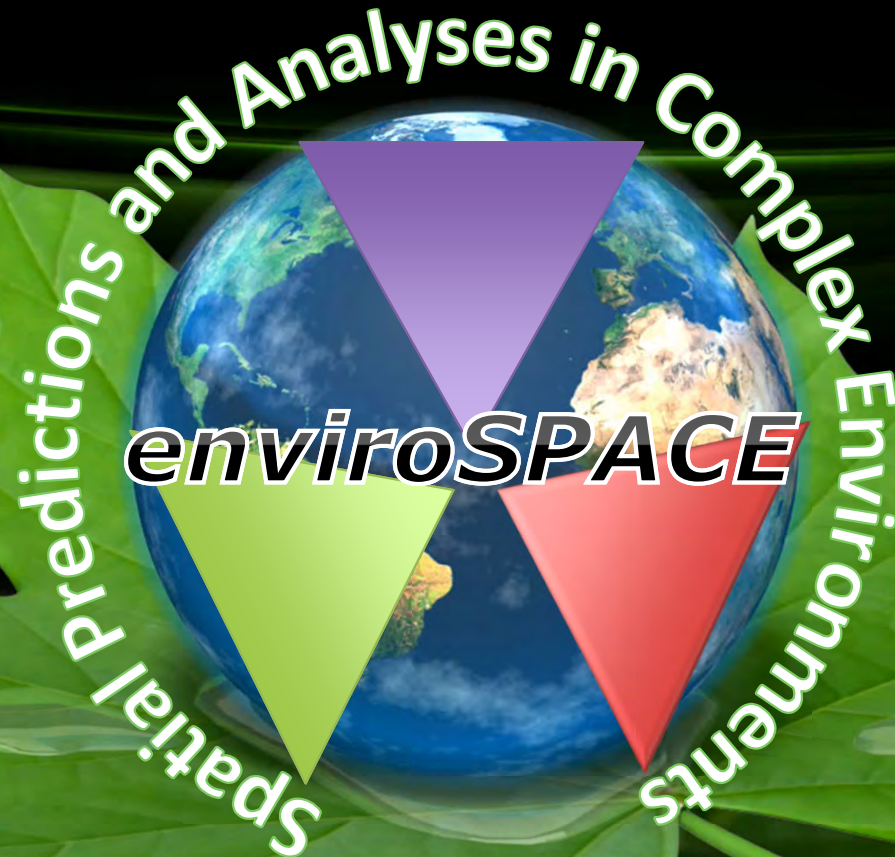


Approche Nexus pour un environnement durable : de la modélisation individuelle aux jumeaux numériques



