Governing NbS Implementation

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Nature-Based Solutions
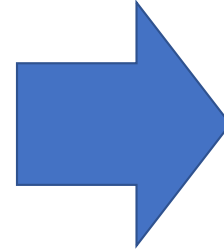
From planning to successful governance and implementation

conservation&
development

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conservation & development

Multiple societal challenges:

Urgent & **transformative action** by Governments & all of society

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Restoration · Issue-specific · Infrastructure · Management · Protection

Ecosystem-based approaches

Societal challenges

Human well-being · Biodiversity benefits

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Healthy Nature as a solution
but: who bears the costs?

Paradigm shifts for equity in NbS might require bold thinking!

Equity is an important aspect of governance

What is Governance?

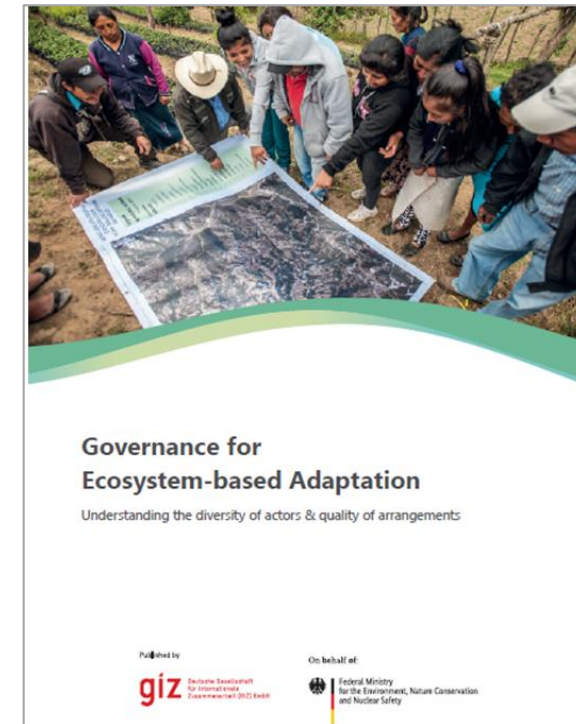- Governance is <u>not</u> synonymous with government.

→ confusion of terms can have unfortunate consequences: a public policy issue where the heart of the matter is a problem of "governance" becomes defined implicitly as a problem of "government"
  (means: "fixing" it rests only with government).

Governance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation
Understanding the diversity of actors & quality of arrangements

Since governance is not about government, what is it about?

→ it is about how governments and other social organizations **interact**, how they **relate** to citizens, and how **decisions** are taken in a complex world.

→ governance is a **process** whereby societies or organizations make their **decisions**, determine **whom they involve** in the process and how they render **account**.

https://www.adaptationcommunity.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/giz2019-en-eba-governance-study-low-res.pdf

