



**MARE Conference
6-9 July 2011**

**Wellbeing and Resilience:
a trans-disciplinary social-ecological perspective**

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Justification



- Emergence of the concept of ‘social resilience’
(e.g. Adger 2000; Basel Univ)
- Critique of the resilience thinking
 - Mainly derived from ecological literature
 - ill-equipped to address political, power, social processes
 - “ecological component better articulated than the social component”
- Growing interest in academics arenas for wellbeing concept
 - Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
 - Wellbeing in Developing Countries (WeD) programme
- Growing interest in policy arenas
 - UK, Canada, France

Objectives

- Look at the interplay between social dimension of resilience and wellbeing
 - In a social-ecological system context (fisheries)
 - 6 entries
 - Optimality
 - Agency, values and norms
 - Changes and dynamics
 - Scales
 - Controlling variables
 - Thresholds and boundaries



Resilience – a (brief) overview

- More than 200 definitions
- Dynamic concept

Resilience concepts	Characteristics	Focus on	Content
Engineering resilience	Return time, efficiency	Recovery, constancy	Vicinity of a stable equilibrium
Ecological/eco-system resilience and Social resilience	Buffer capacity, withstand shock, maintain function	Persistence, robustness	Multiple equilibria, stability landscapes
Social-ecological resilience	Interplay of disturbance and re-organization, sustaining and developing	Adaptive capacity, transformability, learning, innovation	Integrated system feedback, cross-scale dynamic interactions

Folke et al. (2006)

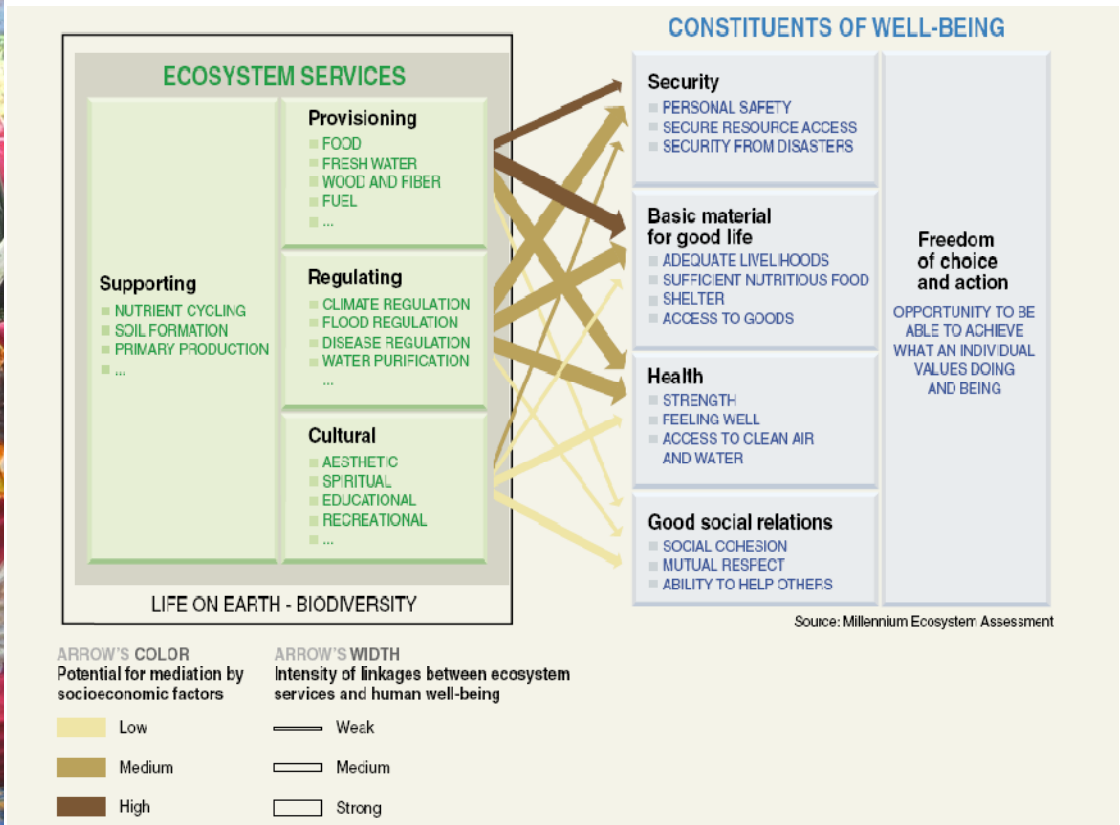
- Adaptability, transformability



Wellbeing - an introduction



- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
 - Basic materials, health, security, good social relations, freedom of choice
 - Mainly an outcome of drivers of change on ecosystems



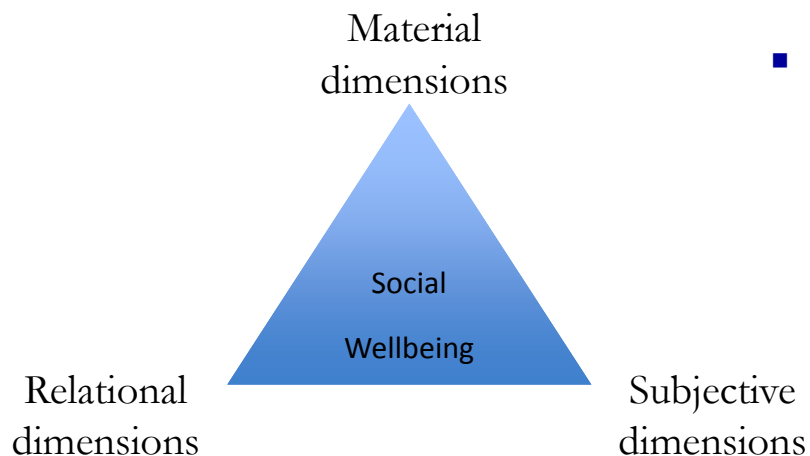
Wellbeing - an introduction

- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
 - Basic materials, health, security, good social relations, freedom of choice
 - Mainly an outcome of drivers of change on ecosystems

