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Publication in April 2010

The history of ecosystem services in economic theory and practice: From early notions to markets and payment schemes

Erik Gómez-Baggethun Rudolf de Groot Carlos Montes Pedro L. Lomas

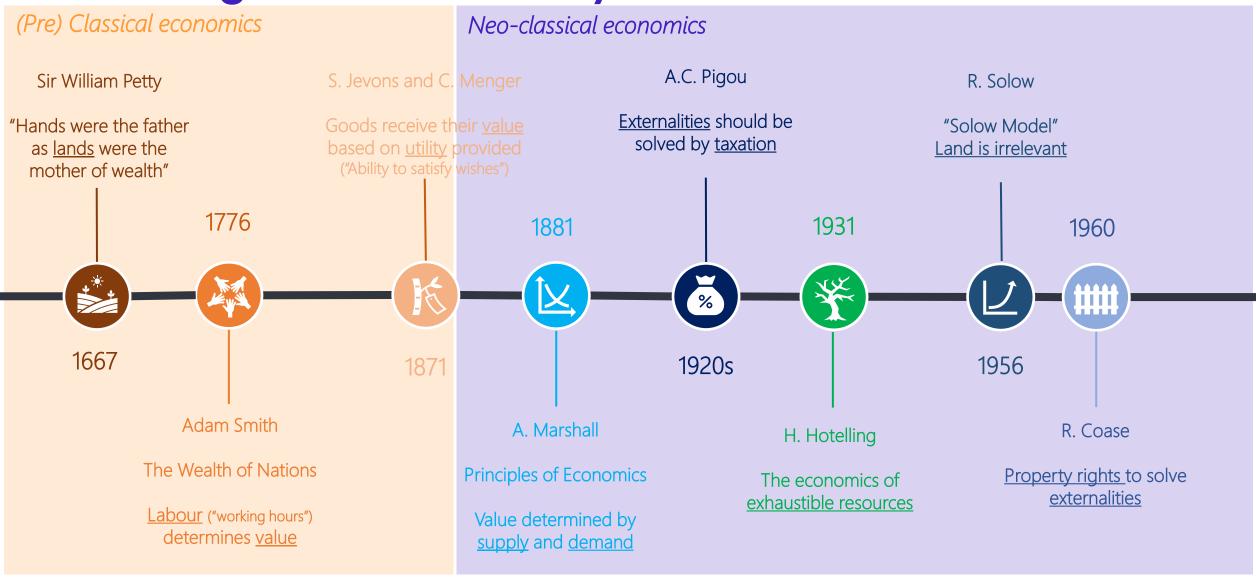
#### A brief reminder

Ecosystem Services...

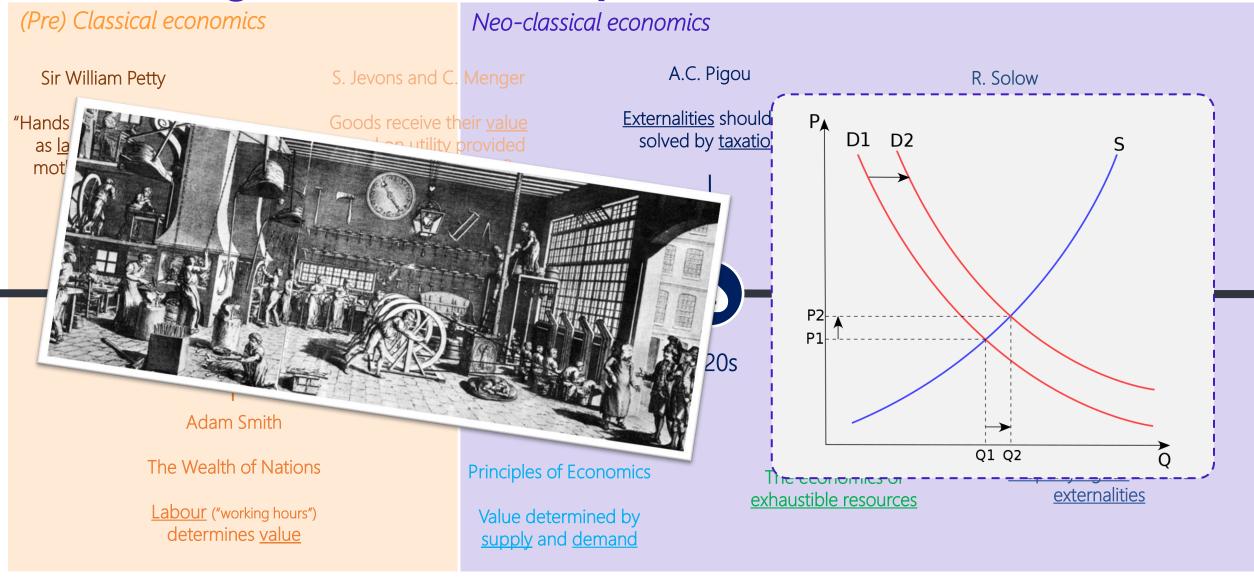
can be defined as all the benefits we derive from mother nature, which contribute to the well-being of human societies

