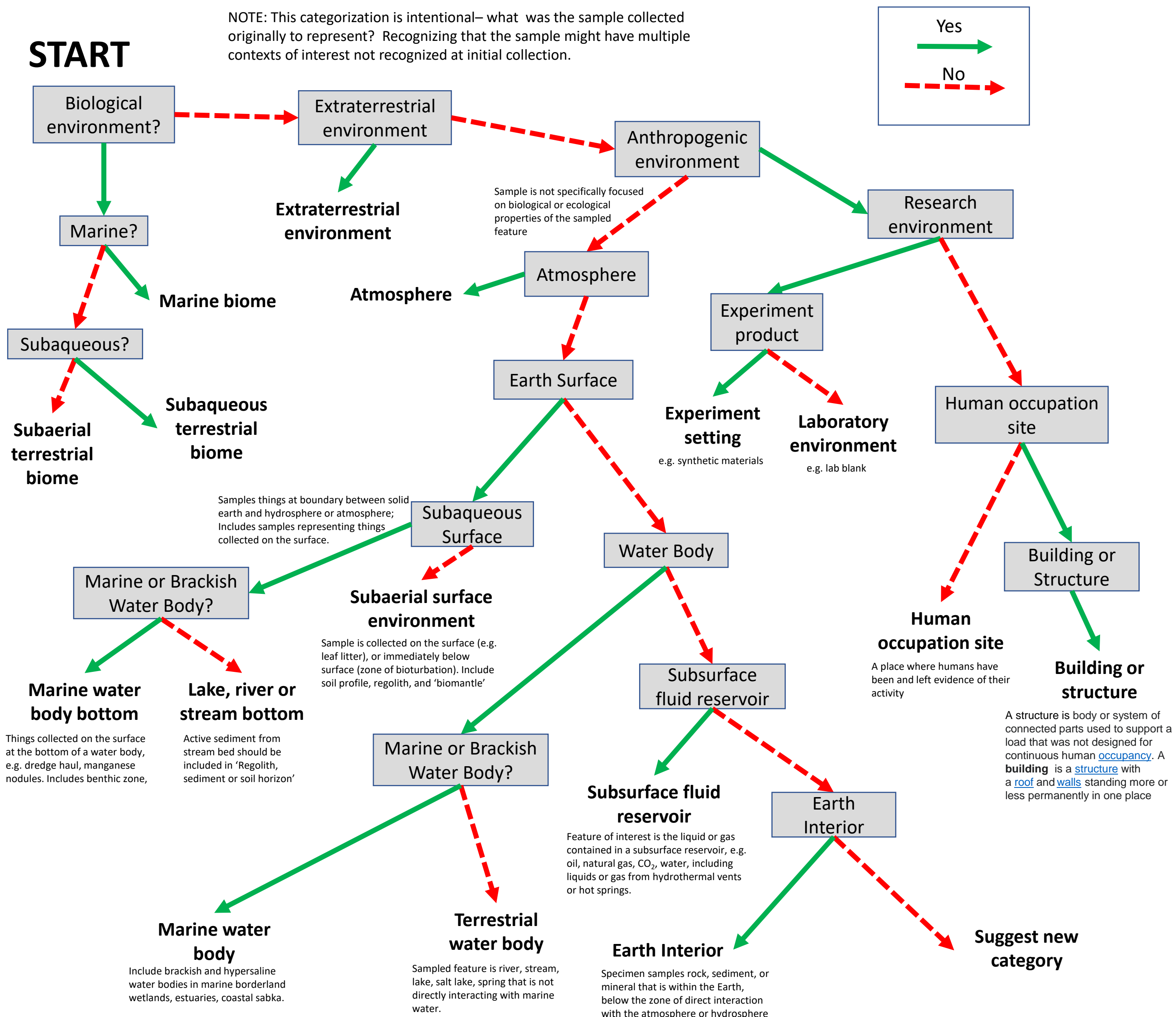# iSamples Sampled Feature Decision Tree

START

NOTE: This categorization is intentional– what was the sample collected originally to represent? Recognizing that the sample might have multiple contexts of interest not recognized at initial collection.

Legend:
- Yes (green solid arrow)
- No (red dashed arrow)

Biological environment?
- → **Marine?**
  - → **Marine biome**
  - → **Subaqueous?**
    - → **Subaqueous terrestrial biome**
    - → **Subaerial terrestrial biome**

Extraterrestrial environment
- → **Extraterrestrial environment**

Anthropogenic environment
Sample is not specifically focused on biological or ecological properties of the sampled feature
- → **Research environment**
  - → **Experiment product**
    - → **Experiment setting**
      e.g. synthetic materials
    - → **Laboratory environment**
      e.g. lab blank
  - → **Human occupation site**
    - → **Human occupation site**
      A place where humans have been and left evidence of their activity
    - → **Building or Structure**
      - → **Building or structure**
        A structure is body or system of connected parts used to support a load that was not designed for continuous human occupancy. A **building** is a structure with a roof and walls standing more or less permanently in one place
- → **Atmosphere**
  - → **Atmosphere**
  - → **Earth Surface**
    Samples things at boundary between solid earth and hydrosphere or atmosphere; Includes samples representing things collected on the surface.
    - → **Subaqueous Surface**
      - → **Marine or Brackish Water Body?**
        - → **Marine water body bottom**
          Things collected on the surface at the bottom of a water body, e.g. dredge haul, manganese nodules. Includes benthic zone,
        - → **Lake, river or stream bottom**
          Active sediment from stream bed should be included in 'Regolith, sediment or soil horizon'
      - → **Subaerial surface environment**
        Sample is collected on the surface (e.g. leaf litter), or immediately below surface (zone of bioturbation). Include soil profile, regolith, and 'biomantle'
    - → **Water Body**
      - → **Marine or Brackish Water Body?**
        - → **Marine water body**
          Include brackish and hypersaline water bodies in marine borderland wetlands, estuaries, coastal sabka.
        - → **Terrestrial water body**
          Sampled feature is river, stream, lake, salt lake, spring that is not directly interacting with marine water.
      - → **Subsurface fluid reservoir**
        - → **Subsurface fluid reservoir**
          Feature of interest is the liquid or gas contained in a subsurface reservoir, e.g. oil, natural gas, CO_2, water, including liquids or gas from hydrothermal vents or hot springs.
        - → **Earth Interior**
          - → **Earth Interior**
            Specimen samples rock, sediment, or mineral that is within the Earth, below the zone of direct interaction with the atmosphere or hydrosphere
          - → **Suggest new category**