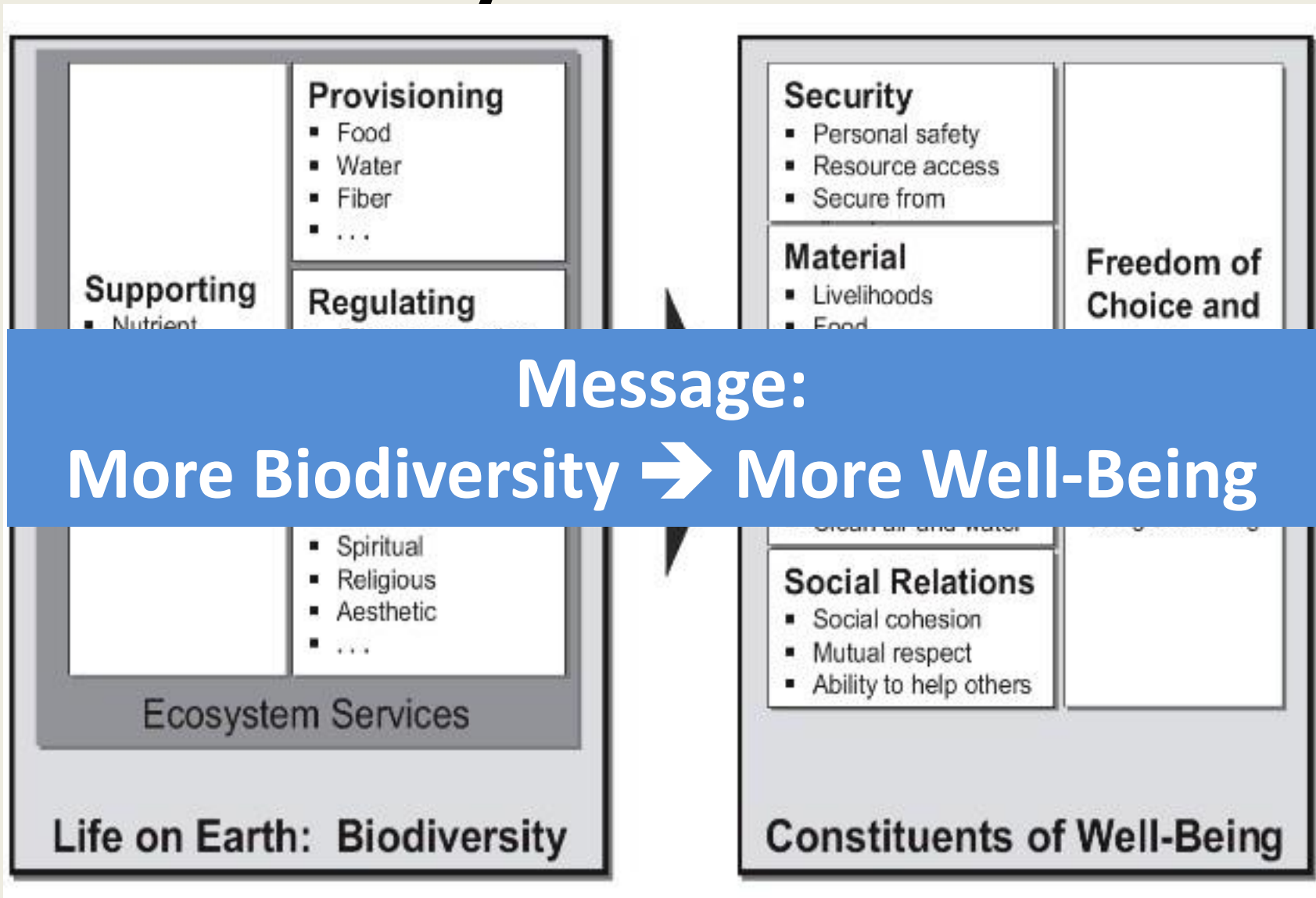


Beyond Ecosystem Services & Poverty Alleviation

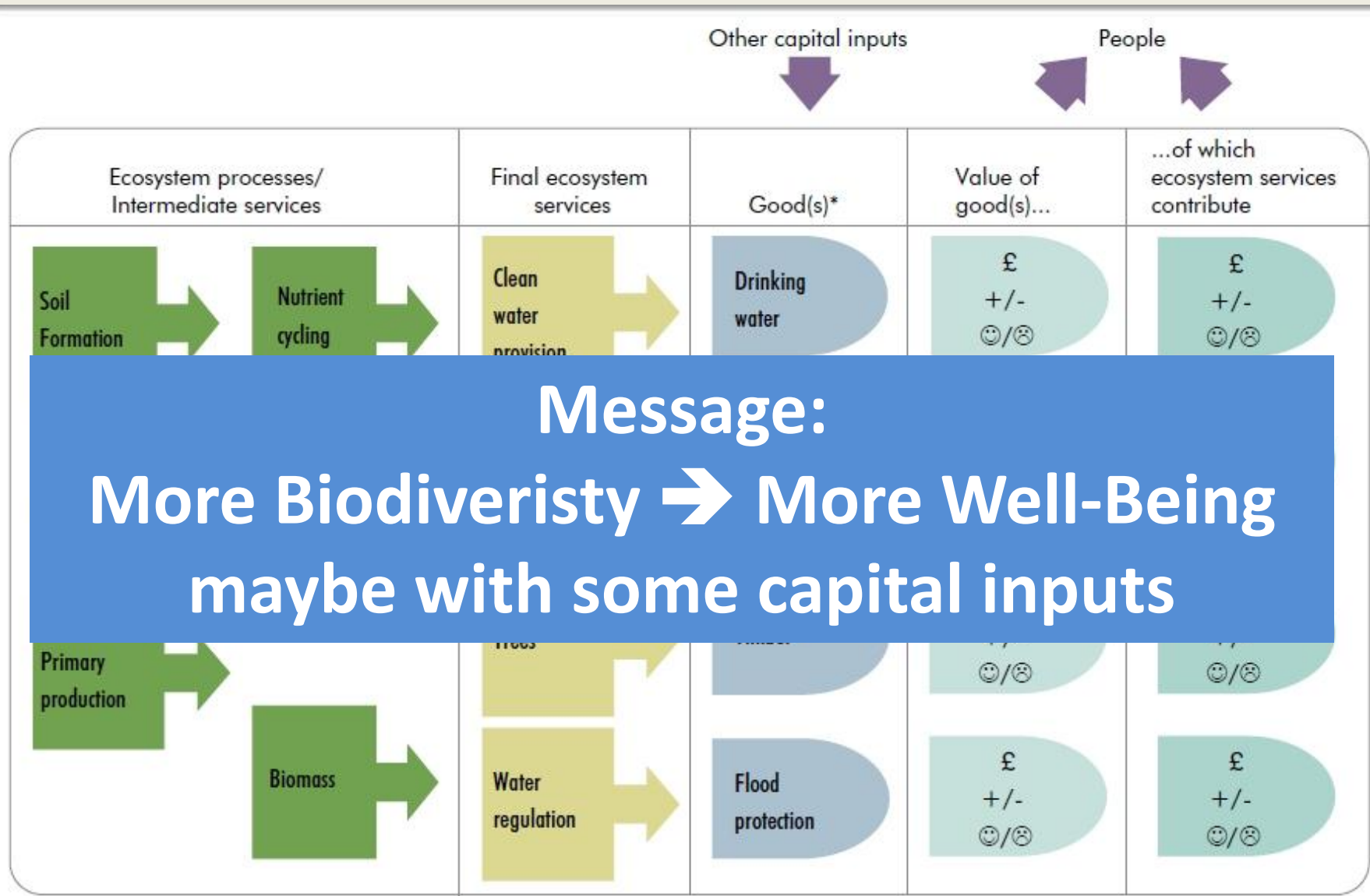
Sharachchandra Lele

ATREE, Bangalore

The Seductive Concept of Ecosystem Services



Or more nuanced..



ESPA's Overarching Question

- Does conservation of ecosystems lead to greater well-being in general and poverty alleviation in particular?
- Over the long-term?
- Under what conditions?

