

# Towards a quality-of-life approach to valuing the benefits of forests

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All-IUFRO conference, 21-23 September 2022



# Valuation of benefits: in economic terms or ...?

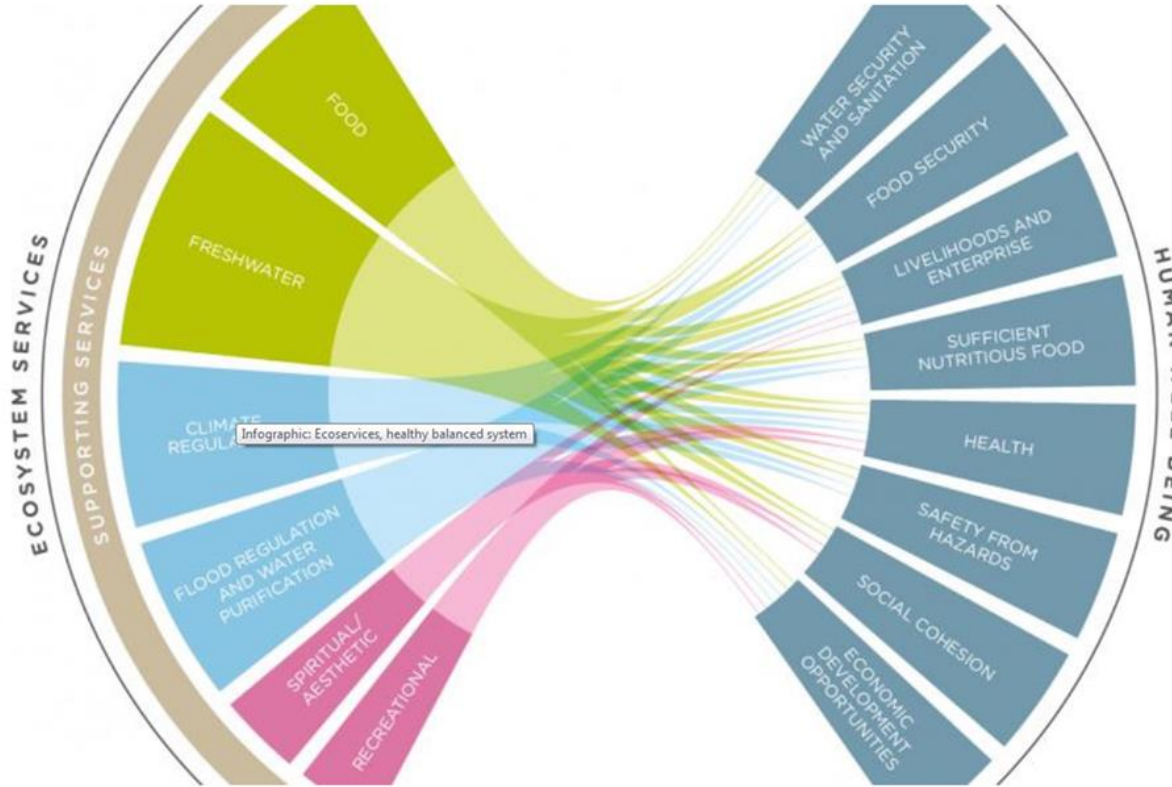
*"The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was carried out between 2001 and 2005 to assess the consequences of ecosystem change **for human well-being.**"*

(MEA, 2005)

Back to the basics → using Quality of Life (QoL), defined here as long-term well-being, as overarching endpoint/criterion for valuation

# Expanding the IUCN model (2013)

Ecosystem services providing units



Quality of Life

# Research agenda (under development)

- Which category of benefits of ESs is how important for quality of life? (*relative importance of benefits for QoL*)
- Which ESs are most important for generating these benefits? (*relative importance of ES for most relevant benefits*)
- Which ecosystems are best suited for offering these services? (*effective provision of important ESs*)
- Which of these ecosystems are most likely to be affected by ongoing trends and transitions (*future provision of important ESs*)

# Towards a quality-of-life approach

- Departing from the individual, not from the ecosystem
  - A service offered is not always a service used
    - Use matters, therefore location (nearness) matters
  - Not looking at an individual ecosystem in isolation
    - QoL: long-term well-being (i.e., beyond momentary)
    - Total (local) supply of ESs (and its use) is relevant
- Use is not always intentional (not only purposeful recreational visits)
  - And people are not always aware of the benefits

# Interested? Let's talk!