GIZ / Amend, 2019

Governance + equity
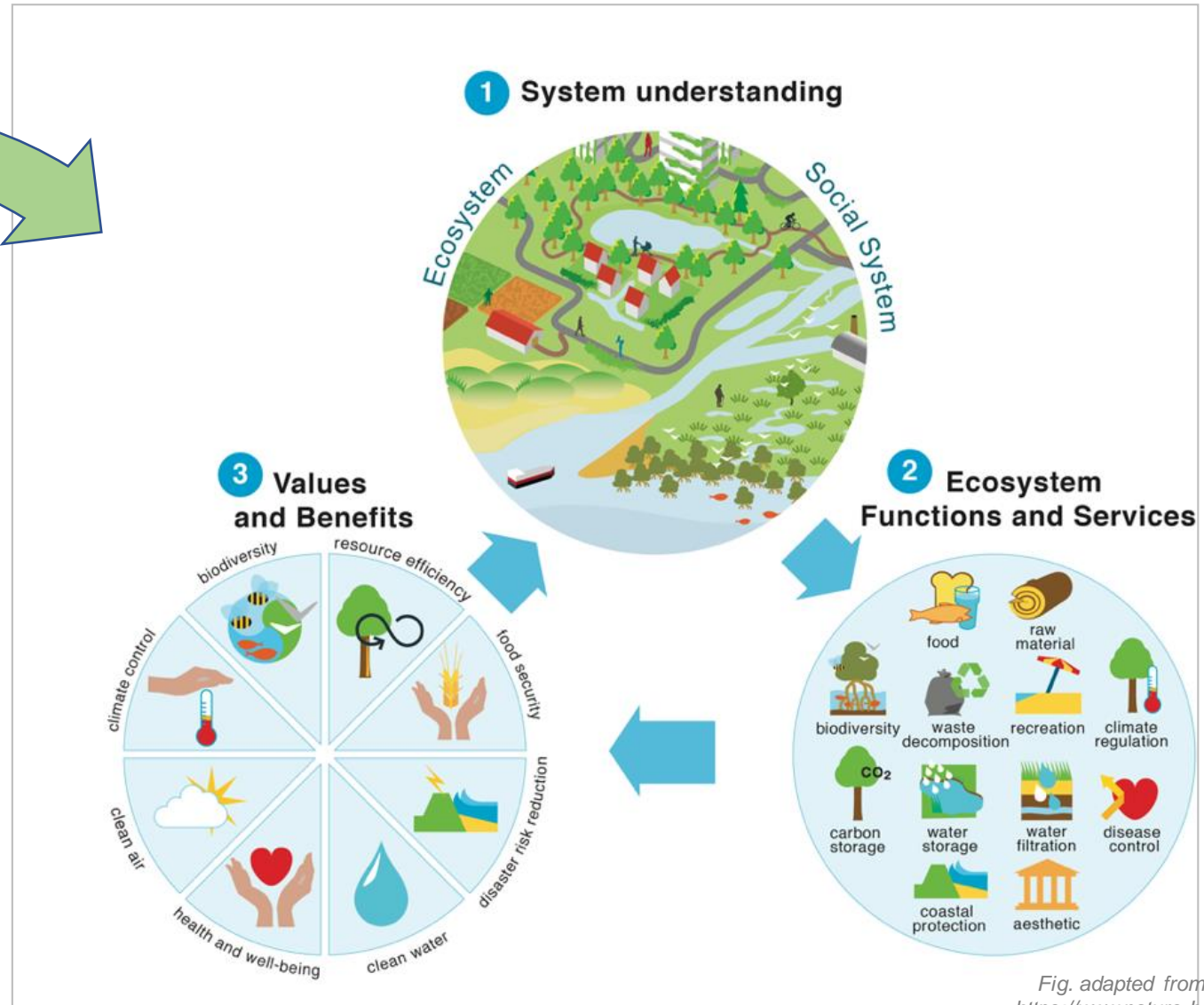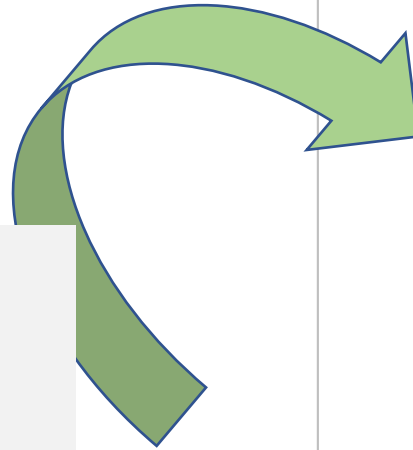
Mainstreaming ecosystem-based approaches

Social-Ecological Systems

Examples for:

Governance + equity -related questions

- Whose **interests, values & benefits** determine the selected NbS action?

- Who should **participate** in planning, implementation, monitoring of NbS action?

- **Accountability**: who **reports** what to whom?

  - With which consequences? (i.e. local accountability, national sanctioning mechanisms, international 'blaming'?)

Fig. adapted from: Witteveen & Bos, https://www.nature-basedsolutions.com

Nature-based Solutions
equity & fairness

CBD
post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

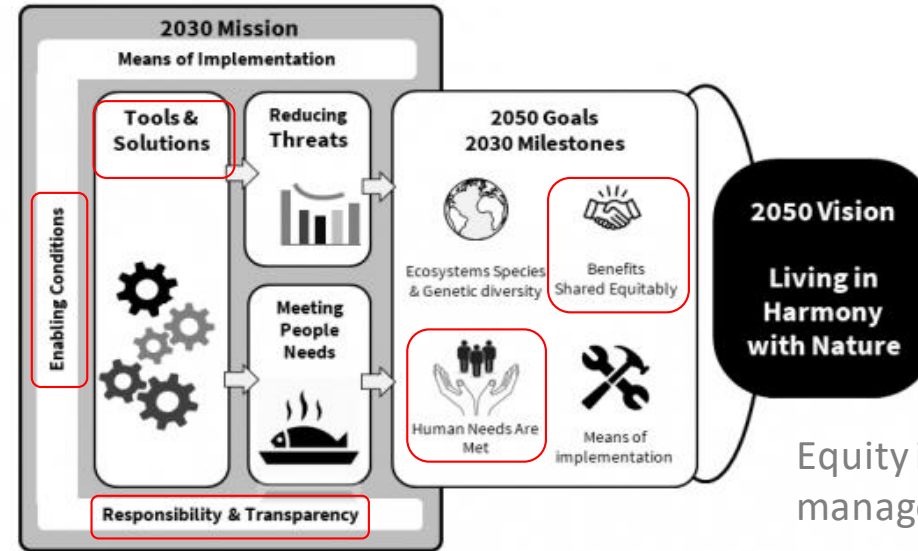The framework's theory of change assumes that transformative actions are taken to:
a. put in place **tools and solutions** for implementation and mainstreaming,
b. reduce the threats to biodiversity, and
c. ensure that biodiversity is used sustainably in order **to meet people's needs.**

And that these actions are supported by
- **enabling conditions**, and
- adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity and technology.