- WeD definition

“A state of being with others [and the natural environment] which arises where human needs are met, where individuals and groups can act meaningfully to pursue their goals, and where they are satisfied with their way of life”

(adapted from McGregor 2008)



Source: White (2009)

The 3D social Wellbeing

Interplay between resilience and wellbeing

▪ Optimality and maximization

Resilience

- importance of change, shocks, uncertainty
- role of diversity, redundancy
- challenge command / control – optimization

Wellbeing

- dispute economic narratives ('rational' behaviour)
- question rent maximization
- more consistent with socio-economic 'multi-objective' analysis (employment, food, etc.)



Interplay between resilience and wellbeing

▪ Agency, value and norms

Resilience

- inattention to power (Nadasdy 2007, Hornberg 2009)
- need to better articulate values, normative dimension of resilience
- resilience neither a 'good' or 'bad'
- challenge for 'strengthening resilience' policies

Social wellbeing

- agency, values and norms central to wellbeing
- stresses the relational
- clarify the importance of resilience 'of what, for whom'
- resilience and wellbeing are not related



Interplay between resilience and wellbeing

- **Dealing with changes and dynamics**

Resilience

- changes and dynamics are part of resilience
- from buffering (resisting) shocks to adaptability and transformability

Social wellbeing

- no specific emphasis on changes
- different dimensions (relational, material, subjective)
- necessary trade-offs (scale, time, dimensions)
- evolution (social relation, material wellbeing)
- dynamic by nature



Interplay between resilience and wellbeing

▪ Scales

Resilience

- central in the resilience literature (boundaries and thresholds)
- general vs specific resilience
- 'system' scale

Social wellbeing

- not direct reference to scale
- individual-centered 'scale'
- trade-off between groups' wellbeing

Complementarity between wellbeing and resilience





Interplay between resilience and wellbeing

■ Controlling variables

Resilience

- interaction between slow and fast variables (e.g. Holling 2001, Gunderson and Holling 2002)
- ecological resilience: slow variables are key (Walker and Salt 2006)
- social resilience -not so clear (Armitage and Johnson 2006)
- ecological variables better understood than social variables

Social wellbeing

- would wellbeing be able to help better formalise /understand social resilience ?
- e.g. Marshall and Marshall (2007)' work on social resilience to policy changes
 - perception associated to risk
 - perception of ability to plan, learn
 - perception of the ability to cope
 - level of interest in change

Interplay between resilience and wellbeing

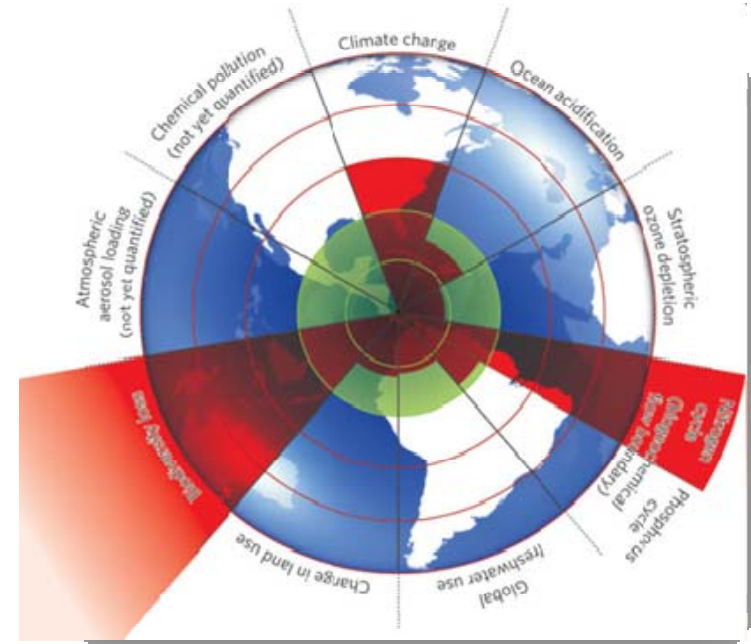
▪ Thresholds and boundaries

Resilience

- central in the resilience literature
(e.g. Rockstrom et al. 2009)
- identification remains a challenge (in particular for social variables)
 - quantitative – qualitative
 - participatory – experts

Social wellbeing

- not direct reference to boundaries
- role in identifying and characterizing social boundaries and thresholds
- remaining challenges: scaling up from individual to communities / societies



Conclusions - Recap



- Acknowledge gap in resilience theory
 - Material, functionalist, rational behaviour
 - Agency, values, perception –are central element in human behaviour
 - Wellbeing approach can help

- Wellbeing not the panacea
 - Individual-centred approach
 - Focus on social dynamics

- Emerging trans-disciplinary complementarity between resilience and wellbeing thinking

- Conceptually and empirically challenging
- Need more research