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Thematic assessments of land degradation and restoration: IPBES deliverable 3b (i)

UNEP
UNESCO
FAO
UNDP

Background

- IPBES-2 requested scoping of deliverable 3b) thematic assessment on land degradation
- Expert meeting in Beijing (9-11 Sept. 2014)
- Adopted by IPBES-3, January 2015 in Bonn, Germany
- Thematic assessment to run 2015 -2018

Rationale

Land degradation is a major problem on every continent (except Antarctica). Total costs of land degradation is estimated at more than $40 billion annually (FAO)

Goal of halting and reversing land degradation is part of:
Sustainable development goals
CBD Target 5, 7, 14 and 15

→ There is a clear need to assess the extent, causes and processes of land degradation, as well as evaluating responses to the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded land and avoiding future degradation.

Scope

Degraded land: state of land resulting from persistent decline of biodiversity and ecosystem functions, which can not fully recover unaided within decadal time scales.

Restoration: intentional activity to recover an ecosystem form a degraded state.

Geographic coverage: all the terrestrial regions and biomes of the world. Full range of human-altered systems, including drylands, agricultural and agroforestry systems, savannahs and forests, and aquatic ecosystems that are impacted by land degradation.

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Aim: Enhance the knowledge base for policies, by:

1. Increasing awareness and understanding of the drivers of land degradation (LD)
2. Creating a framework for embedding a systems approach to understanding, monitoring and acting against LD;
3. Identifying the most effective methods and approaches for assessing, avoiding, minimizing LD, and measures to restore/ recover/rehabilitate degraded lands;
4. Decision support to help build capacity in the sustainable management of land, biodiversity and their benefits to people
5. Identifying priority knowledge gaps in this field.

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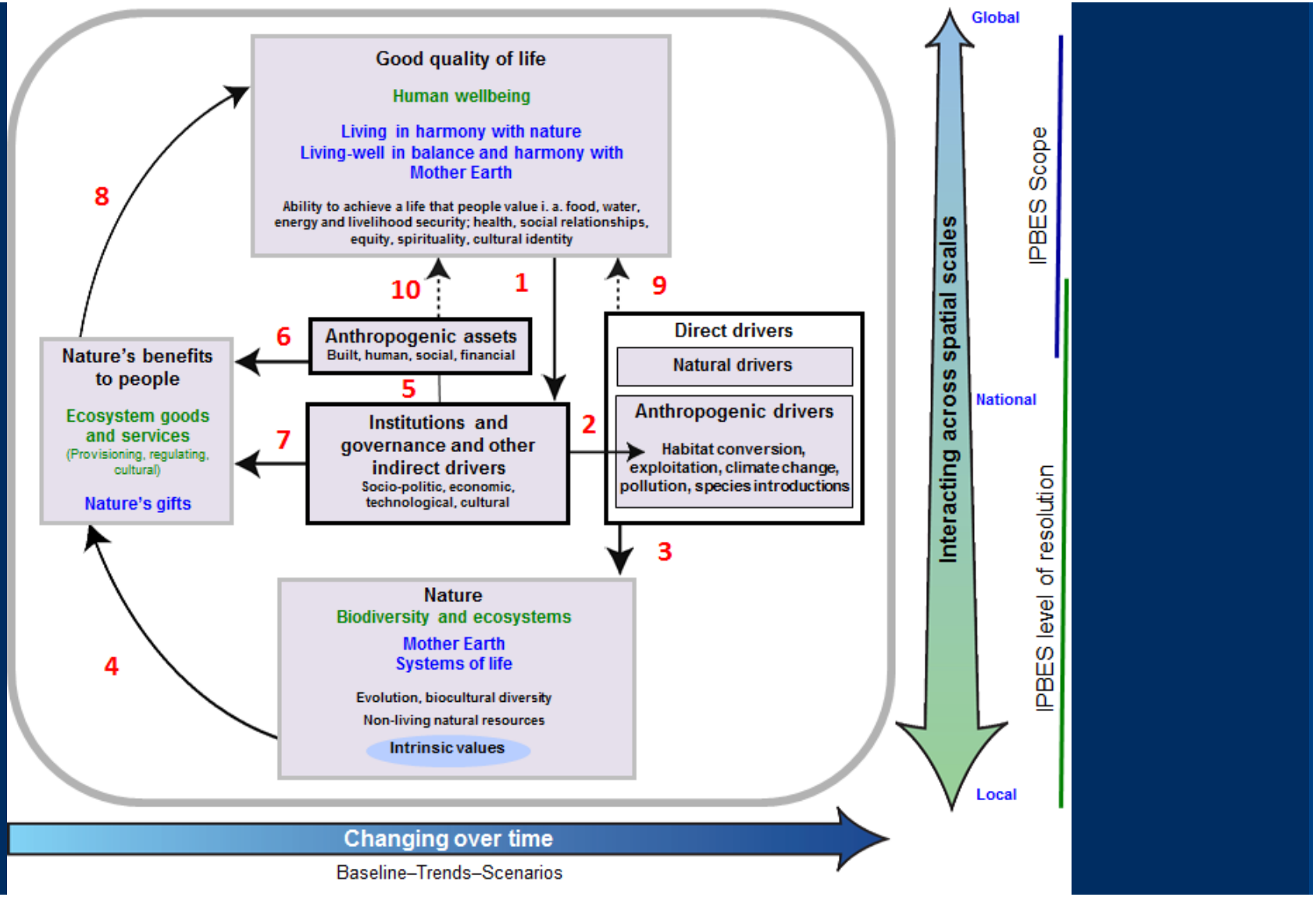
Conceptual Framework