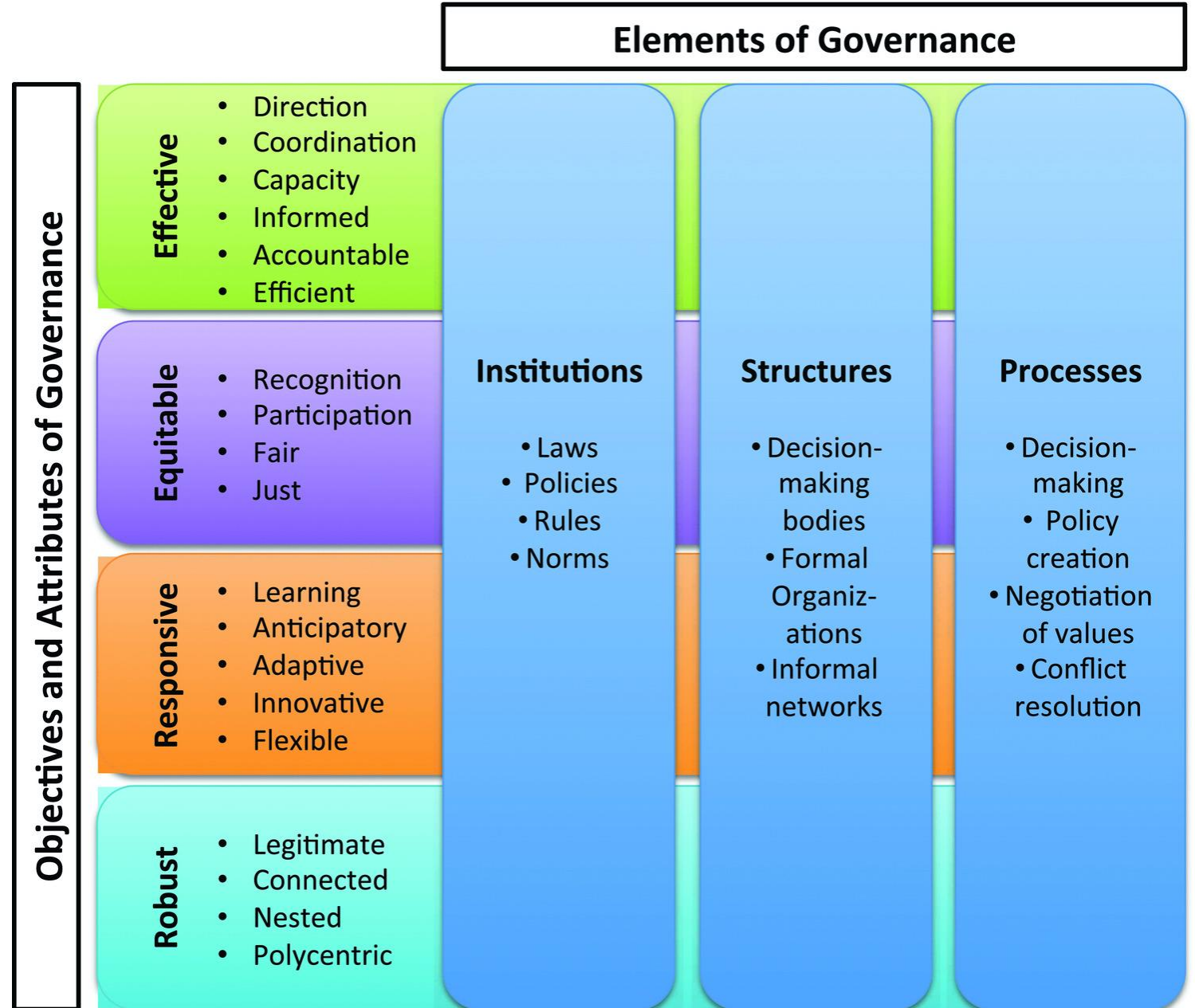Equity in conservation & resource management to reach the 2050 vision

Enabling conditions are:
- The participation of **indigenous peoples and local communities** and a recognition of their rights in the implementation of the framework;
- The participation of **all relevant stakeholders**, including women, youth, civil society, local authorities, the private sector, academia and scientific institutions;
- **Gender equality,** women's empowerment and gender-responsive approaches;
- Recognition of **intergenerational equity**;
- **Synergies** with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes;
- Partnerships to leverage activities at the **local, national, regional and global** levels;
- Adequate **inclusive and integrative governance** is put in place to ensure policy coherence and effectiveness for the implementation the framework;
- Adequate **political will** and recognition at the highest levels of government of the urgent need to **halt biodiversity loss**.

