

Integrative framework for understanding urban ecological disservices

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Outline of the presentation

- What?
Concept of ecological disservices
- Why?
Importance for urban planning
- How?
Need for integrative framework



Background

- Interest towards ecosystem services
- ULUB – small scale preliminary study (Alter-net)
- Work on integrative environmental frameworks (EPP framework)

Perspectives on biodiversity and lifestyle

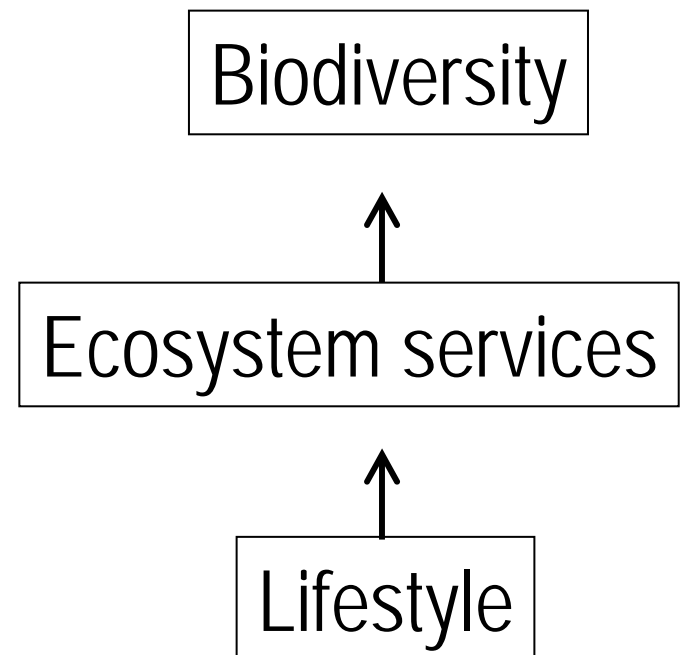
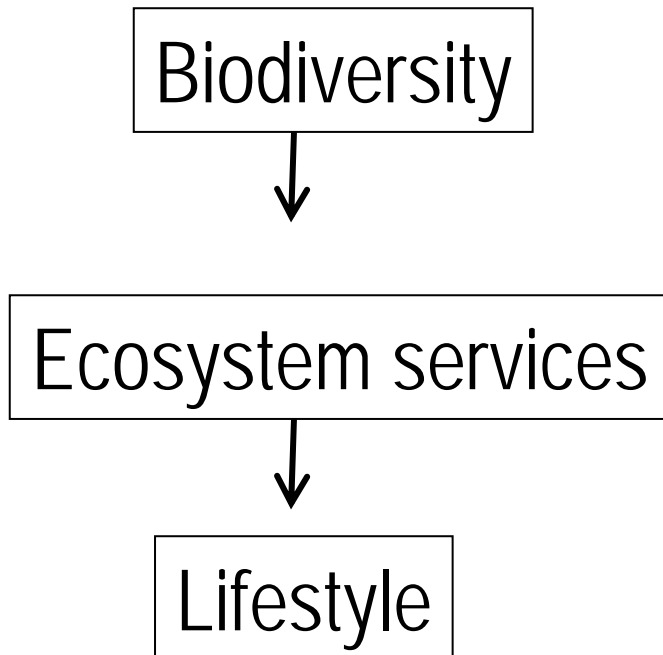
Natural habitats

Urban settlements



Ecologists

Social scientists



Definitions for ecosystem disservices

- No widely agreed definition; most studies describe ecosystem "goods"
- Can denote to negative effects of ecosystem degradation...
- ...or can be associated with "normal" functioning of ecosystems
- Possible definition: Functions of ecosystems that are perceived as negative



Disservices related to urban ecosystems I

- Aesthetic issues

Areas perceived as ugly (e.g. brownfields)

Irritating sounds, smells or behaviour (e.g. algae in water, pigeons, gulls, dogs)

Perceived dirtyness of nature (e.g. bird and dog excrements, decomposition of organic matter)



Disservices related to urban ecosystems II

- Safety, security and health issues
 - Perceived unsafety (cf. darkness)
 - Health risks
 - allergies (e.g. pollen, pet animals)
 - diseases (e.g. rabies, bird flu)
 - poor visibility (traffic)



Disservices related to urban ecosystems III

- Economic issues

Direct damages (e.g. nesting holes, cleaning costs)

