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Introduction to the day:

Values, valuation and decision-making at the nexus

**Improving decisions at the food, water, energy and
environment nexus: Values and valuation**

Friday 28 November 2014

Two inescapable facts

1. Human wants (including those with the highest possible motivations such as improving society or even saving lives) exceed the resources available to satisfy them all;
2. Because of these resource constraints, every time we decide to do one thing, we are in effect making a decision not to do another. We are implicitly placing values on each option.

Valuation is unavoidable; it is the essence of decision making.

Be explicit about the valuations inherent in all decision making.

Recognise that all decisions imply trade-offs.....
.....especially those involving the natural environment

The environment, people and decision making

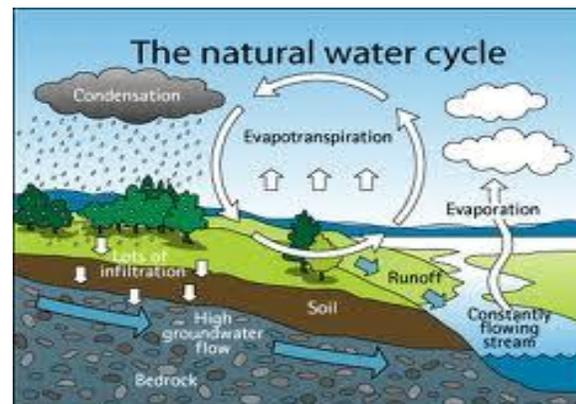


Solar & other
physical inputs



**Environmental
processes**

e.g. the water cycle,
nutrient cycling, etc.



The environment, people and decision making

Solar & other
physical inputs



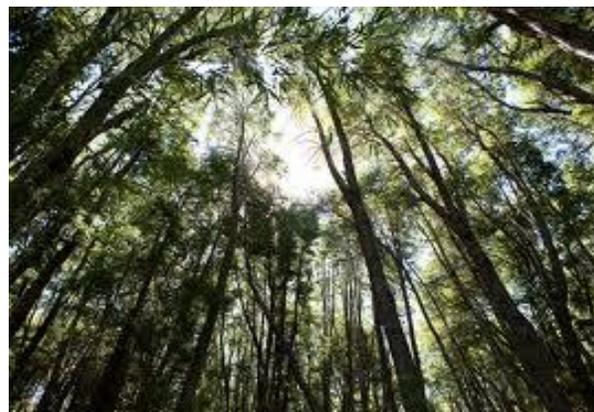
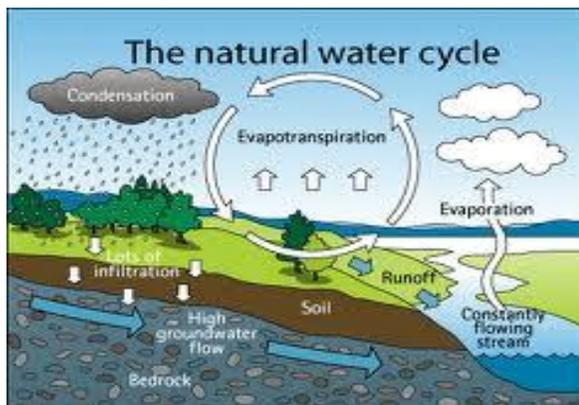
**Environmental
processes**