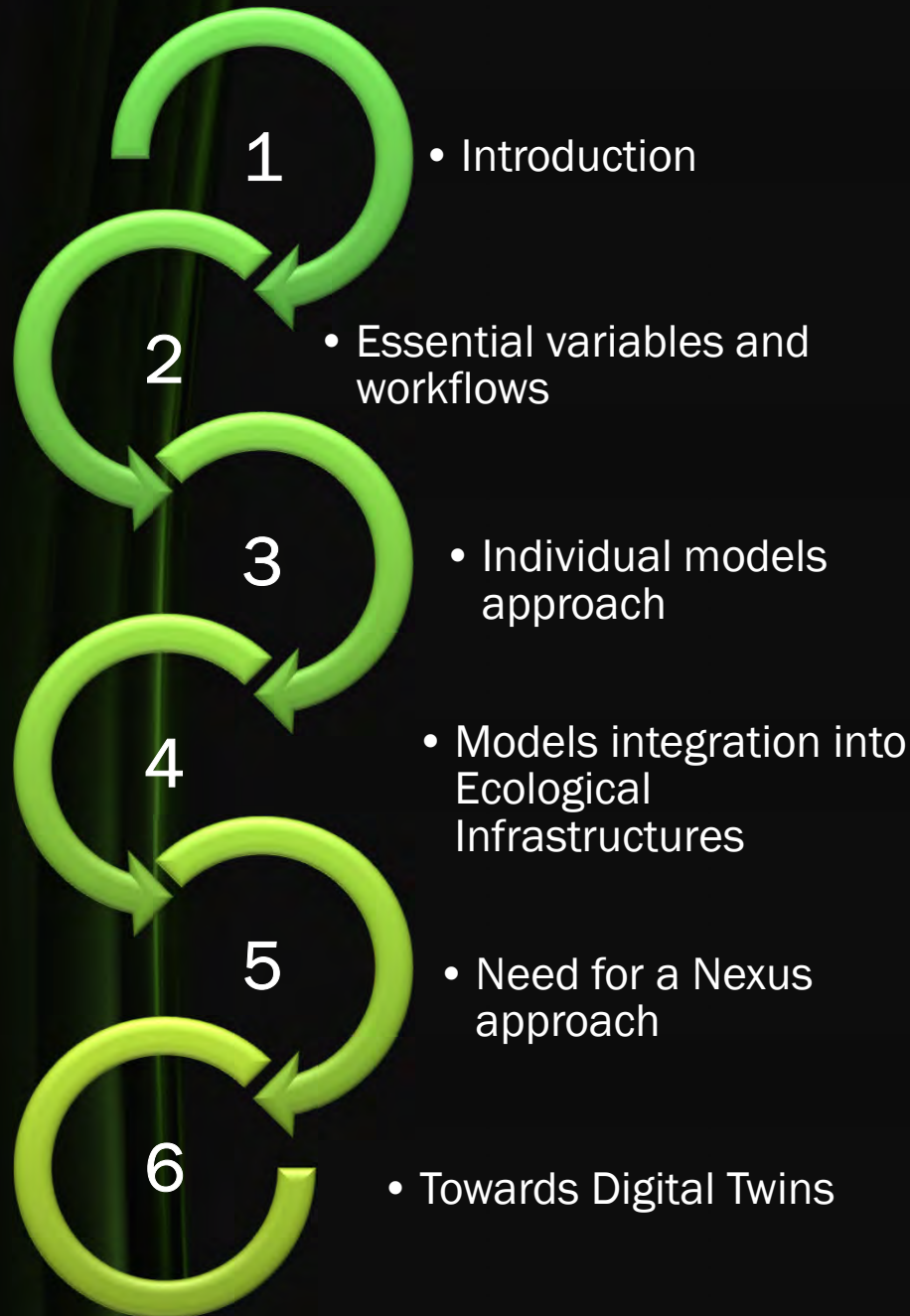
UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

INSTITUT DES SCIENCES
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Prof. Anthony Lehmann,
Digital Innovator, Genève, 19 mars 2025

Talk plan

An attempt to summarize my personal journey from individual modeling approaches to nexus and digital twins approaches





1

INTRODUCTION

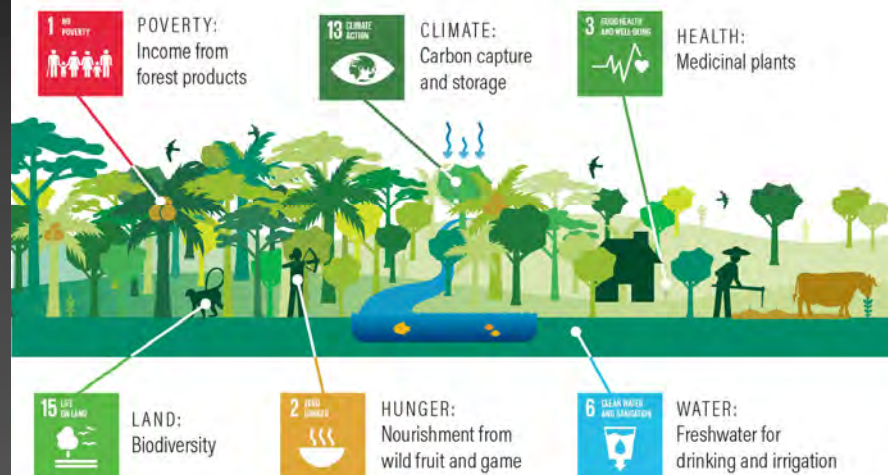
Ecosystem Services (ES)



