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Ecosystems services under magnifying glass

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The Jubilee Session of the Helsinki Commission on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Signing of the 1974 Helsinki Convention

Helsinki, Finland

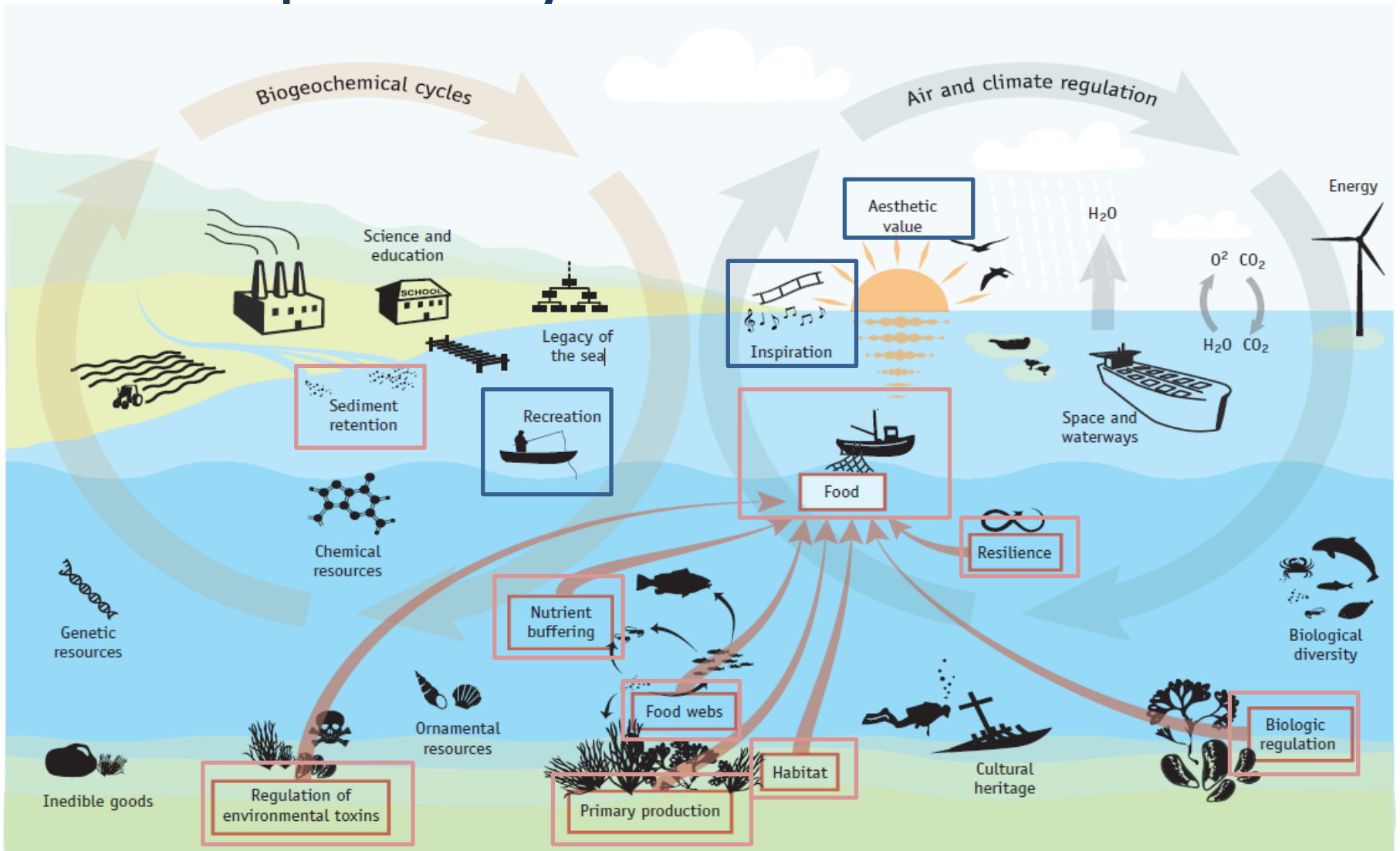
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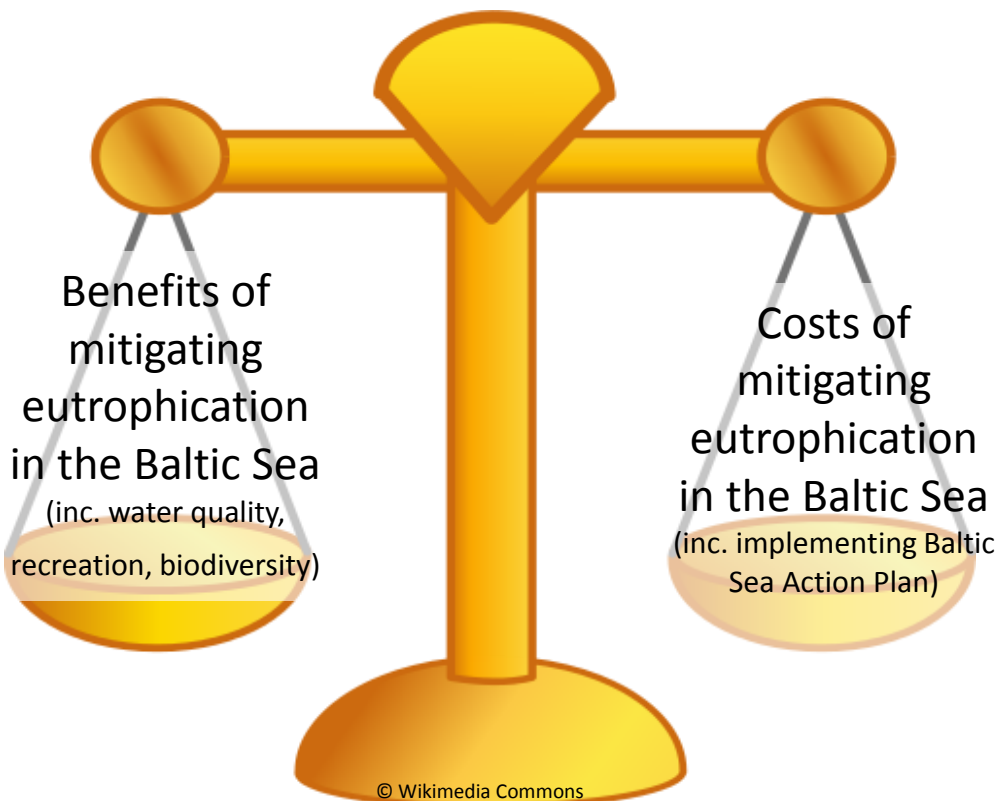
The diversity of ecosystem services (ES)
& their values