Source: CBD "Voluntary guidance on effective and equitable governance models"
https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/efb0/1f84/a892b98d2982a829962b6371/wg2020-02-03-en.pdf
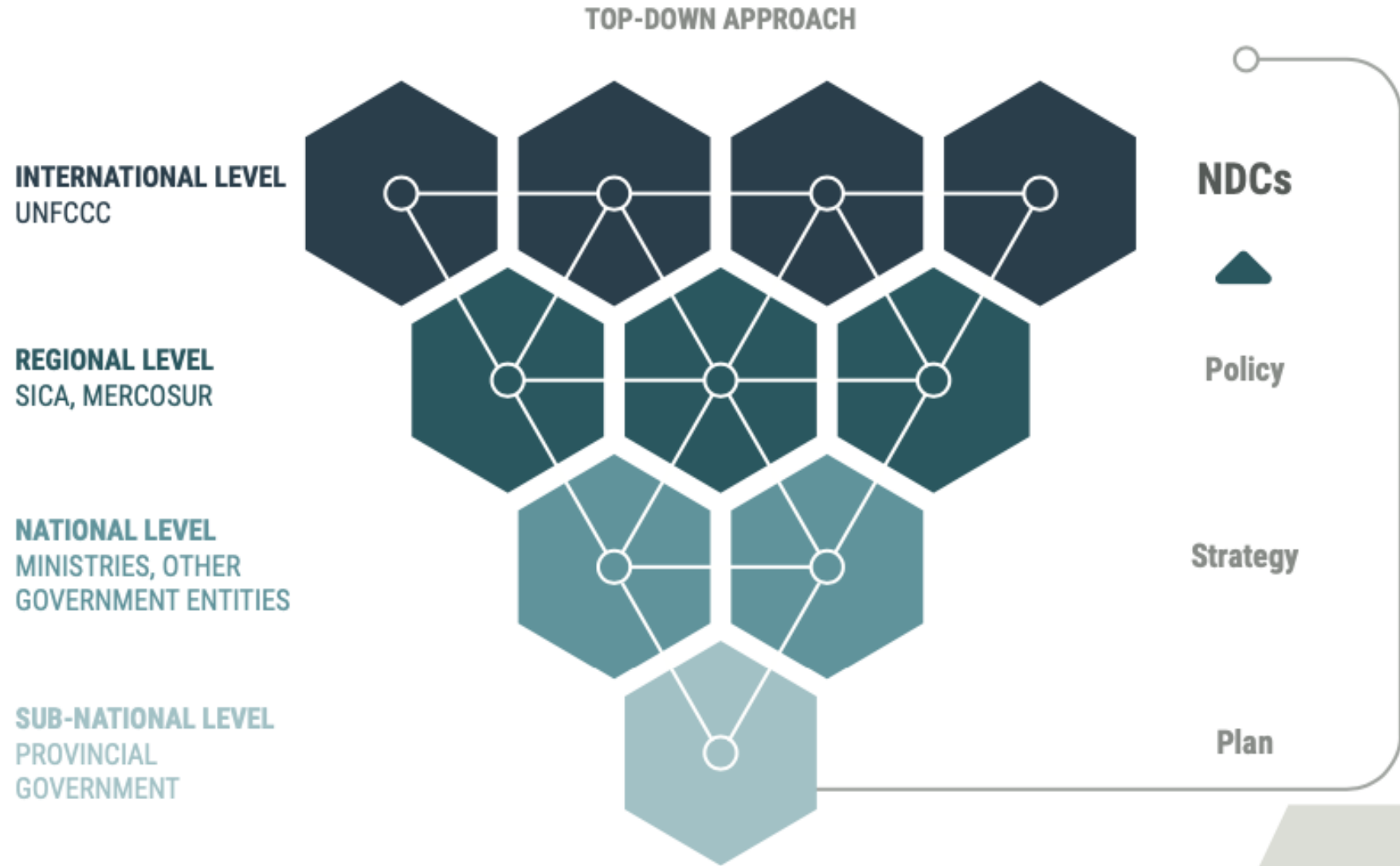
What are elements and attributes of NbS Governance?

A practical framework for understanding the **objectives, attributes, and elements** of environmental governance

Bennett & Satterfield, 2018

Elements of Governance

Objectives and Attributes of Governance

Effective
- Direction
- Coordination
- Capacity
- Informed
- Accountable
- Efficient

Equitable
- Recognition
- Participation
- Fair
- Just

Responsive
- Learning
- Anticipatory
- Adaptive
- Innovative
- Flexible

Robust
- Legitimate
- Connected
- Nested
- Polycentric

Institutions
- Laws
- Policies
- Rules
- Norms

Structures
- Decision-making bodies
- Formal Organizations
- Informal networks

Processes
- Decision-making
- Policy creation
- Negotiation of values
- Conflict resolution

NbS and climate governance

‘classical’ top-down approach

TOP-DOWN APPROACH

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL
UNFCCC

REGIONAL LEVEL
SICA, MERCOSUR

NATIONAL LEVEL
MINISTRIES, OTHER
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL
PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT

NDCs

Policy

Strategy

Plan

NbS and climate governance
bottom-up approach

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Good governance of natural resources is critical to achieve good climate governance and implement effective adaptation and mitigation actions at all levels. This requires coherence through horizontal and vertical coordination, based on holistic views of socio-environmental systems.