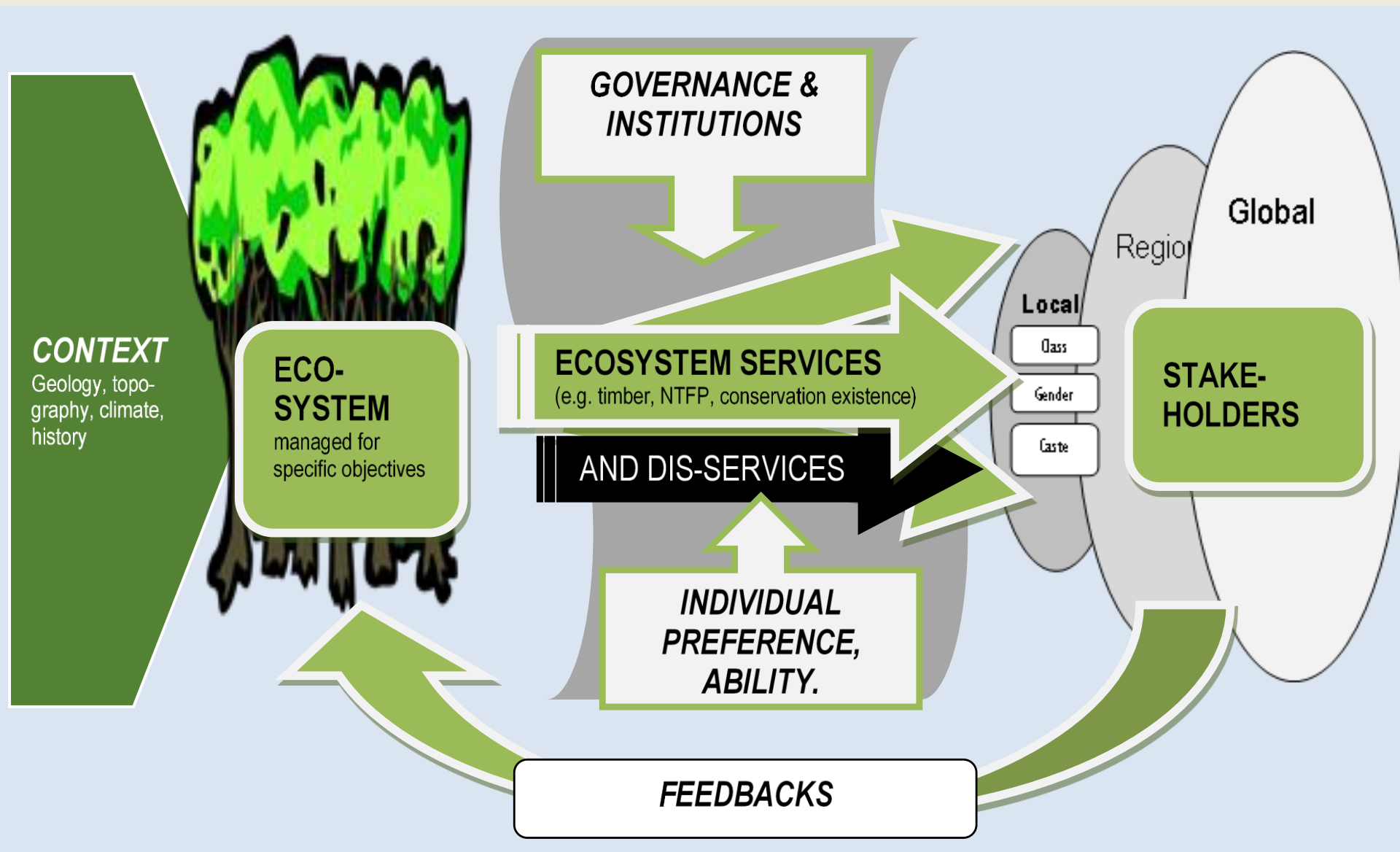
ESPA Findings: IT DEPENDS! On..

1. What is being conserved? Which service is being prioritised? (Ecological trade-offs)
2. For whom? Who gets access and how? (Social Distribution)
3. What costs does it impose? On whom? (Opportunity costs & Dis-services)
4. Through what technology, labour and capital investments? (Co-production)
5. How is conservation enforced? (Sustainability)
6. And of course the socio-ecological context

1 to 5 in turn depend upon **GOVERNANCE!**

- *Governance = who owns, who controls, who sells, who decides, who regulates/enforces, through what processes, with what accountability, etc.*
- *The deployment of technology and capital also depends primarily on these institutional arrangements*