The 'web' of Baltic Sea ecosystem services, protected by the Baltic Sea Action Plan



Ecosystem services provided by the Baltic Sea, also illustrating (orange arrows) how one ecosystem service (food) is dependent on other ecosystem services. (Illustration: J. Lokrantz/Azote)

Estimated value of protecting / restoring Baltic Sea ecosystem services (BalticSTERN 2013)



→ People are willing to pay EUR 3 800 million / year for a better environment in the Baltic Sea with less eutrophication

→ This exceeds the costs for reaching eutrophication mitigation targets with EUR 1 000 – 1 500 million / year (net benefits).

→ People appreciate clean, well-functioning Baltic Sea and the ecosystem services it provides.

Value of fish(ing) in the Nordic countries

Picture © SYKE kuvapankki R. Lumiaro

Commercial fishing (marine)

Value: economic

- Number of professional fishermen: 1,600 (Se), 2,088 (Dk), 2,195 (Fin) and 12,280 (No)
- Market value of commercial fisheries: EUR 27 mil. (Fin), EUR 110 mil. (Se), EUR 460 mil. (Dk) and EUR 2 bil. (No) / year

Recreational fishing Value: socio-economic / wellbeing

- Estimated over 6 mil. recreational fishermen in the Nordic countries
- 30 - 50% of population / country / year engages with fishing (Fin, Se, No)
- Estimated economic value of recreational fishing in Sweden around EUR 80 mil



Source: Kettunen et al. (2013) [TEEB Nordic](#), including detailed references

Socio-economic value of ecosystem services

Economic

Monetary

Monetary: market price of products, value of carbon storage, avoided costs of water purification etc.

Quantitative

Quantitative: amount of people enjoying given products, volume of stored carbon, volume of purified water etc.

