

Ecological Function and Biodiversity Indicators in European Soils

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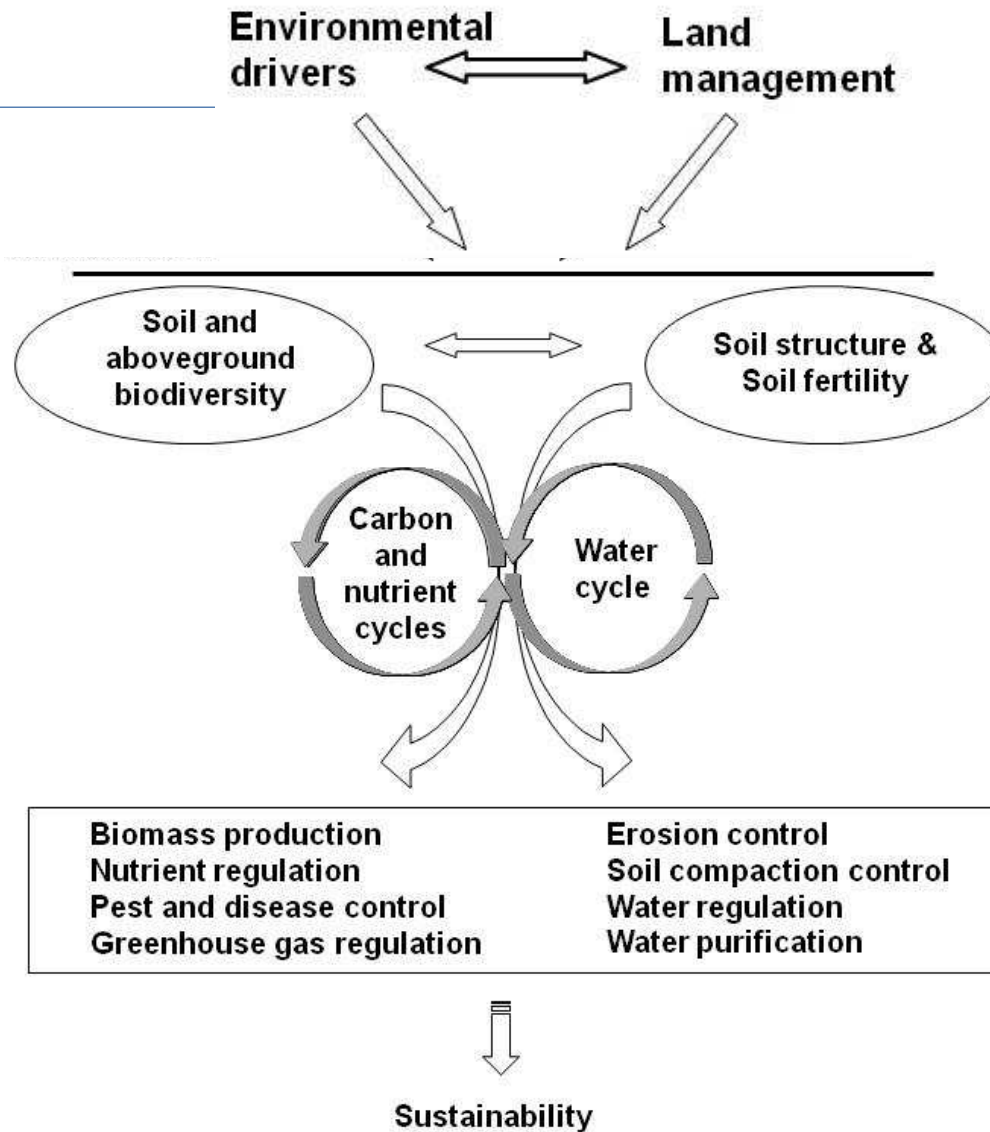
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Ecological functions in soil