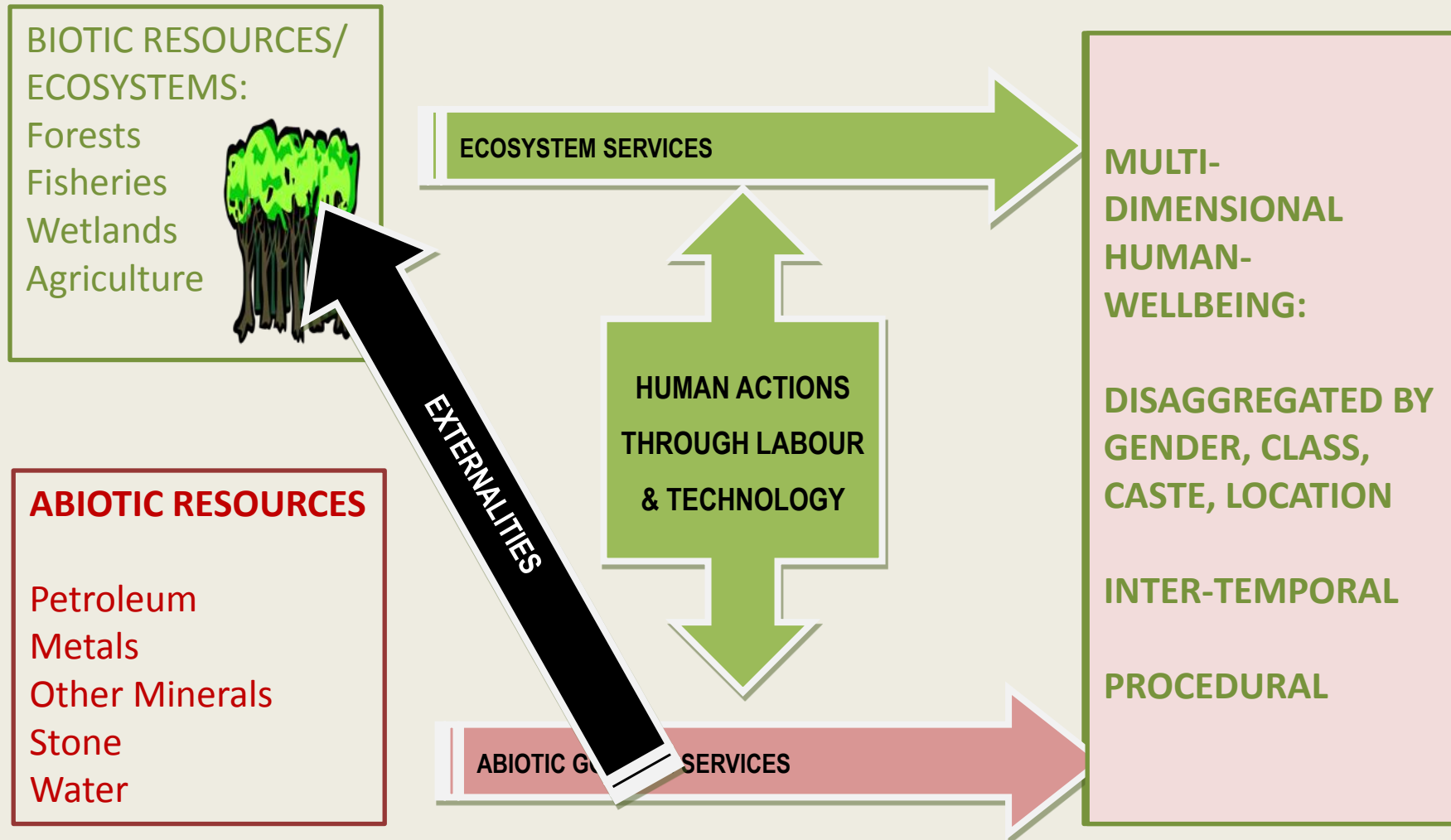
Revised framework



IMPLICATIONS

- **Decentralized, multi-layered, democratic governance** will enable
 - **fairer** ecological & social trade-offs,
 - better **returns** to efforts,
 - therefore **some poverty alleviation**, and
 - more long-term **sustainability**
- If the priority is poverty alleviation, other ‘developmental’ actions must complement ES-based actions

Beyond even Disaggregated ES & Disaggregated Well-being



What should post-ESPA focus on?

- How does one multi-layered democratic governance of ecosystems?
- How can other developmental policies complement ecosystem-based rural development?
- How does one meaningfully engage with “ES-destroying” development?
 - Mining, Dams, Thermal power
 - Urban lifestyles

How should post-ESPA proceed?

- Normatively explicit and multi-dimensional
- Descriptively integrated & rigorous
(approximately right, not precisely wrong)
- Socially engaged (not just with policy makers but with social movements) & introspective
- Problem-driven, not donor-driven
- South-south collaborative