LOCAL LEVEL
MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

Support for the development of policy instruments

Involvement of diverse actors

Capacity building of local institutions and actors

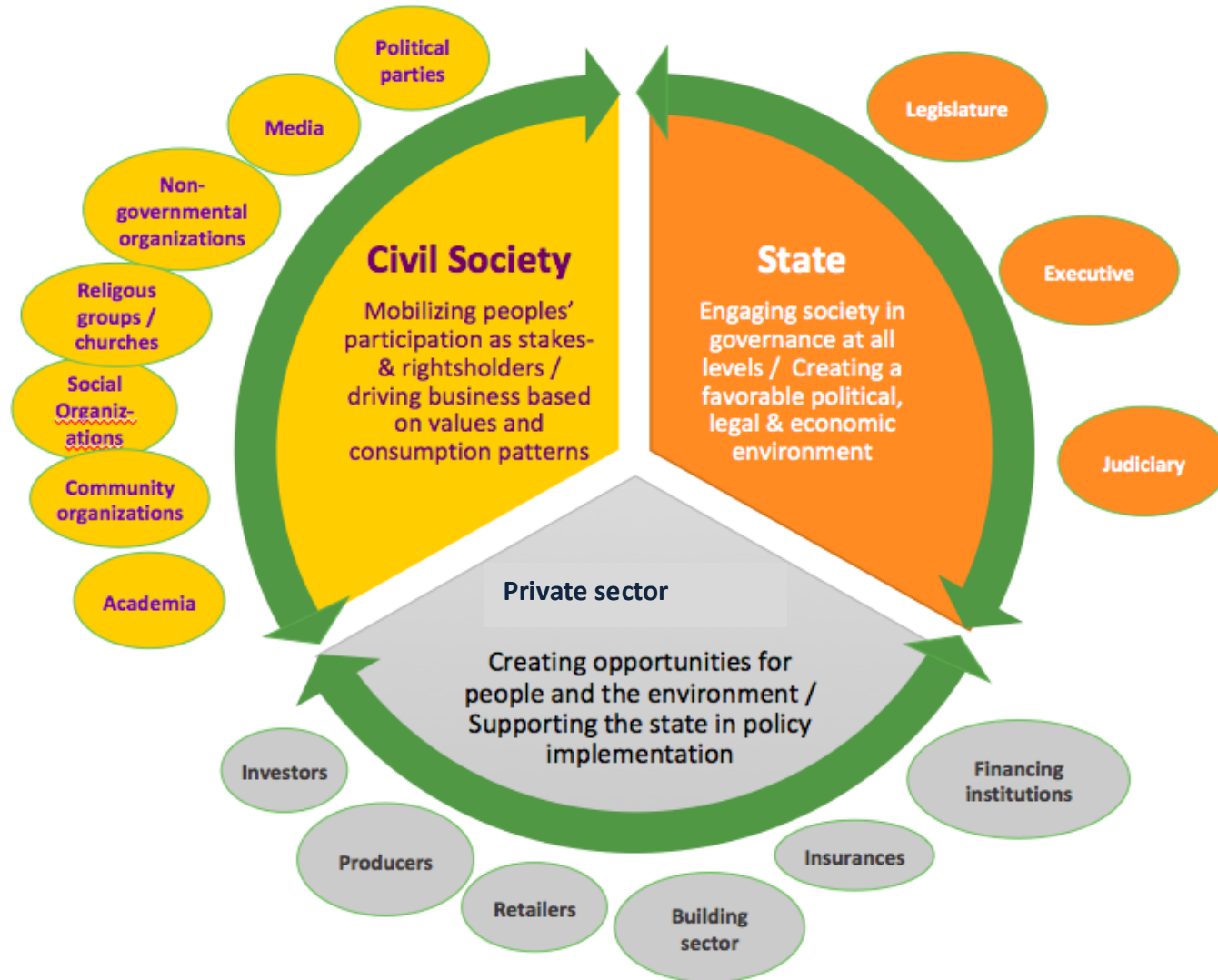Strengthen coordination at the horizontal and vertical levels

Monitoring and evaluation of results

Modified from:
Amend, Ilieva & Ruíz, 2021, EU Commission

Diversity of Governance in NbS
operation of 3 key actors

GIZ / Amend, 2019

State: A key role of the state is to create a favourable political, legal and economic environment, e.g. for adaptation and risk reduction, thus establishing a governance framework. It is crucial to engage society as a whole and its various groups in NbS governance, and include good governance principles in relevant policies and actions.

Civil Society: Civil society is mobilizing people's participation in policy making and governance. People are stake- and often also rightsholders; they need to advocate their rights and needs to the state but also to the private sector. They can do this through different media channels, or interest groups such as NGOs, community organizations or indigenous associations. As part of civil society, academia provides scientific knowledge as the basis for policy and informed decision-making.