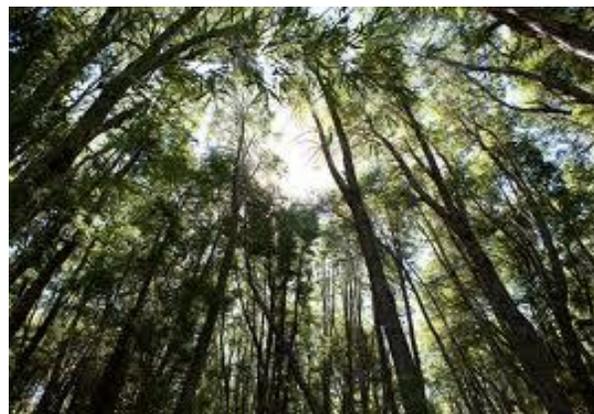
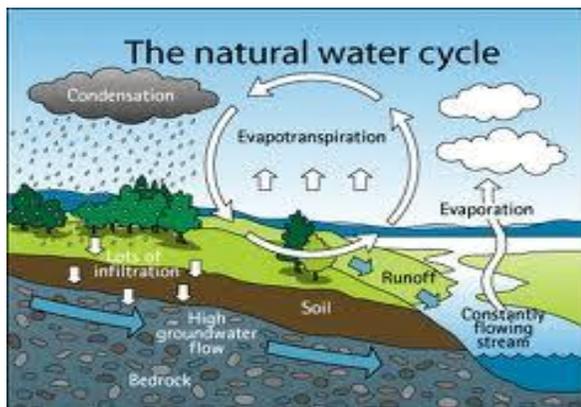
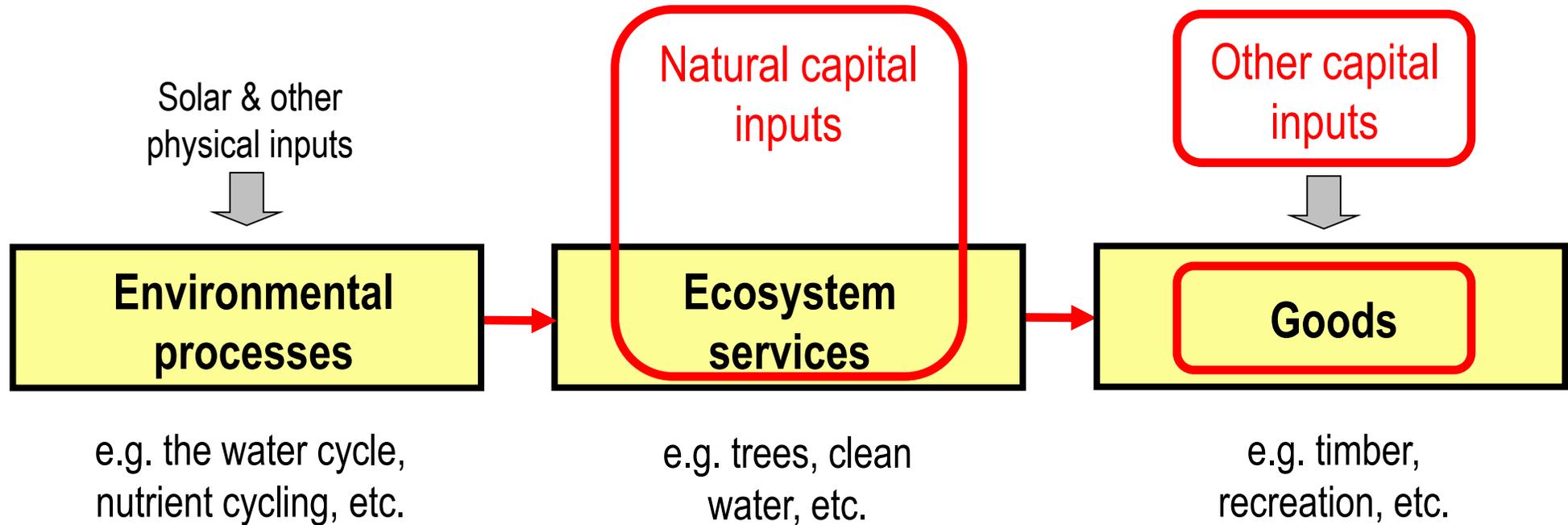
**Ecosystem
services**

e.g. the water cycle,
nutrient cycling, etc.

e.g. trees, clean
water, etc.

