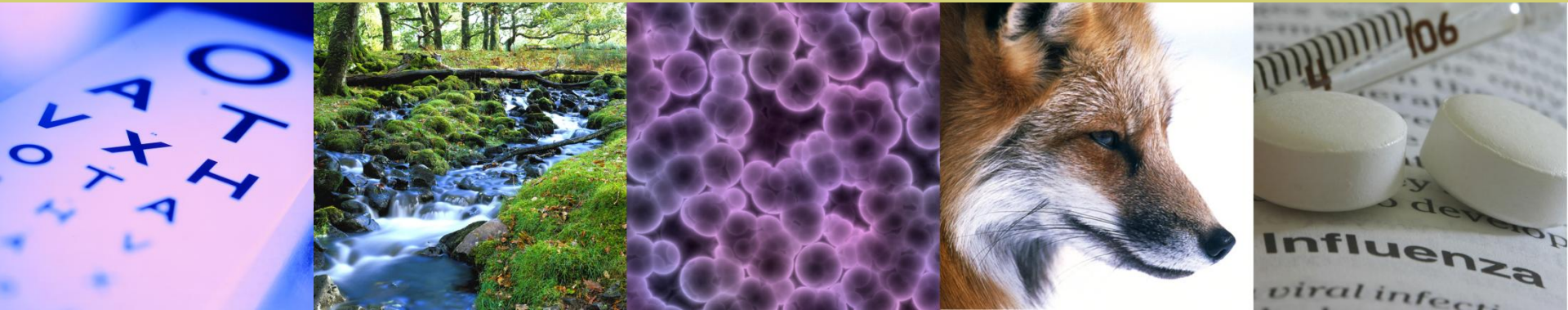


Co-operation on Health and Biodiversity



Introduction to the COHAB Initiative

AgBioDiv 2012 Conference
NUI Galway, Ireland, 9th February 2012

Background

- 1990s – globalisation a threat & opportunity
- 2000: Social, economic and environmental concerns were fully within the remit of health practitioners, who were urged to clarify the links between health and the wider environment and commit to “*a broader view of public health, and to values of equity and ecological sustainability*” (The Lancet, 2000). Dialogue and co-operation with other sectors would be critical.
- Today: Intersecting crises: Health, energy, poverty, food, climate, biodiversity, economy

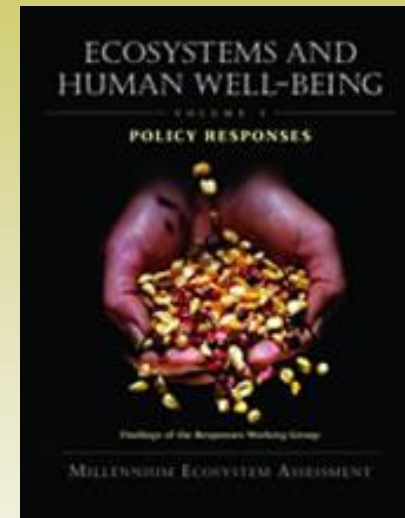
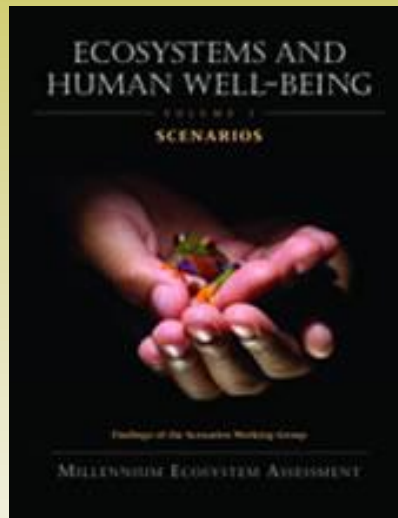
Changing Contexts

- What do we mean by *health*?
- Physical health - freedom from disease
- Mental health - spiritual and psychological well-being and stability
- Social health – community relationships, cohesiveness, security and stability
- Livelihood security – determines capacity to be healthy
- *Well-being, quality of life... ability to adapt*