- summarized from FAO

## **Preceding Economic History**



# **Preceding Economic History**

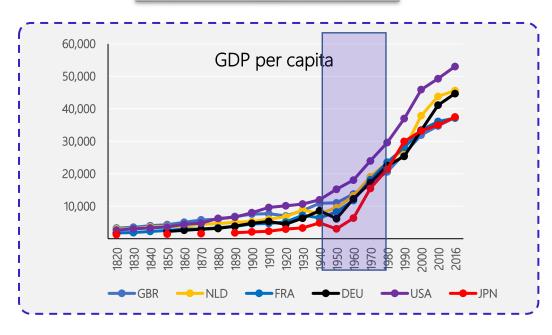


## Post-War – "The good times"





Higher production = higher well-being + ... more pollution





### 1970s - The evolution of Ecosystem Services

1968 1972 1973



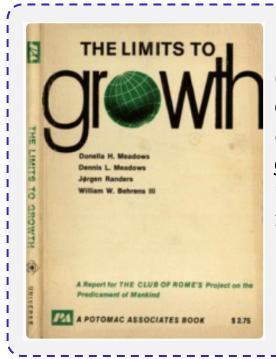


G. Hardin

"The tragedy of commons"

Economic Theory to explain natural processes





"If present growth trends (...) and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached within the next 100 years"

> - Meadows et al. (The Club of Rome)

## 1970s - The evolution of Ecosystem Services

1968

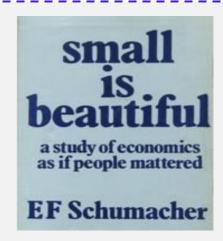
G. Hardin

"The tragedy of commons"

Economic Theory to explain natural processes



#### Natural Capital and Oil Crisis



- The book outlines problems associated with globalization and massproduction
- Introduction of Natural Capital as finite resource
- Natural Capital needs to be invested, quantified and safeguarded



- Arab oil producers cut off exports to the U.S. to protest American military support for Israel.
- Soaring gas prices and a major economic downturn in the U.S

### Interconnection of Economy and Nature

1981





The Case for Conservation: Extinction.

Extinction, Substitution and Ecosystem Services



#### **Brundtland Report**



"Ecology and economy are becoming ever more interwoven locally, regionally, nationally, and globally into a seamless net of causes and effects"

#### G. Daily

Introduction: What are Ecosystem Services?

"Ecosystem services are the conditions and processes through which natural ecosystems (including its species), sustain and fulfil human life. They maintain biodiversity and the production of ecosystem good."

Total <u>7</u> ecosystem services identified

## Mainstreaming and Commodification of Nature

1997



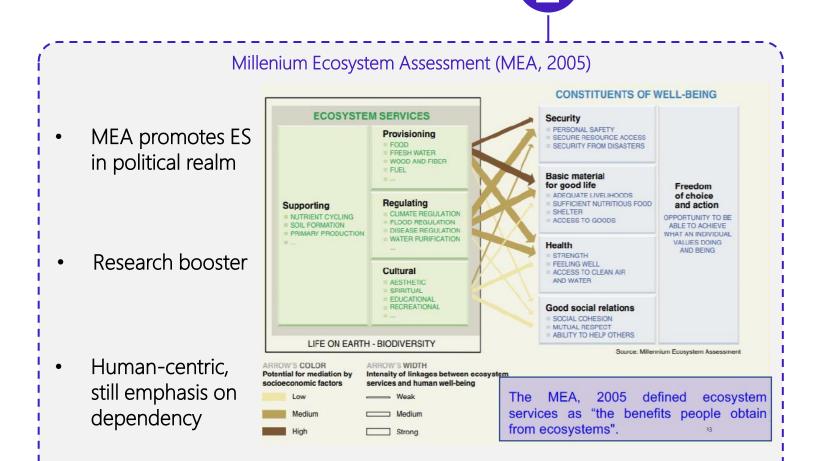
R. Constanza et al.