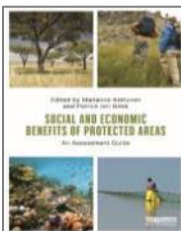
Socio-economic

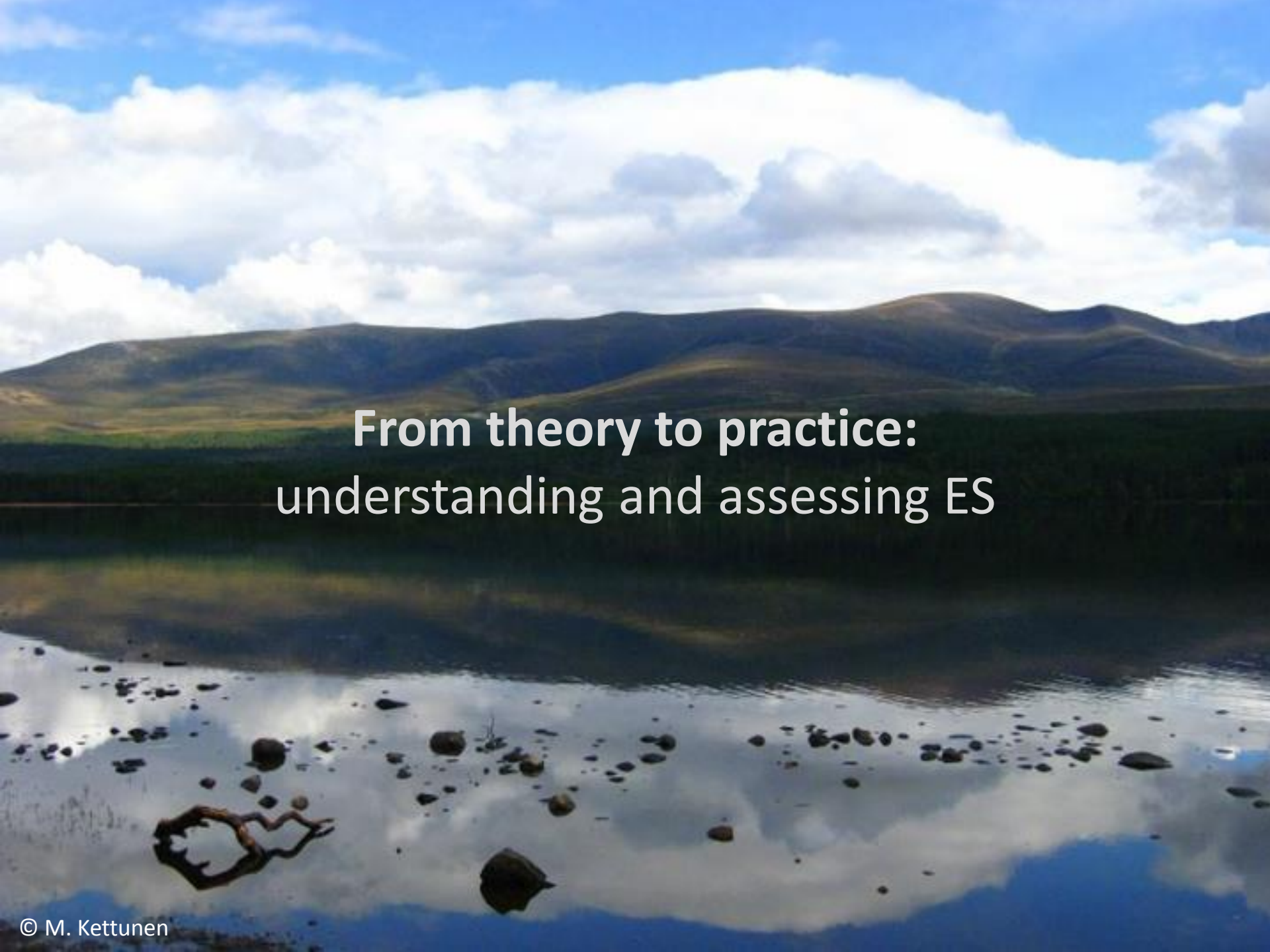
Qualitative

Qualitative: description of the range of various benefits, dependency of people on these benefits etc.