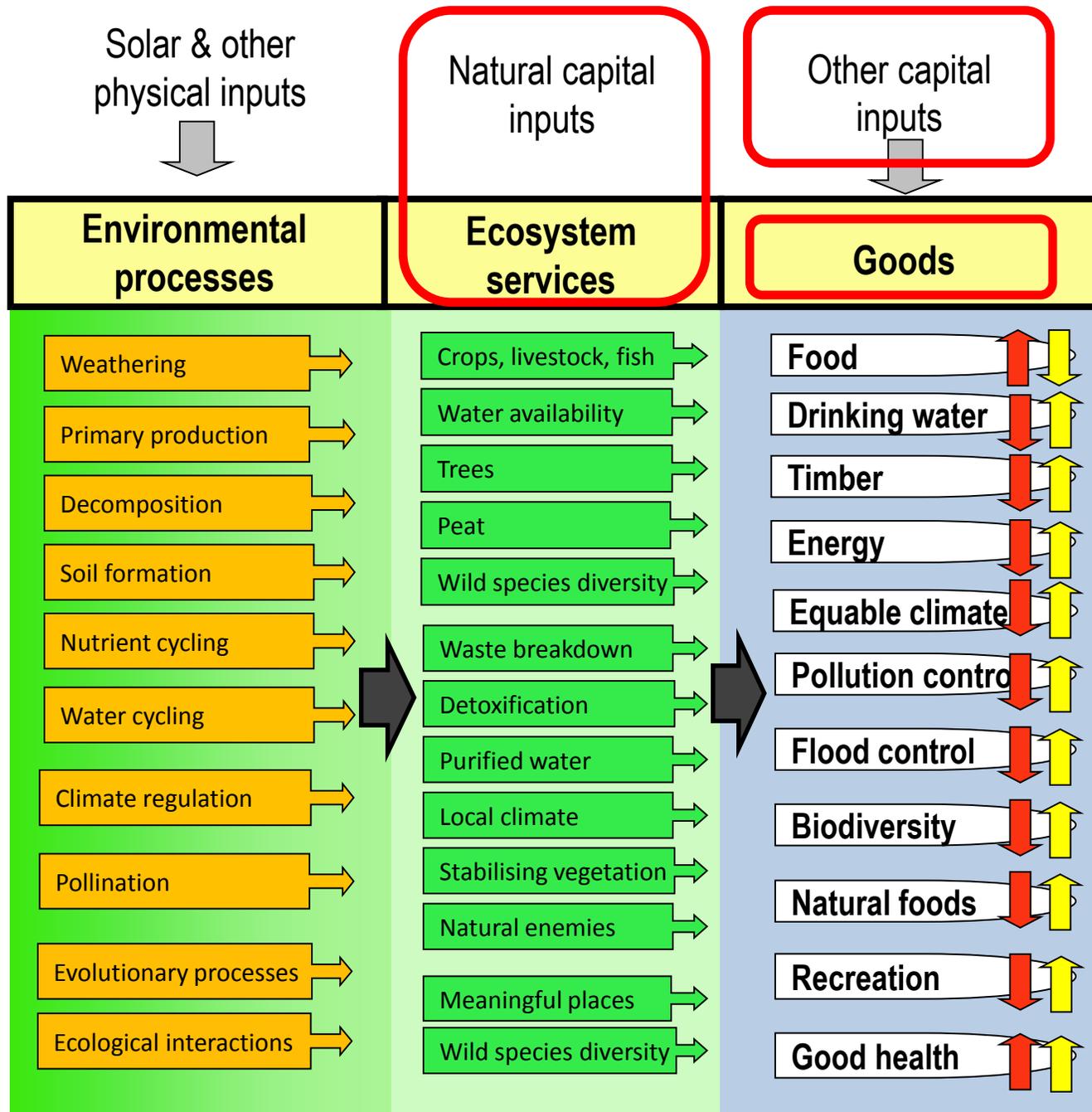


The environment, people and decision making



