

symposium

AT THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

LINKING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION: WHAT, WHY AND HOW?

organised by **Dilys Roe**
Matt Walpole
Joanna Elliott



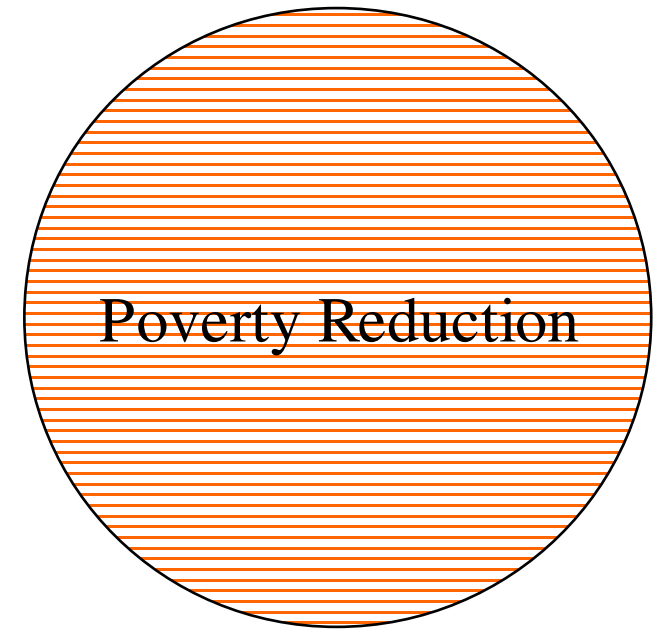
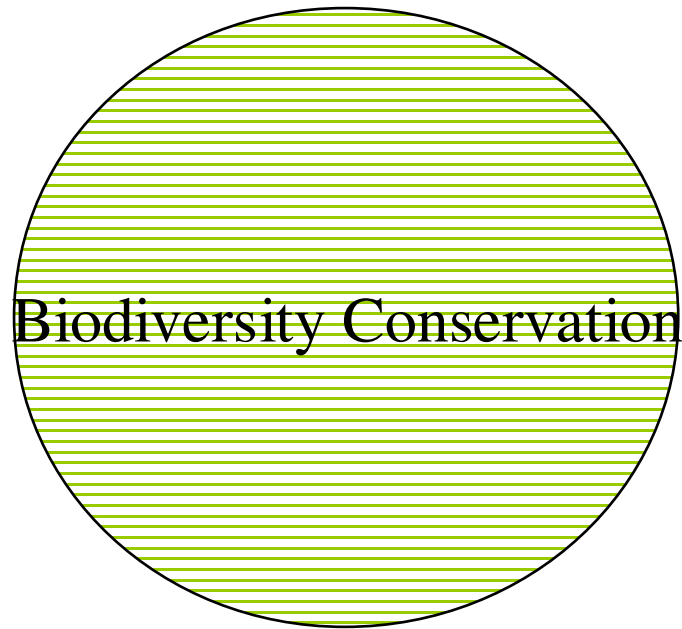
Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction: Why, What and How?

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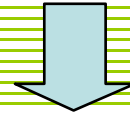
Two Policy Realms – Why Link?



Biodiversity Conservation



CBD



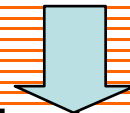
Preamble: "economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries"

2002 Strategic Plan: "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss... as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth"

Poverty Reduction



MDGs



Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.

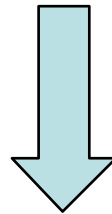
Additional target since 2006: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005