Full range of benefits underpinned by biodiversity
(e.g. yet unknown benefits)

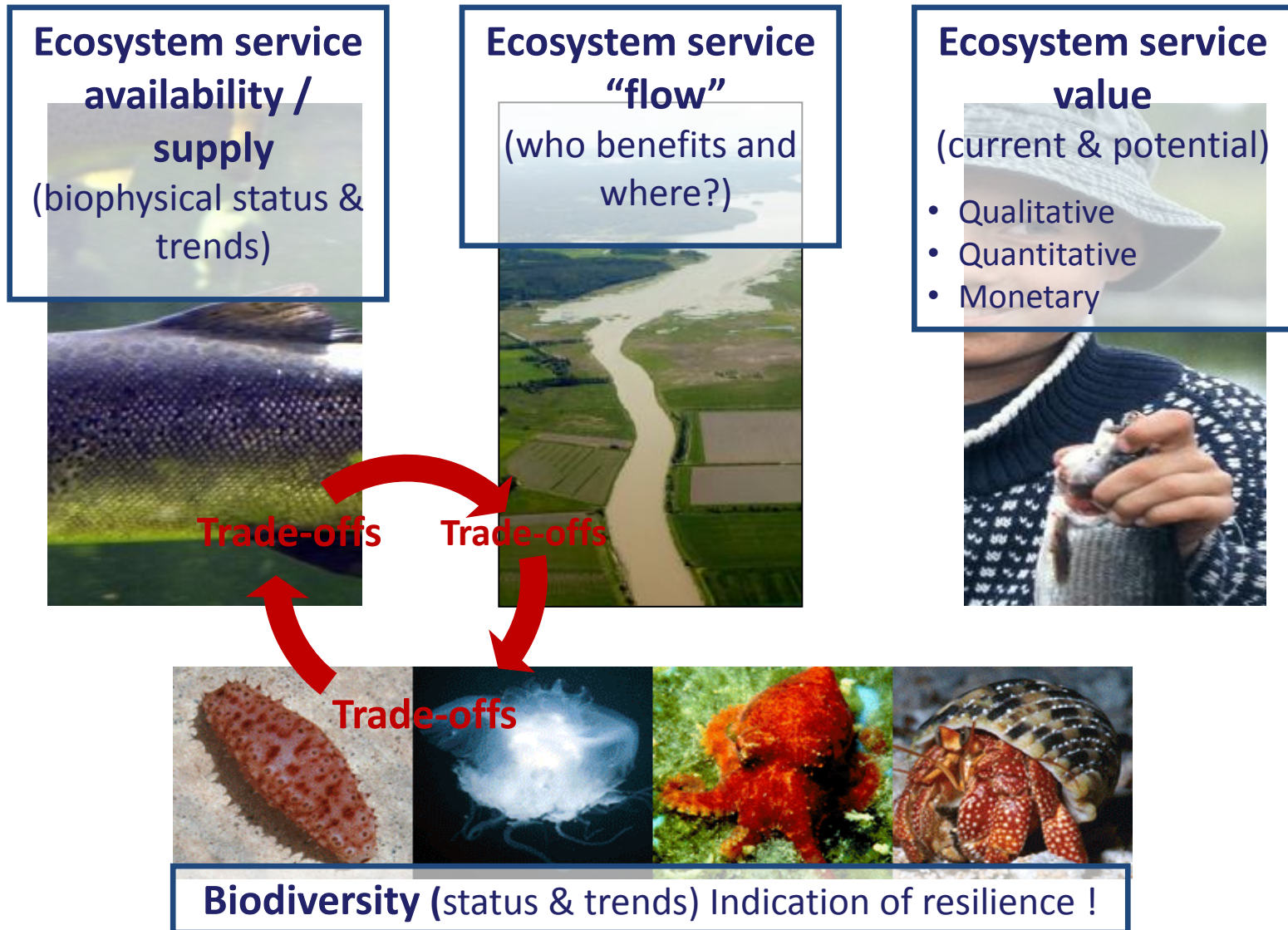
Modified from Kettunen and ten Brink (2013)






**From theory to practice:
understanding and assessing ES**

Understanding & systematically assessing ecosystem services



A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the sky and the surrounding environment. The lake is dotted with numerous dark rocks and a piece of driftwood. In the background, there are rolling hills or low mountains under a bright blue sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

**From theory to practice:
using ES to create “win-win” solutions**

Wetland construction / restoration:

cost-effective solution for water and biodiversity (south coast of SE)

Regulation of water quality (N retention):

- Annual N removal at least 1000 kg N / ha / individual wetland (minimum) → Individual wetlands cost-effective solutions for managing water quality
- N removal levels and cost-effectiveness depend on the design and location of constructed wetland → achieving benefits on a large scale requires careful planning !