Changing Contexts

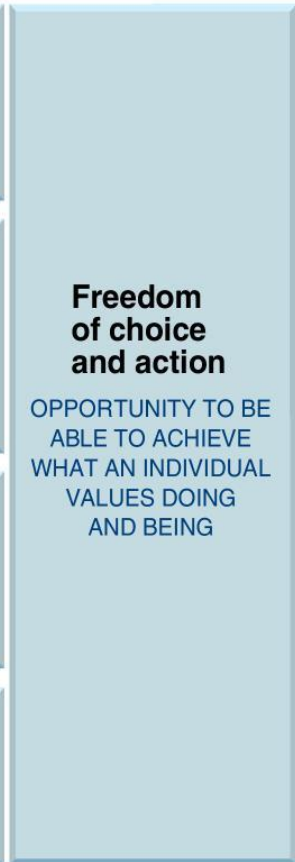
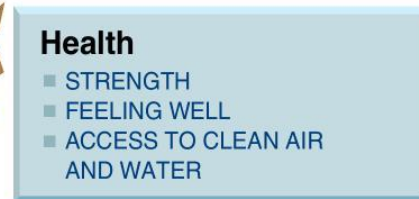
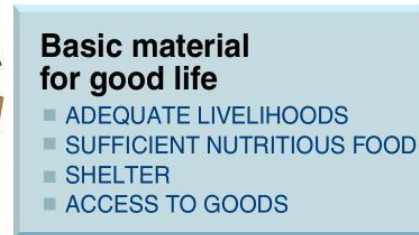
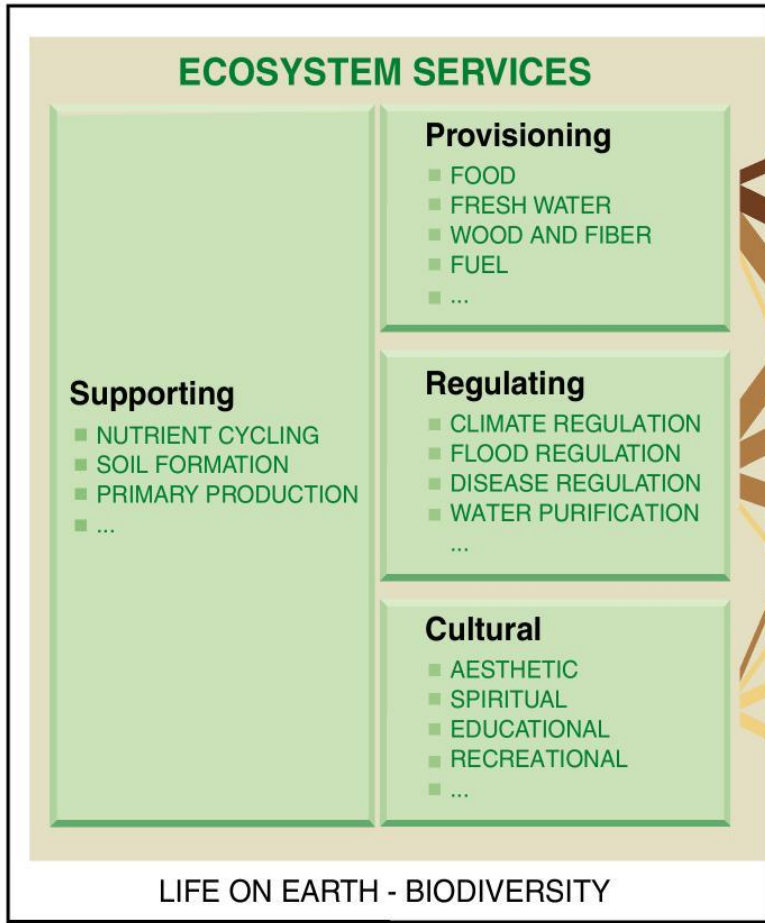
- What do we mean by *well-being*?
- Highly relative - personal, subjective, culturally relative and often quite vague
- May be defined in multiple ways according to various social, cultural, medical, economic and even moral perspectives.
- Our understanding of what constitutes well-being also changes considerably over time.

