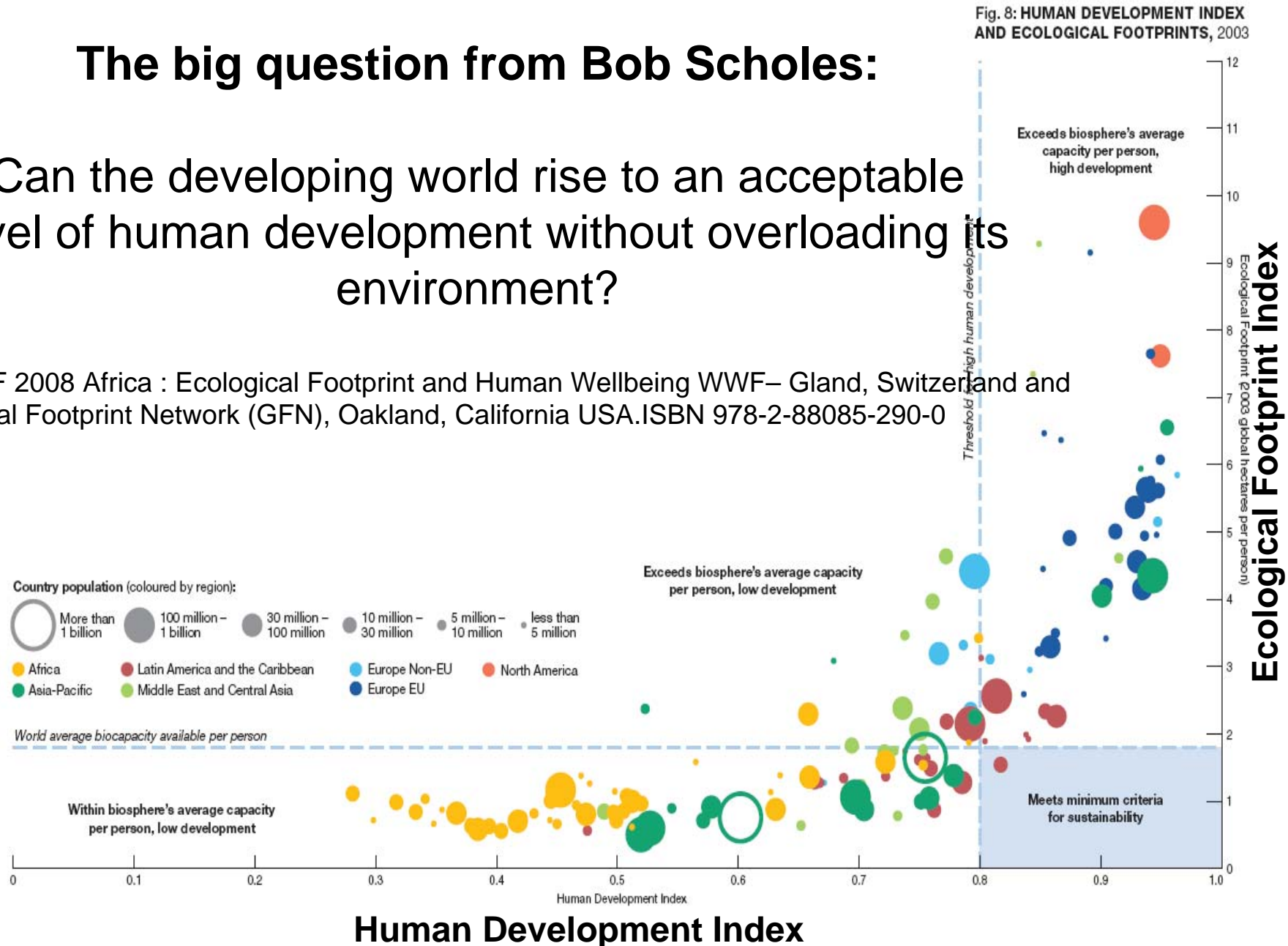


ESPA Research Development Workshop

The big question from Bob Scholes:

Can the developing world rise to an acceptable level of human development without overloading its environment?

WWF 2008 Africa : Ecological Footprint and Human Wellbeing WWF– Gland, Switzerland and Global Footprint Network (GFN), Oakland, California USA. ISBN 978-2-88085-290-0



ESPA's Approach

- **ESPA's Goal:**
 - in developing countries, ecosystems are being sustainably managed to contribute to poverty alleviation and inclusive/sustainable growth.
- **ESPA will invest in cutting-edge research** describing:
 - improved understanding of how ecosystems function;
 - the services they provide;
 - The value of these services; and
 - their potential role in achieving sustainable poverty alleviation.
- **ESPA's research is expected to:**
 - **provide evidence & tools** to enable decision makers and end users to manage ecosystems sustainably and in a way that contributes to poverty alleviation.

ESPA projects need to deliver:

Research Excellence
and a credible pathway to
Development Impact

ESPA Research Framework



ESPA research enabling change



ESPA Research

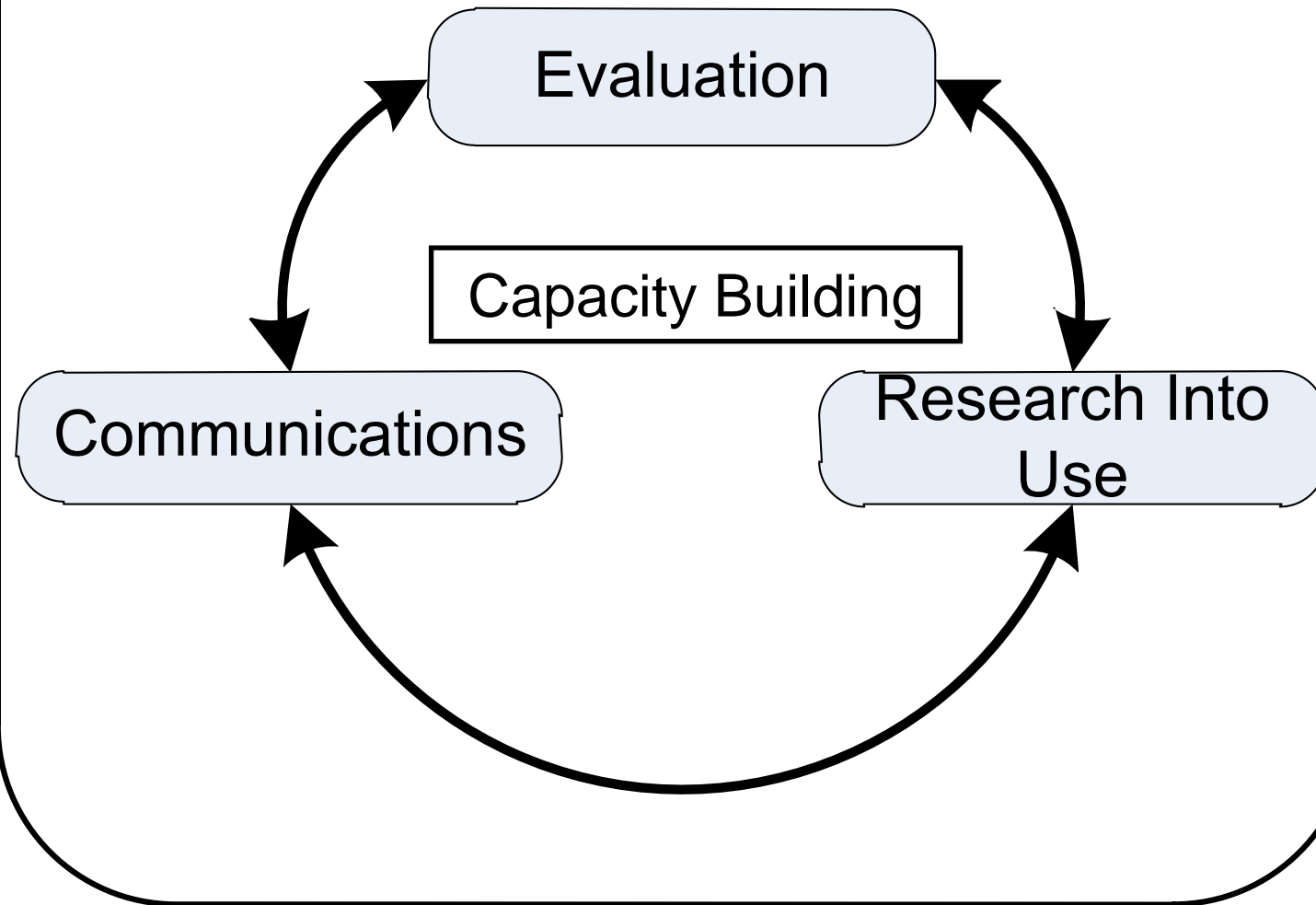
Delivery of research excellence will entail:

- a significant contribution to the advancement of ***theory and understanding*** of the issues;
- ***theoretical and conceptual rigour*** in relation to research design, methodology and process;
- employing effective and appropriate ***interdisciplinary*** approaches.

What are we looking for?

- Innovation delivering research excellence.
- Focus on delivering results that can change lives.
- New ways of working
 - Based on equitable partnerships.
 - Collaboration and co-operation.
 - Empowering developing country partners.
- All ESPA projects will be expected to work as part of a Global ESPA Community.
- Demonstrating a pathway to development impact

ESPA Impact Framework



ESPA Impact Activities

- The Directorate will assist projects to:
 - *Conceptualise impact.*
 - *Capture impact.*
 - *Communicate impact.*
- The Impact Framework will help local partners to “***change the game***” through integration of:
 - *Research into Use* (Building results)
 - *Evaluation* (Assessing results)
 - *Communication* (Generating change)

ESPA's 2010 Consortium Call

- The current opportunity is detailed at:
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/espa/events/ao6.asp>
- Online Expressions of Interest ***required*** to be submitted by 8 December 2010
- Full proposals to be submitted by 16:00 GMT on 19 January 2011
- Total budget of up to £16 million
 - Projects funded to between £0.5 and £4 million (exceptionally up to £5 million).

ESPA Research Development Workshop

Video, presentations and summary documents are available from

www.espa.ac.uk

Support for the current call

- Supplementary documents on the ESPA Knowledge and Impact frameworks will be published in early November 2010.
- Frequently Asked Questions are available on the ESPA website (updated regularly):
 - http://www.esi.ac.uk/espa/files/espa/ESPA_FAQ.pdf
- Please register with the Directorate to receive additional information in support of the call www.espa.ac.uk.

Why Register?

- Access to regular information about ESPA, including future calls and events.
- Finding potential partners around the world.
- Access to electronic resources and online support for ESPA activities.
- Ability to participate in the online global community.
- The Directorate will use the database of expertise to identify researchers who could contribute to specific activities and small projects.

Future Opportunities with ESPA

- Additional calls for proposals will be issued by NERC during 2011 and 2013.
- ESPA will recruit an International Programme Advisory Committee in 2011.
- ESPA Fellowships (To be announced).
- The ESPA Directorate will issue calls for proposals to implement:
 - Small ESPA research grants
 - Capacity Building
 - Evaluation
 - Research into Use

Discussion



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info@espa.ac.uk



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