Biodiversity conservation:

- Species numbers and population sizes of birds and amphibians ↑ → positive impact on species in the national Red List
- Species numbers high also on nutrient removal wetlands → 'win-win' management for biodiversity and ecosystem services

→ **Information on 1) biodiversity and 2) ecosystem services can support biodiversity conservation and water management**

MPAs: protecting biodiversity & ecosystem services

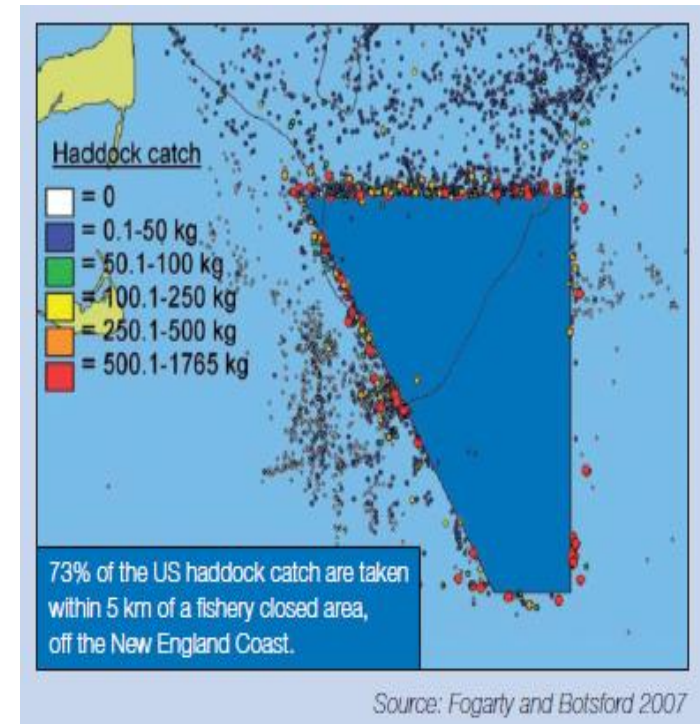
MPAs supporting local fisheries globally


- Fish populations, size & biomass all dramatically increased inside reserves, allowing spill-over to nearby fishing grounds
- A review of 112 studies in 80 MPAs (Halpern 2003)

MPAs supporting local fisheries in south Europe

- Income for local commercial fishing industry, generated by the use of MPA EUR 720 000 / MPA / year
- Local commercial fishing generates around 54 jobs / MPA
- 12 MPAs reviewed (Roncin et al. 2008)