Gathering the Evidence



www.maweb.org

CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong



ELSEVIER

POHNPEI BANANAS (UHT KAN EN POHNPEI): CAROTENOID-RICH VARIETIES



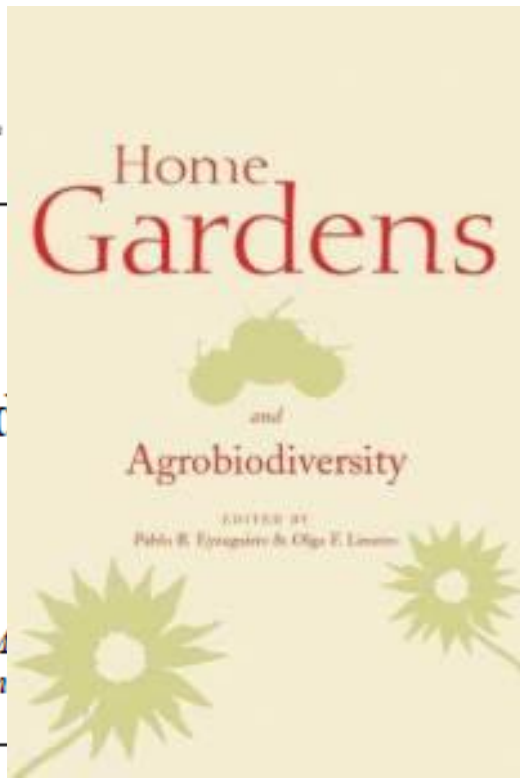
Grow and eat orange- and yellow-fleshed varieties for your health to help protect against diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, vitamin A deficiency, and anemia.
Padok oh sakan soangon uht kan me oangoahng pwehn sewese omwi roson: soumwahu en suke, soumwahu en mohngiong, cancers, seuitar en vitamin A, oh seuitar en nta.



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www.elsevierhealth.com/journals/pubh



Professor in Health & Nutritional Sciences

Economic benefits of biodiversity exceed costs of conservation at an African rainforest reserve

PERSPECTIVE

doi:10.1038/nature09659

Systemic risk in banking ecosystems

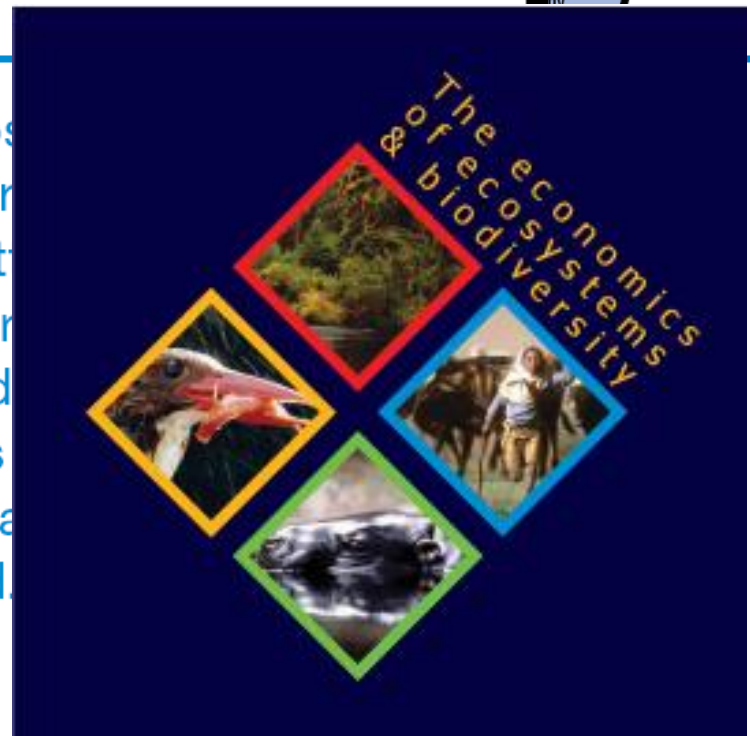
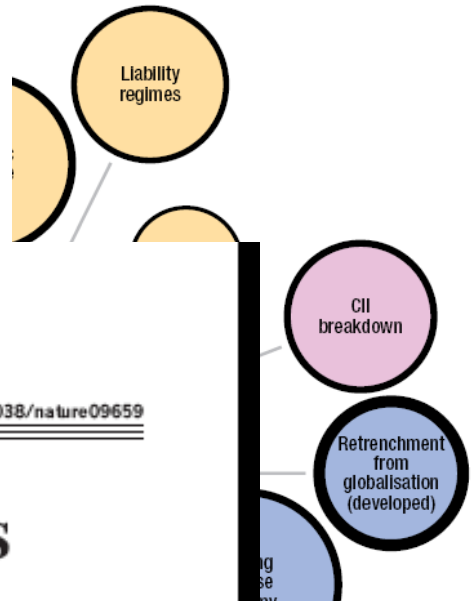
Andrew G. Haldane¹ & Robert M. May²

In the run-up to optimize returns possible effects of webs and with stability in deliberate such models, with

In the 1960s, the part as ecologists in particular, Evelyn

“Biodiversity underpins ecosystems... pollinate, nor can trees store... Diverse systems are better water and preserving fisheries ecosystem has to be in order services needed by man is made harder by the fact that that man has not yet found.