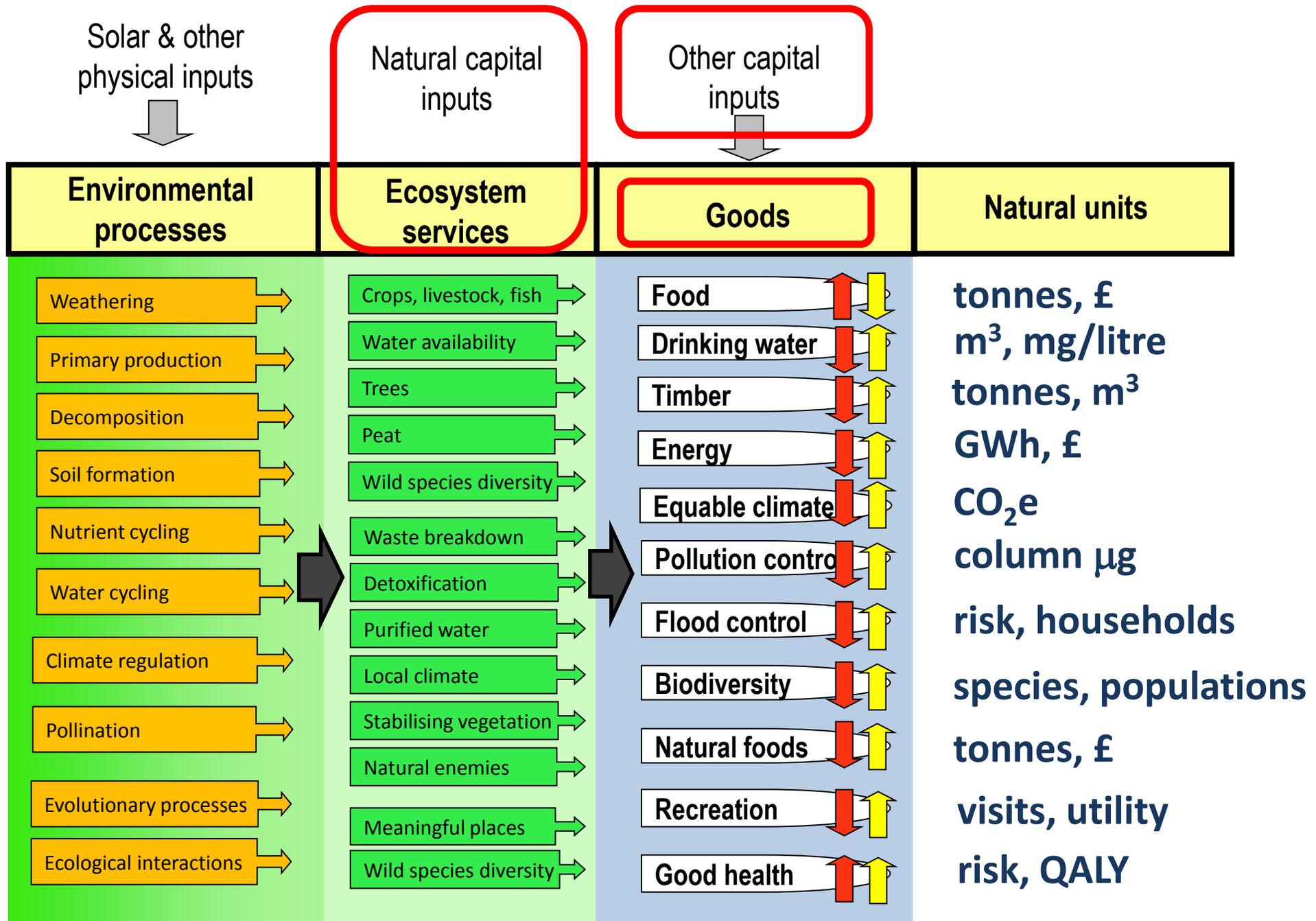
The environment, people and decision making