Private sector / business: The private sector is a key actor for the governance of NbS measures. Financing institutions, insurance companies, investors, producers, retailers, and sector specific actors bring cost-benefit and efficiency thinking to the table. They can provide the inspired setting and/or financial means for innovations to emerge, or use pressure or incentives for new policies to be developed, implemented or enhanced. Multiple opportunities for people to get actively involved in the sustainable management of ecosystems, either in direct ways (land or resource use), or indirectly (consumption) relate to the business sector.

NbS Governance Matrix

Inspirations from protected area governance

NbS mainstreaming can be driven and supported at
different governance levels and by **different stakeholders**

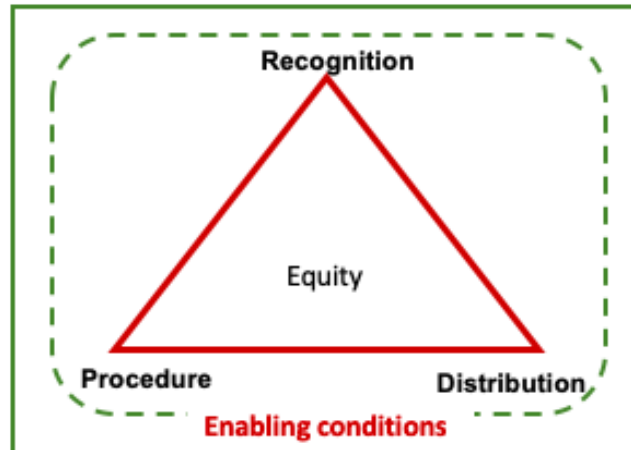| Governance Type	A. Governance by Government			B. Shared Governance/ or: external agent (donor)		C. Private Governance			D. Indigenous Peoples & Community Governance	
EbA mainstream. measure	Federal or national ministry or agency	Regional governm. / Sub-nation. ministry or agency in charge	Local Govern-ments	Collaborative or joint management (various forms of pluralist influence)	External agents (donors, implementing agency)	individual land-owner	non-profit organisation (e.g. NGO, university)	for-profit organisation (e.g. tourism operator)	Indigenous peoples	local communities

Mexico

Peru

Viet Nam

Panama

Nature-based Solutions
equity & fairness

Equity in conservation & resource management
is an important aspect of good governance

Equity Framework

Equity has three interlinked dimensions

1. **Recognition** (accepting the legitimacy of rights, values, interests and priorities of different actors);

2. **Procedure** (ensuring the inclusive and effective participation of all relevant actors);

3. **Distribution** (of costs and benefits, including trade-offs between people in different places and generations)

Source: CBD / COP 14/8
"Voluntary guidance on effective and equitable governance models"

Quality of Governance in NbS

Aspects to take into account in NbS design and implementation

Gender aspects

Women have different roles and knowledge about resources

Women, boys and girls are 14 times more likely than men to die during natural disasters. **70% of fatalities** in the 2004 Asian tsunami, and 96% in the 2014 Solomon Island floods were women and children (FAO 2018).

Women face widespread **discrimination in the distribution of assets, services and information** – such as secure and adequate land, credit, training, employment opportunities, mobility, climate and market information services, inputs and technologies (Simelton and Ostwald 2019).

Women have **limited decision-making power** – and are often excluded or marginalized from governance institutions and policy-making processes (CARE, 2020).

Dayak women, Indonesia
CIFOR, https://www.eco-business.com/news/indonesia-inches-forward-on-community-forest-goal-hobbled-by-pandemic/

NbS must address gender regimes that regulate access to, use of, and control over resources, especially those defining land distribution, labour division, and strategic decision-making power

Jerneck 2017

Quality of Governance in NbS

Aspects to take into account in NbS design and implementation

Gender aspects

adapted from: CARE, 2019

Overcoming the gender barriers

BUILDING AGENCY: Build confidence, self-esteem and aspirations of both men and women, in addition to the knowledge, skills and capabilities they need to thrive.

CHANGING RELATIONS: Transform the power relations through which men and women live their lives through intimate relationships and social networks, through group membership and activism, and citizen and market negotiations.

TRANSFORMING STRUCTURES: Support the transformation of discriminatory social norms, customs, values and exclusionary practices (all within the non-formal sphere), and laws, policies, procedures and services (in the formal sphere).

Photo: Th.Amend

Quality of Governance in NbS

Aspects to take into account in NbS design and implementation

Photo: Th.Amend

Criterion 5 of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS:

NbS are based on inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes

- A defined and fully agreed upon **feedback and grievance resolution mechanism** is available to all stakeholders before an NbS intervention is initiated.

- Participation is based on **mutual respect and equality**, regardless of gender, age or social status, and upholds the right of Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (**FPIC**).

- Stakeholders who are directly and indirectly **affected by the NbS** have been identified and involved in all processes of the NbS intervention.

- Decision-making processes document and respond to the **rights and interests of all** participating and affected stakeholders.