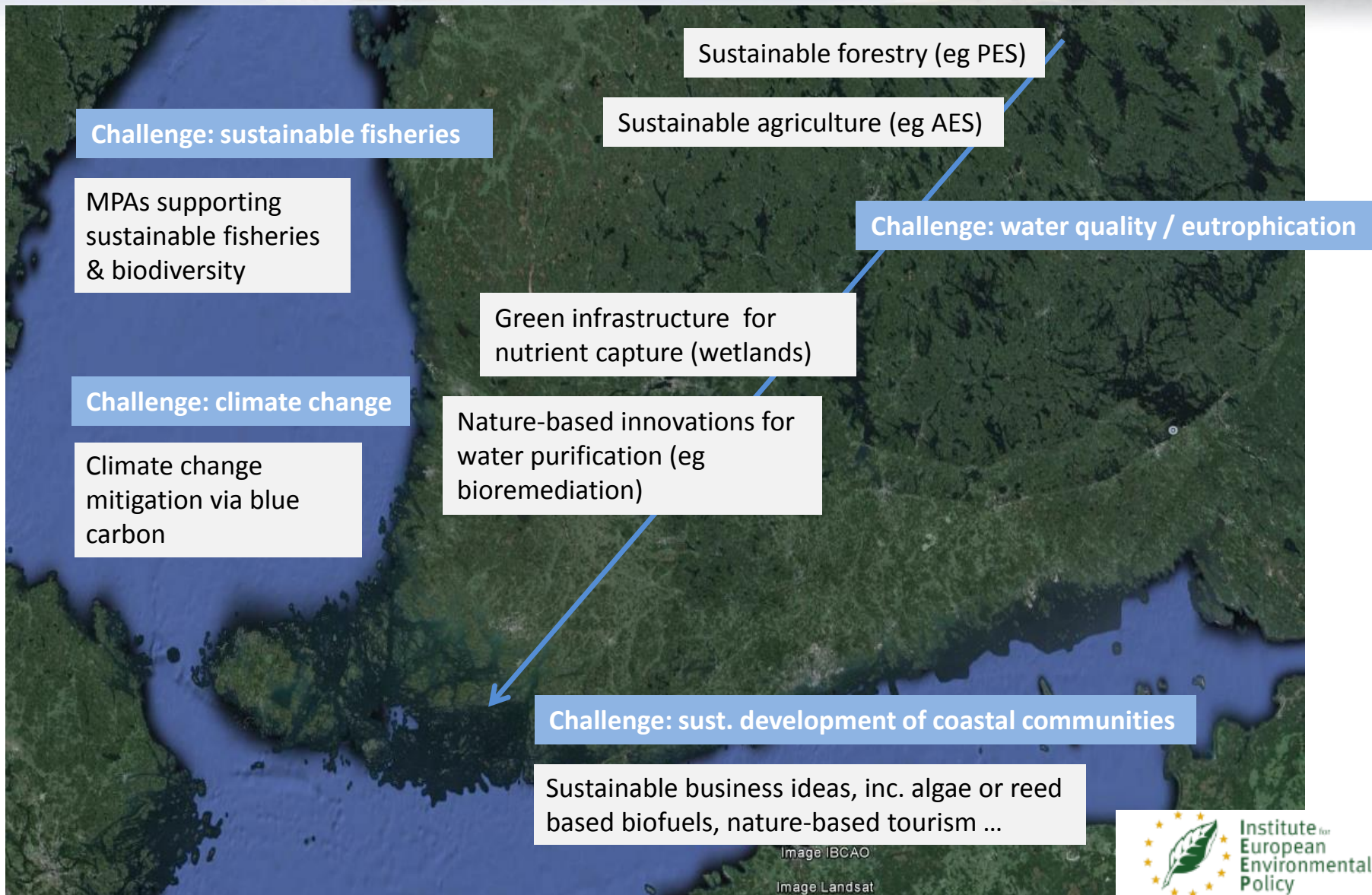
→ **(Spatial) Information on 1) biodiversity and 2) ecosystem services important for fisheries can support MPA planning and management**





From theory to practice:
Integrating nature-based solutions
to spatial planning

Nature-based solutions and (marine) spatial planning



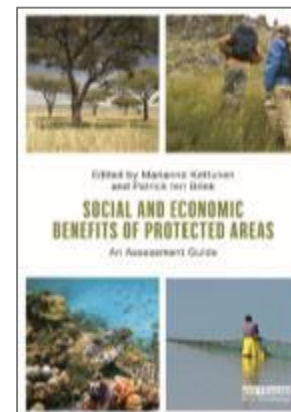
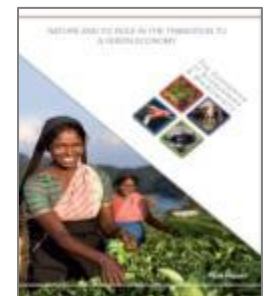
Baltic Sea ecosystem services – from theory to action

Picture © SYKE kuvapankki R. Lumiaro

- 1. Understanding the value** even when the values are not market-based or economic
 - 2. Integrating the value** systematically into the foundations of decision-making at all levels (developing and adopting indicators, marine spatial planning and impact assessments ...)
 - 3. Providing the right economic signals** – removing harmful subsidies and creating incentives for sustainable use
 - 4. Investing in green / blue** - green / blue infrastructure & creating green / blue jobs
- **Truly 'green' economy for the Baltic Sea region**
- **Building on the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan**

Further information

- [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity \(TEEB\)](#) (2008 -)
- Kettunen et al. (2012) [TEEB Nordic](#)
- Guidance Manual for [TEEB Country Studies](#) (2013)
- [TEEB Water and Wetlands](#) (2013)
- [TEEB Green Economy](#) (2012)
- Kettunen & ten Brink (2013) [Social and Economic Benefits of Protected Areas - An Assessment Guide](#)





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Thank you !

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