 Converting forestry to farmland
 Converting farmland to forestry



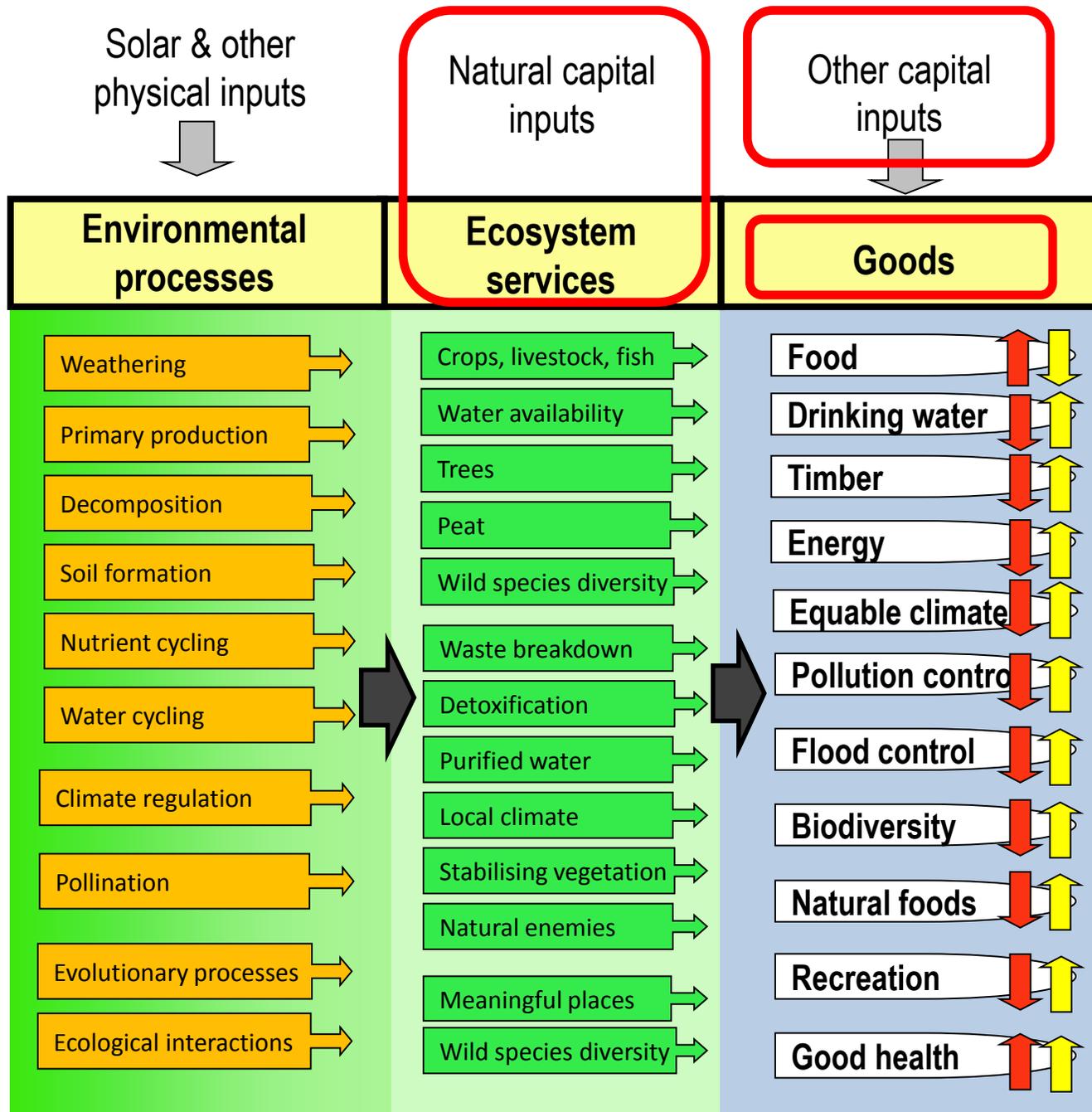
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How should we make decisions?
 (and not just for the natural environment – at the same time also allocate scarce resources for the health service, education, employment and social security, etc., etc.)

- Need to make changes commensurate
- Need to know their relative importance (their value).
- Need to have consistent values across decisions.

The environment, people and decision making

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