- Where the scale of the NbS extends beyond jurisdictional boundaries, mechanisms are established to enable **joint decision making** of the stakeholders in the affected jurisdictions.

NbS must address gender regimes that regulate access to, use of, and control over resources, especially those defining land distribution, labour division, and strategic decision-making power
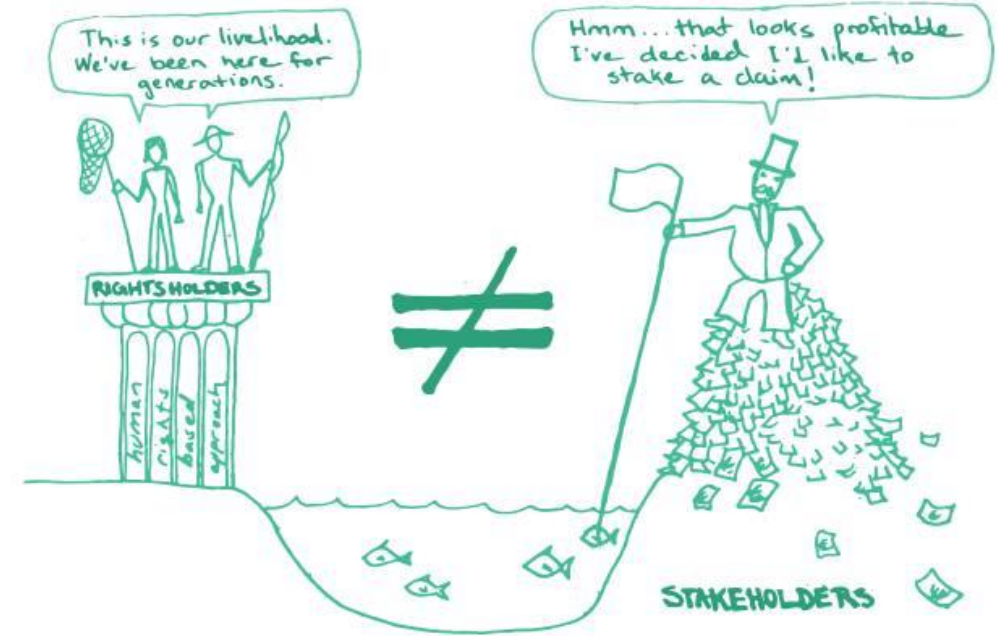
Jerneck 2017

Quality of Governance in NbS

Aspects to take into account in NbS design and implementation

Rights-holders = actors socially endowed with legal or customary rights with respect to land, water and natural resources.
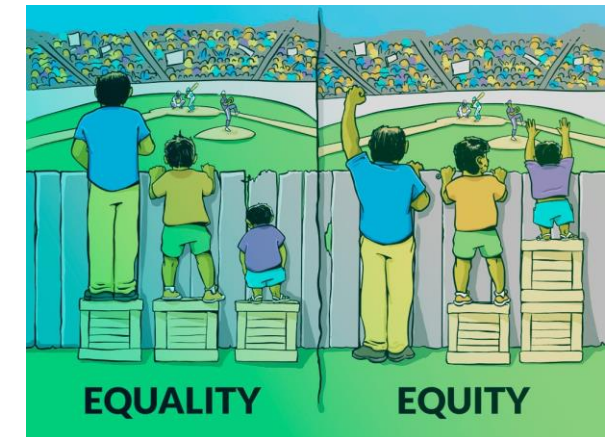
Stakeholders = possess direct or indirect interests and concerns, but do not necessarily enjoy a legally or socially recognised entitlement.

>> note of caution:
'multi-stakeholderism' can lead to 'consented NbS decisions' where fundamentally opposing interests are glossed over

Additional aspects to take into account:

- **various types of powers** that the key actors apply when they take and implement decisions (i.e. regulatory, financial, related to knowledge or related to coercion)

- **Equality vs. equity** (depends on age, race, skill, position…)

- **scale of decision-making and operations**
  area: local, at ecosystem level, national, transboundary, international,
  time: present, future > inter-generational justice