The Economist, 2008



Human Health & Biodiversity

- Health is a core element of sustainable development
- A healthy human population can only exist where it is supported by a healthy environment
- In other words, without ecological sustainability, no population can exist
- Some exceptions due to trade & technology – but these can rarely meet the needs of all users, and often entail social and economic costs

Human Health & Biodiversity

- Where ecosystems are degraded, a population can only exist if supported by ecosystems in other areas (“importing” goods and services)
- Most services cannot be imported – which leads to imbalance in dependency and delivery
- Industrialised countries bear burden of responsibility for degradation and consumption
- Developing countries increasingly bearing responsibility for meeting demand expectations

Is *diversity* really that important?



Beginnings



*Galway, Ireland, 23rd – 25th August
2005*

First International
Conference on Health
& Biodiversity 2005



Secretariat established in
Galway, 2007



Second International
Conference on Health &
Biodiversity 2008



COHAB's mission

- Bridging the gaps in understanding, policy and action on the links between health and biodiversity
- Opening & sustaining dialogues between sectors
- Gathering evidence, Informing policy decisions
- Initiating practical co-operation for biodiversity and human well-being

Practical Actions

- Incorporating ecohealth solutions into primary health care
- Prescriptions – food, exercise, psychiatric interventions
- Policy responses and informing decision making