Costs of controlling nuisance species

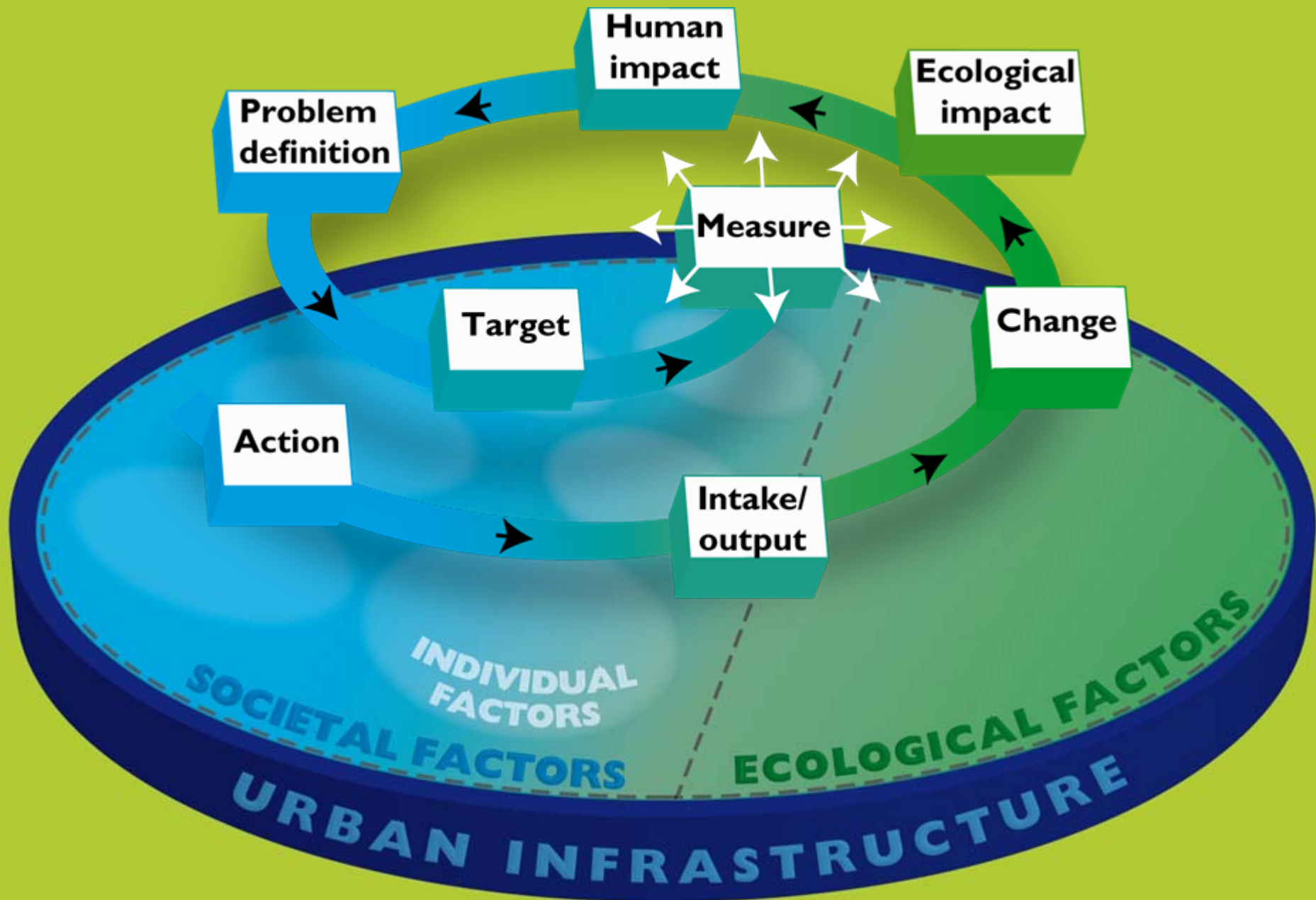
Indirect costs (bad reputation, health risks)

Maintenance costs of green areas

Prevention of more profitable use of space

EPP-framework: approach

- Problem oriented
- Process oriented
- Interdisciplinary
- Holistic





On the spotlight:

- Should disservices be assessed?
- What are the most relevant (urban) ecological disservices?
- Should monetary value be put to ecosystem disservices?
- Continuous learning and education is needed

Thank you!

References and further information:

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- Petersen L.K., Lyytimäki J., Normander B., Hallin-Pihlatie L., Bezák P., Cil A., Varjopuro R. Münier B., Hulst N. (2007) Urban lifestyle and urban biodiversity – Towards a conceptual framework for urban lifestyle-driven biodiversity change. Available from: <http://www.alter-net.info/>
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