Ecosystem structure

Ecosystem processes and functioning

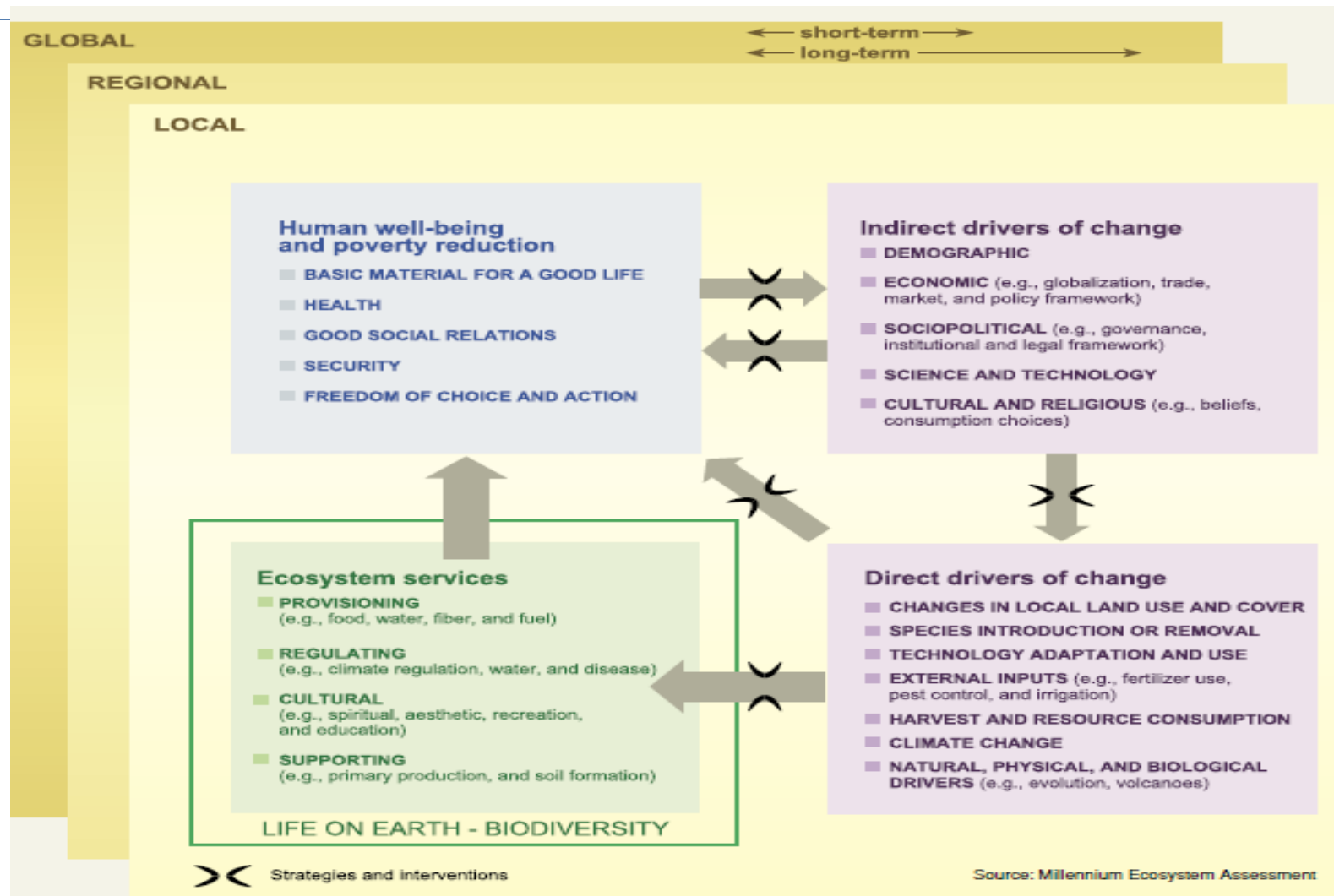
Ecosystem services

(after Brussaard et al., 2007)