Quality of Governance in NbS
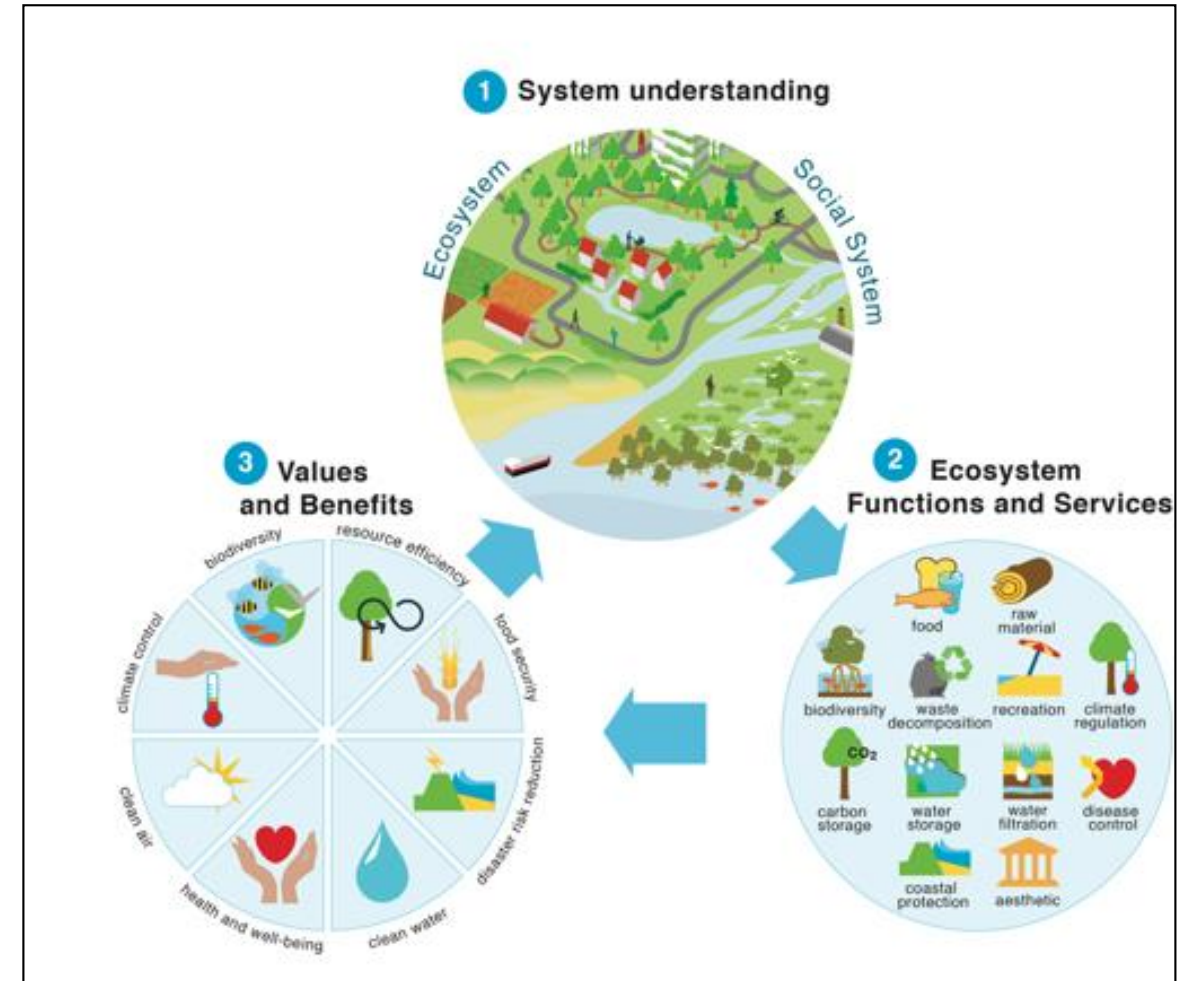Aspects to take into account in NbS design and implementation

Jointly identify the ToC for an NbS initiative

eg.   Name the **values** of an ecosystem / of a site, jointly identify the ‚vital' characteristics of the ecosystem, and the **service** it provides in the context of the NbS

- develop a **shared "NbS narrative"**

- In order to conserve the outstanding values, formulate the **management objective** for the site / the social-ecological system.

Work on agreement among main stakeholders on:

- the ways and means of managing the specific NbS-values on a **long term base** (being conscious about the implications for everyone involved   → participative strategic planning)

- jointly define (simple) **indicators and monitor them** in participatory ways

- agree upon the distribution of **costs and benefits** of the NbS initiative and / or (potential) loss of biodiversity and other values

- assign (shared and individual) **responsibilities** and define **sanctioning** mechanisms

- work on a long term (if possible: participative) **finance** strategy

- **integrate** the NbS sites / SES into the regional development plans, assure coherence and potentially make them part of NDC, NBSAP proceeses.

Steps into an uncertain planetary future
Nature-based Solutions as a chance

→ '...we can design robust and resilient NbS that address the urgent challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, sustaining nature and people together, now and into the future.

In this way, NbS can play a key role as part of a fundamental paradigm shift that is being fast-tracked by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the **transformation** of a destructive global economic model centred around GDP and infinite growth, that ignores nature's value to people and its intrinsic value, to one where a healthy economy is defined by the **social and ecological wellbeing** it brings.'

Prof. Nathalie Seddon

NbS initiative, University of Oxford , 2021   https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2021-02-01-getting-message-right-nature-based-solutions-climate-change

Enhance **governance and equity** in NbS

Design & mainstream **Nature-based Solutions** for a braod range of societal challenges

Promote the mainstreaming of **CC adaptation, mitigation, risk reduction** into all spheres / sectors / policies, together with key actors

Strengthening the development base for biodiversity + human wellbeing (reducing vulnerability and enhancing **overall resilience**)

Thank you for your attention!

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