Chapter Outline

Chapter 1: Benefits to people from avoidance of land degradation and restoration of degraded land (LD& R)

Chapter 2: Concepts and perceptions LD & R

Chapter 3: Direct and indirect drivers of LD & R

Chapter 4: Status and trends of LD & R and associated changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Chapter 5: LD & R effects on ecosystem services and functions, human well-being and good quality of life

Chapter 6: Responses to avoid land degradation and restore degraded land

Chapter 7: Scenarios of LD & R

Chapter 8: Decision support to address land degradation and support restoration of degraded land

Sources of knowledge

The information to be assessed will be drawn from:

1. Relevant articles, books,
2. regional, national and international assessments
3. reports and data by Governments, United Nation bodies and national and international NGOs,
4. indigenous and local knowledge (in accordance with the recommendations of the task force on indigenous and local knowledge), including knowledge that is not available in written form

Strategic partnerships

With possible partners organisations that can:

- Contribute their data and knowledge
- Provide in-kind support
- Act as clients and users of the assessment
- Provide assistance at various stages, including helping to review the assessment

Mostly informal, but some strategic partnerships, e.g with

- UN Convention to Combat Desertification & its Committee on Science and Technology
- Global Soil Partnership and its International Technical Panel on Soils

Operational Structure

Technical support Unit (1 full time equivalent staff)

2 Co-chairs

80 authors (from each of the 5 UN regions)

16 review editors

Management meeting as a first step to operationalise:
Head of Technical support Unit, 2 co-chairs, 1 MEP member, 1 Bureau member

Next steps:

2015:

- Call for nominations from Governments & stakeholders until 31 March 2015
- 80 experts from each of the 5 UN Regions will be selected
- First author meeting will take place 6-10 July 2015

2016:

- first drafts prepared (6-7 months), expert review (6 weeks), second author meeting, coupled with author meeting of regional assessment

Next steps:

- 1-3/2017: second draft (+first draft of summary for policy makers) send for review (2 months)
- 3-6/2017: 3rd author meeting (Co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors, MEP/ Bureau)
- 10-11/2017: final review of assessment and summary for policymakers
- 2018: Plenary (IPBES-6) approves/accepts thematic and regional assessments, including the summaries for policmakers

Your potential next step:

- Nominate as an expert: www.ipbes.net/applicationform.html
- Choose deliverable 3b (i), and your preferred chapter(s).
- Most experts of chapter 3 to chapter 8 of the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration (Deliverable 3(b)(i)) will perform their work as part of the regional and sub-regional assessments contributing to both the regional and sub-regional assessment and the land degradation and restoration assessment.


Thank you!