Biodiversity

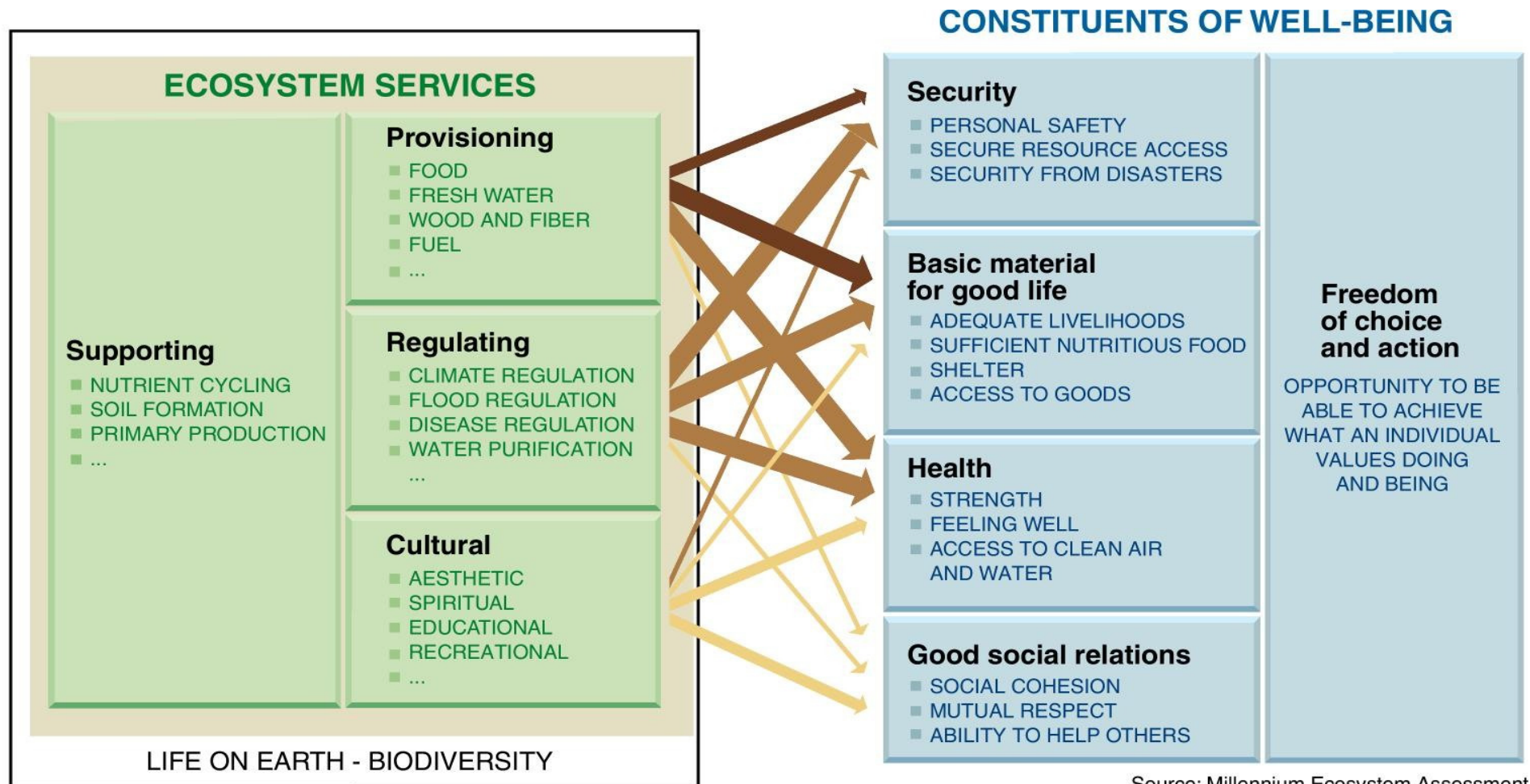


Ecosystem services



Human wellbeing

(Poverty = “pronounced deprivation of wellbeing”)



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

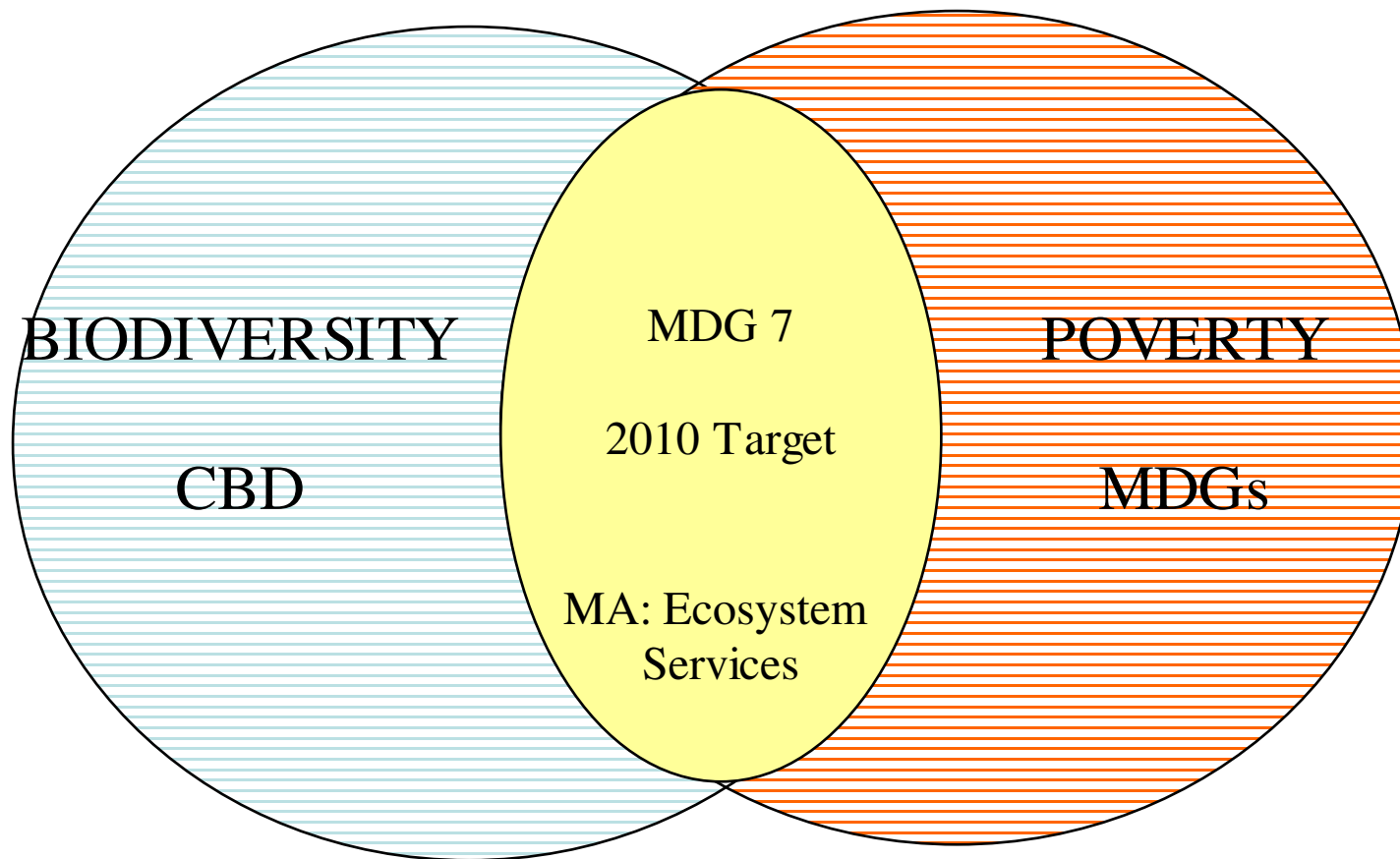
ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