Ecosystem Services

the benefits people obtain from ecosystems



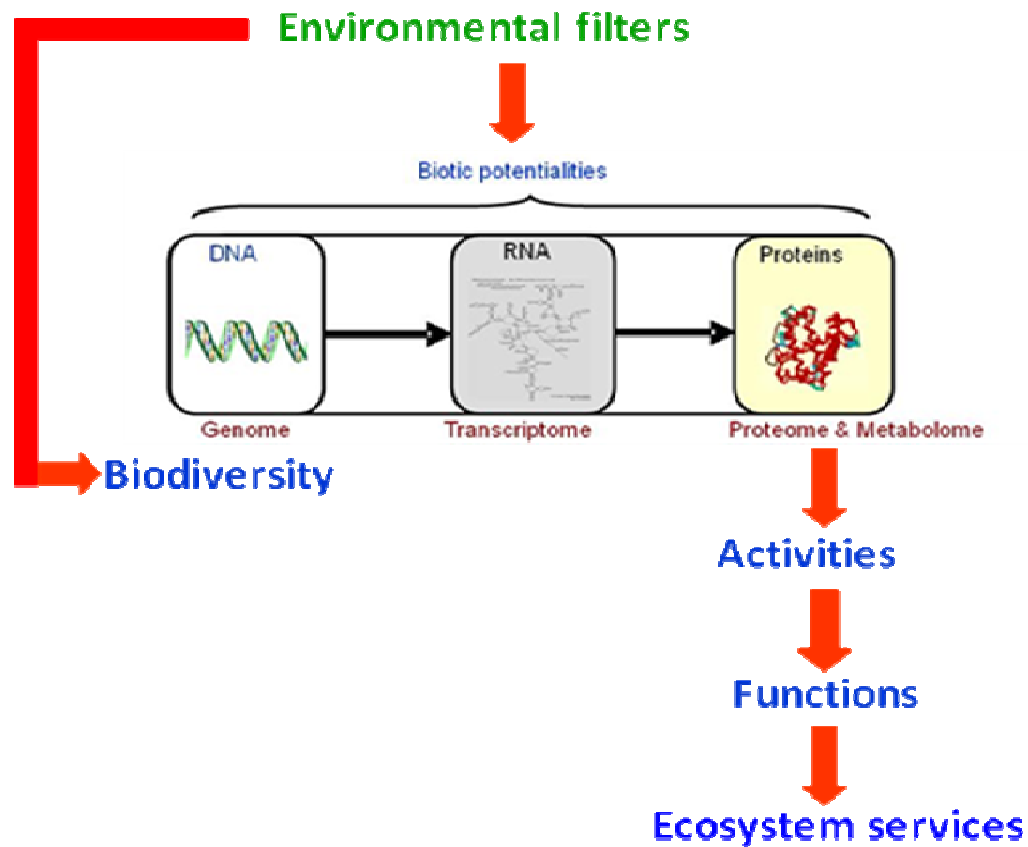
Biodiversity

- › Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources: terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part
- › includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems

Soil Threats

- › Erosion
- › Loss of soil organic matter
- › Salinisation
- › Compaction
- › Landslides
- › Sealing
- › Contamination
- › Biodiversity decline

Links between biodiversity and soil ecosystem services



EcoFINDERS

- › Provide knowledge of relevance for the Soil Thematic Strategy and Soil Framework Directive
- › soil biodiversity and its role in ecosystem services
- › standardization of methods for soil biodiversity and functioning
- › development of **bioindicators**
- › assessment of the added value brought by **cost-effective bioindicators**
- › assessment of cost effectiveness of alternative ecosystem service maintenance policies



EcoFINDERS

- › metadata analyses to raise a biodiversity database at the European level
- › decipher relations between soil biodiversity and functions
- › putting a value on ecosystem services
- › communication with stakeholders in EU
- › make suggestions to the EU Commission and provide input to the Soil Directive

www.ecofinders.eu

Thank you



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The Soil Food Web