Physical exercise & recreation



Social, spiritual and psychological well-being

Food resources, diet and nutrition



FRESH
ROYAL GALA 12
FOR

LARGE WANGS 8 FOR
€1.50

Livelihood security and freedom from poverty





Emerging Infectious Diseases

Natural products and medicinal resources



Animal models for health research





Disaster Risk Reduction,
Relief & Recovery

Indigenous community traditions and health



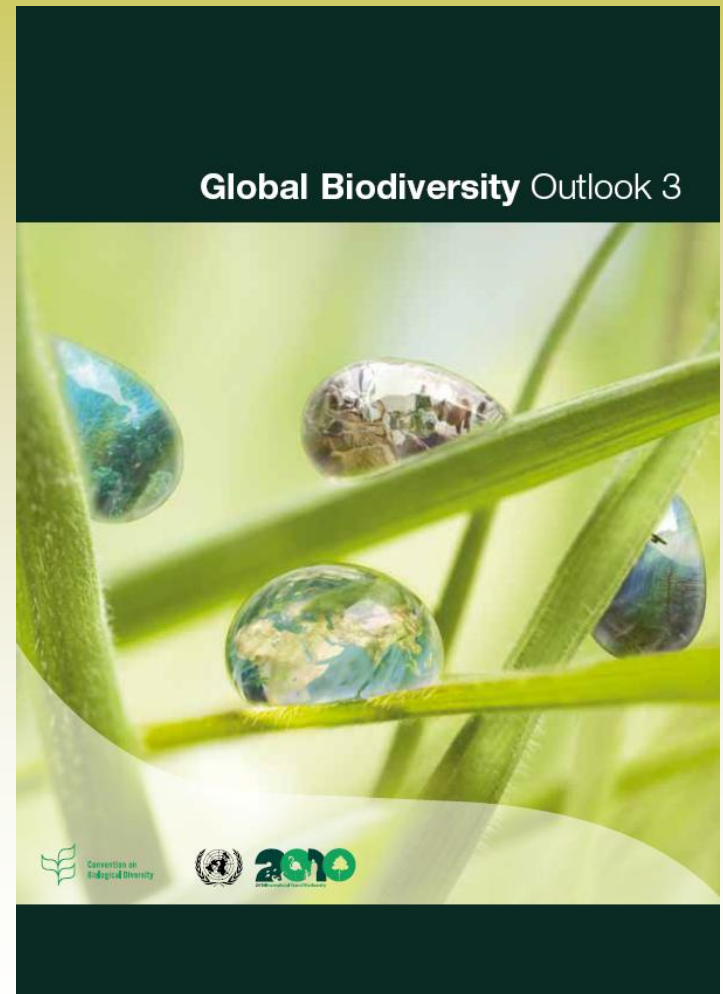


Climate change impacts and adaptation

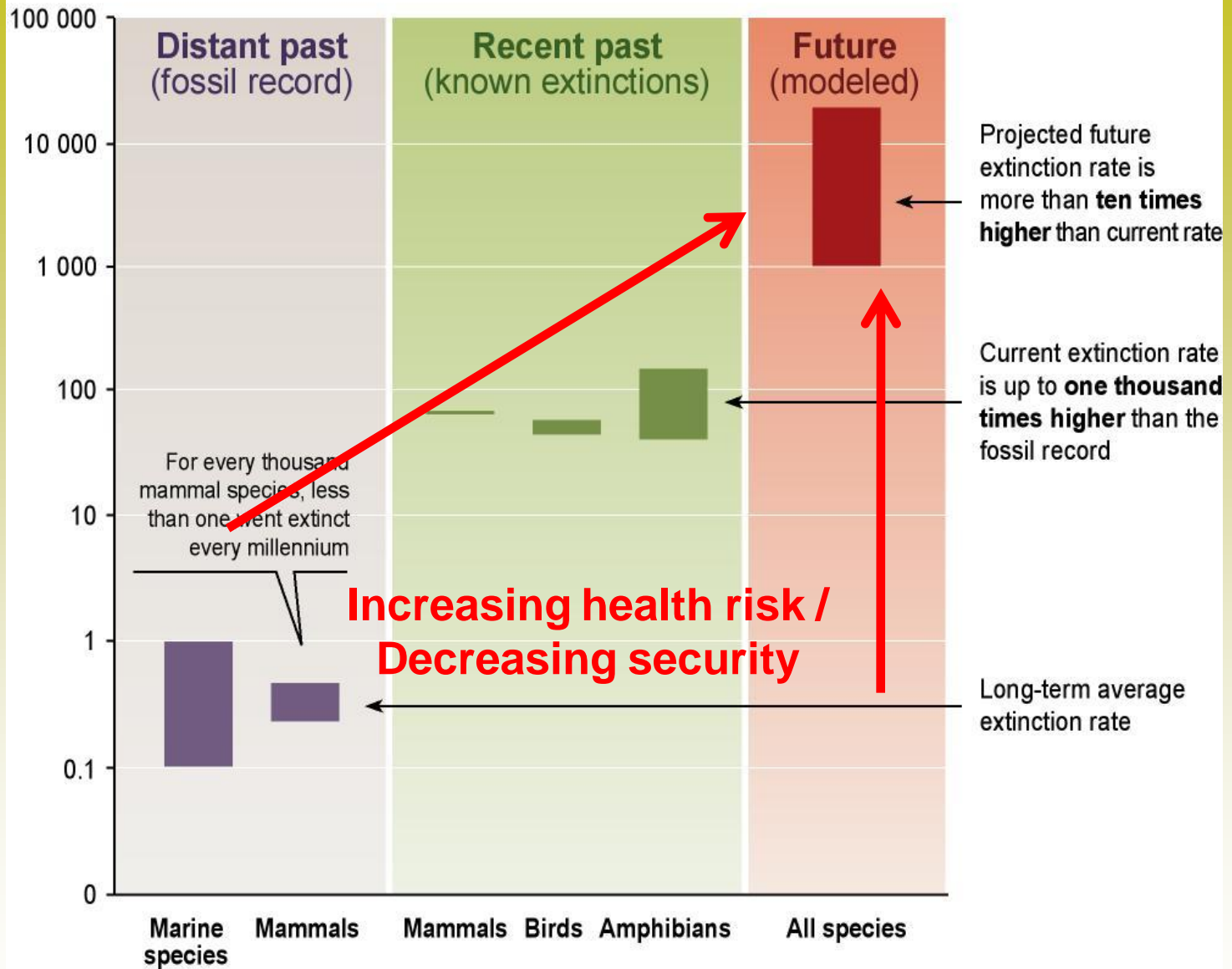
UN & EU 2010 target failures

“Current trends are bringing us closer to a number of potential tipping points that would catastrophically reduce the capacity of ecosystems to provide these essential services ...At stake are the principal objectives outlined in the Millennium Development Goals: food security, poverty eradication and a healthier population.”

UN SG Mr. Ban Ki Moon



Extinctions per thousand species per millennium



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Ecosystem approach

- Biodiversity conservation best achieved by accounting for the complex interactions and interdependencies of habitats & species within systems, and interaction of human communities and economies.
- Demands a cross-sectoral approach
- Ecosystem goods and services
- Ecosystems as delivery systems