The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital

Focus on market-based economic evaluation



Total 17 ecosystem services identified



## The current state of Ecosystem Services

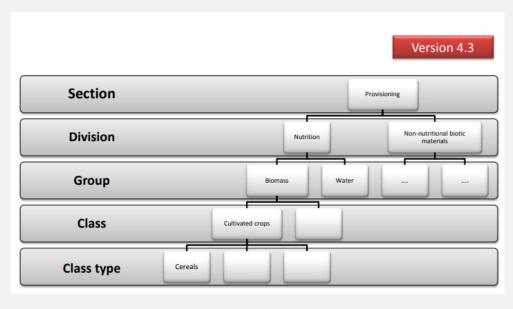
2012

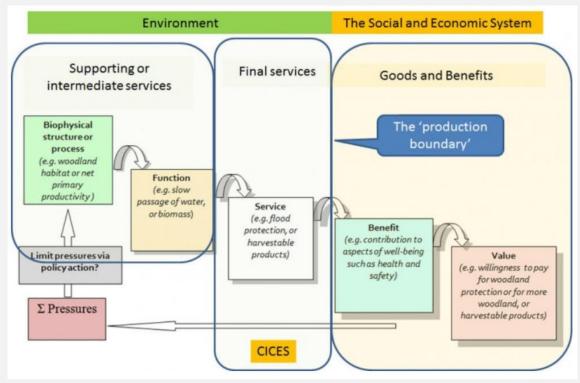


ES to NCP

Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES)

Classification standard, compatible with IPBES framework, MEA and TEEB



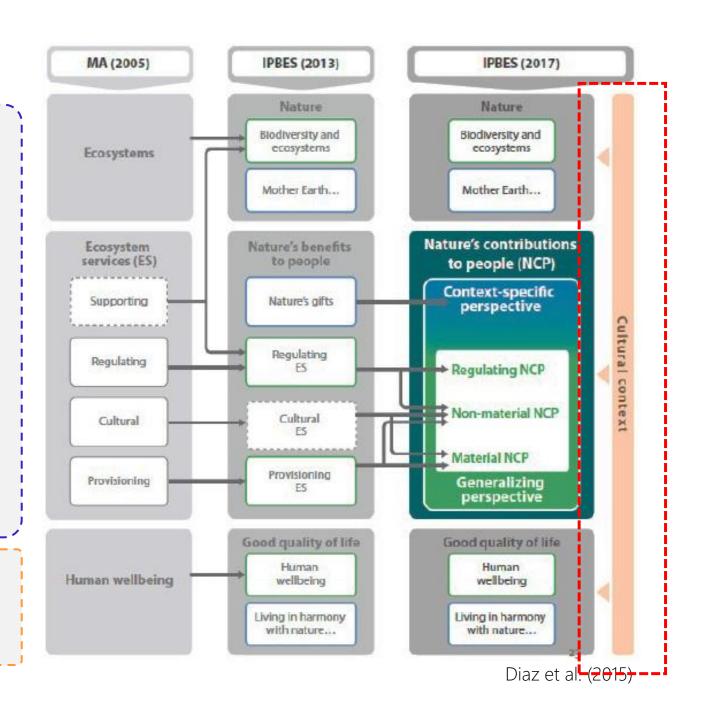


## Re-branding? ES to NCP

- "Nature's contribution to people" is IPBES term for Ecosystem Services
- Existing frameworks fail to incorporate social science and local practices
- Western science overpowered indigenous knowledge and people
- Seeking a broad, pluralistic approach



The move by IPBES to replace ecosystem services with NCP is an outcome of politics, not rigorous thinking.



1. Economic values, valuation methods and market schemes are not ideologically neutral.

- Corbera et al. (2007) - Vatn (2005) 2. Market-based mechanisms can corrupt and ultimately change the logic of conservation from communal regulation to economic self-interest.

- Vatn (2010)

3. Payment schemes are frequently adopted quickly without sufficient critical discussion

4. Re-branding typically excludes parts of audience and received negatively

- Collange and Bonache (2015)

- Aimé-Garnier and Roux (2006)



- Redford and Adams (2009)

The ES concept developed, while significantly diverging from its original purpose 
Good or Bad?

Making Nature visible in economic decision making.

Logic of valuation as a pragmatic short-term tool.

Daily et al., 2009 Spash, 2008a; Child, 2009

#### Sources:

#### Page 1 https://pixabay.com/photos/yosemite-national-park-mountains-1771239/ Page 2 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212041612000162 Page 3 https://www.fao.org/ecosystem-services-biodiversity/en/ Page 4 https://www.geschichtslehrer.in/contentLD/HI/Ba81mManufaktur.pdf https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/hull-the-economic-writings-of-sir-william-petty-vol-1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supply and demand#/media/File:Supply-and-demand.svg Page 5 https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/24/national/social-issues/minamata-disease-victims-closure/ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/5fa1c6e1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/content/ https://emadion.it/en/mysteries/mysterious-places-2/london-great-smog/ https://www.businessinsider.com/what-tokyo-japan-looked-like-60s-70s-retro-2017-3 Page 6 https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2013/10/15/234771573/the-1973-arab-oil-embargo-the-old-rules-no-longer-apply https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxC161GvMPc Page 7 https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.213.4505.327.b https://www.jstor.org/stable/1309037 https://www.veganaustralia.org.au/animal agriculture causes biodiversity loss un report Page 8 https://www.nature.com/articles/387253a0 Page 9 https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/workshops/ES Classification 2016/UNSD CICES 20062016 FINAL.pdf https://cices.eu/supporting-functions/ Page 10

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