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

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong

Linkages at the International Policy Level



But dispute at the practical level

1. Poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation are not linked.
2. Poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation may be linked- but not on our agenda.
3. Poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation are linked – the one undermines the other.
4. Poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation are linked – the one depends on the other.
5. Poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation are linked - but there is no generic model.

(After Adams et al 2004)

A context specific relationship

Different patterns of winners and losers

- *Many people have benefitted from the conversion of natural ecosystems but the losses in biodiversity and changes in ecosystem services have caused some people to experience declining wellbeing with poverty in some social groups being exacerbated.*
- *People with low resilience to ecosystem change – mainly the disadvantaged – have been the biggest losers and witnessed the biggest increase in poverty.*
- *The costs and risks associated with biodiversity loss are expected to increase and to fall disproportionately on the poor*

Different outcomes over different time periods

Different understandings of “biodiversity”
“poverty” and “poverty reduction”

A context specific relationship

Different patterns of winners and losers

Different outcomes over different time periods

- *Some short term improvements in material welfare due to actions that lead to the loss of biodiversity that is important to the poor may make these gains temporary and may in fact exacerbate all constituents of poverty in the long term*

Different understandings of “biodiversity”
“poverty” and “poverty reduction”

Different understandings of “biodiversity” “poverty” and “poverty reduction”

Biodiversity: the *variability* among living organisms from all sources...and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (CBD)

“Wild Nature”: variability + abundance + condition and extent of ecosystems (TEEB Scoping the Science)

In practice “biodiversity” \equiv biomass \equiv key species/habitats

Focus of organisations/interventions dedicated to “biodiversity conservation” not necessarily on conserving variability across the board.

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Different understandings of “biodiversity” “poverty” and “poverty reduction”

Absolute poverty - subsistence below minimal living conditions

- living on <\$1/day (MDG1)
- National poverty levels often based on cost of defined nutritional needs or basket of goods

Multidimensional poverty: a *pronounced **deprivation in well being**....*

To be poor is to be hungry, to lack shelter and clothing, to be sick and not cared for, to be illiterate and not schooled. But for poor people, living in poverty is more than this. Poor people are particularly vulnerable to adverse events outside their control. They are often treated badly by the institutions of state and society and excluded from voice and power in these institutions’ (World Development Report, 2000)

Does lack of material wealth = poverty? To some a derogatory term

Different understandings of “biodiversity” “poverty” and “poverty reduction”

Poverty reduction or alleviation? Or *just* improving livelihoods?

“Poverty *reduction*” - Reducing the number of poor people, lifting people beyond a defined poverty line

“Poverty *alleviation*” - Alleviating the symptoms of poverty and/or reducing the severity of poverty without transforming people from ‘poor’ to ‘non-poor’;

Livelihood improvements – beneficiaries not necessarily limited to those who are “poor”.

Hard to define? Even harder to measure and draw conclusions!
Agrawal and Redford (1996)

This symposium

- Assess the evidence base
- Review practical experience
- Increase clarity over claims and assumptions
- Highlight key knowledge gaps
- Explore research needs
- Identify priorities for policy and practice

This symposium

Key questions

- What is the real evidence base? How much is myth or assumption? What is known and unknown?
- Which groups of “poor” benefit and is poverty really *reduced* or is it more a case of general livelihood improvement?
- Which “bits” of biodiversity are important and how does this compare to conservation priorities?
- How comparable are the metrics?
- Win-win situations or trade-offs?
- Climate impacts?

This symposium

- Key note presentations: set the context
- State of knowledge reviews
- Biodiversity – poverty linkages in different biomes/for different groups of poor people
- Conservation strategies – impacts on the poor
- Discussion Panel: Real world approaches – what works and why?
- Final Panel: knowledge gaps, policy problems, implementation issues