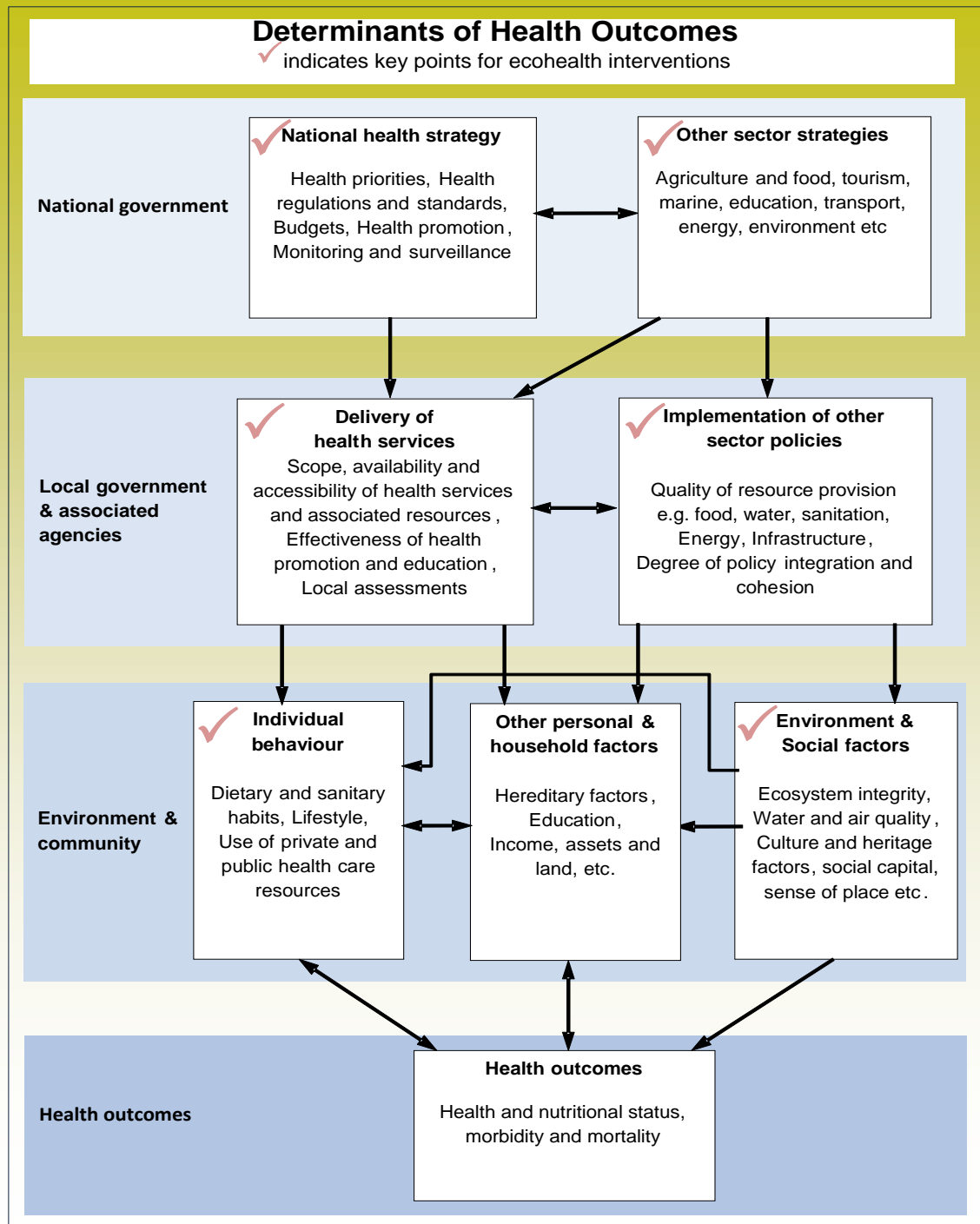
Ecosystem Approach to Health

- *Systemic* approach to population health
- *Transdisciplinary* approach that recognises the fundamental importance of ecosystem goods and services
- ...and approaches to biodiversity conservation that recognise intimate relationships between human and ecological health and sustainability.
- Ecosystems as delivery systems for health

Principles of health management:

- Assessment of health status and health risk (e.g. epidemiology)
- Development of policies, strategies, programmes
- Delivery of health care services at the community level

COHAB 2012 (in press)



Milestones

- CBD COP8 (2006), COP9 (2008), COP10 (2010)
- Increased attention to health within UN CBD discussions
- ...and biodiv at World Health Assembly 2012
- Training, partnership building & facilitation, research guidance
- COHAB 3: Reducing Risks, Galway 2013

Global progress

- Programme of work with COHAB & others on health & biodiversity.
- Will report to WHA in 2012 on health-biodiversity-climate linkages.
- COP11 New Delhi, 2012 – new commitments on linking WHO and CBD...?





Thank you

Thanks to Charles Spillane & colleagues

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www.cohabnet.org