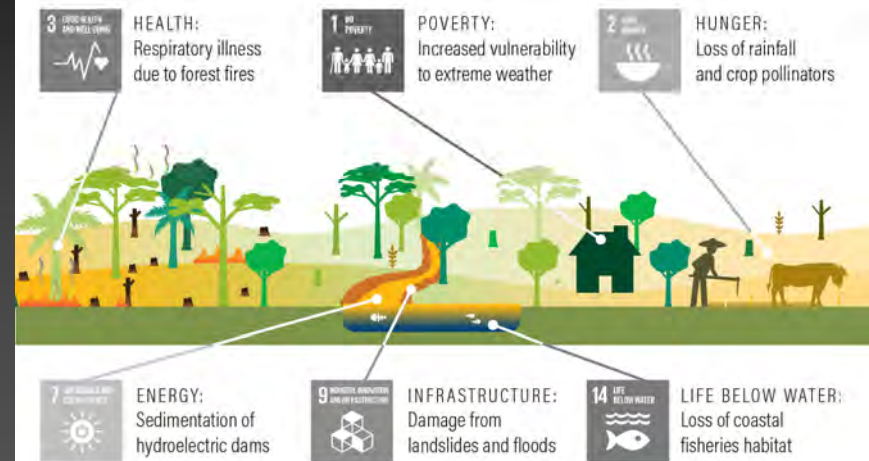
Ecosystem services are the benefits that humans derive from the environment and ecosystems.

Healthy Ecosystems Provide ES to SDGs like in forests

Familiar Forest Goods and Services **Support SDGs**



Hidden Ways Deforestation **Undermines SDGs**



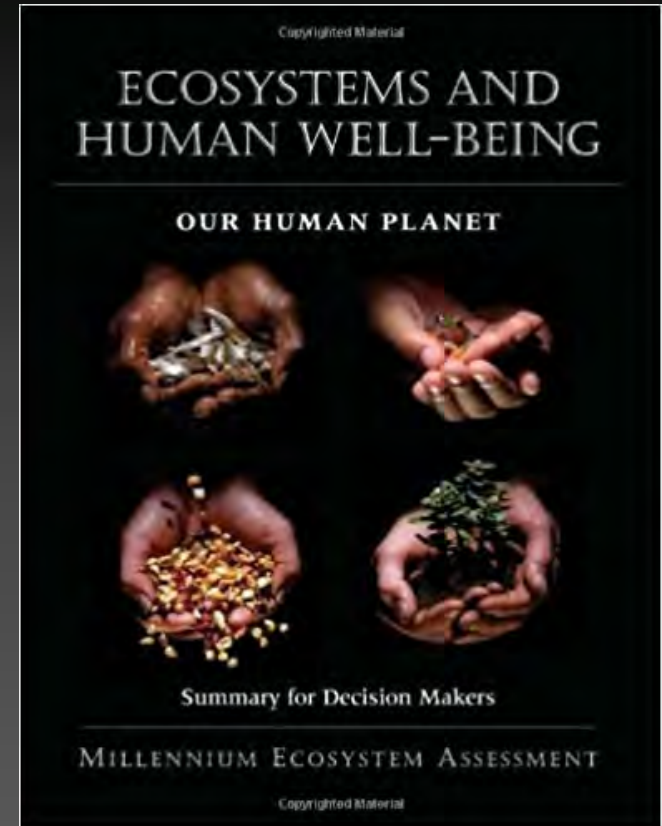
Source: *Why Forests? Why Now?* (Center for Global Development, 2016).

 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



<https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/Seymour-Busch-why-forests-why-now-full-book.PDF>
<https://wri-indonesia.org/en/blog/forests-and-sdgs-taking-second-look>

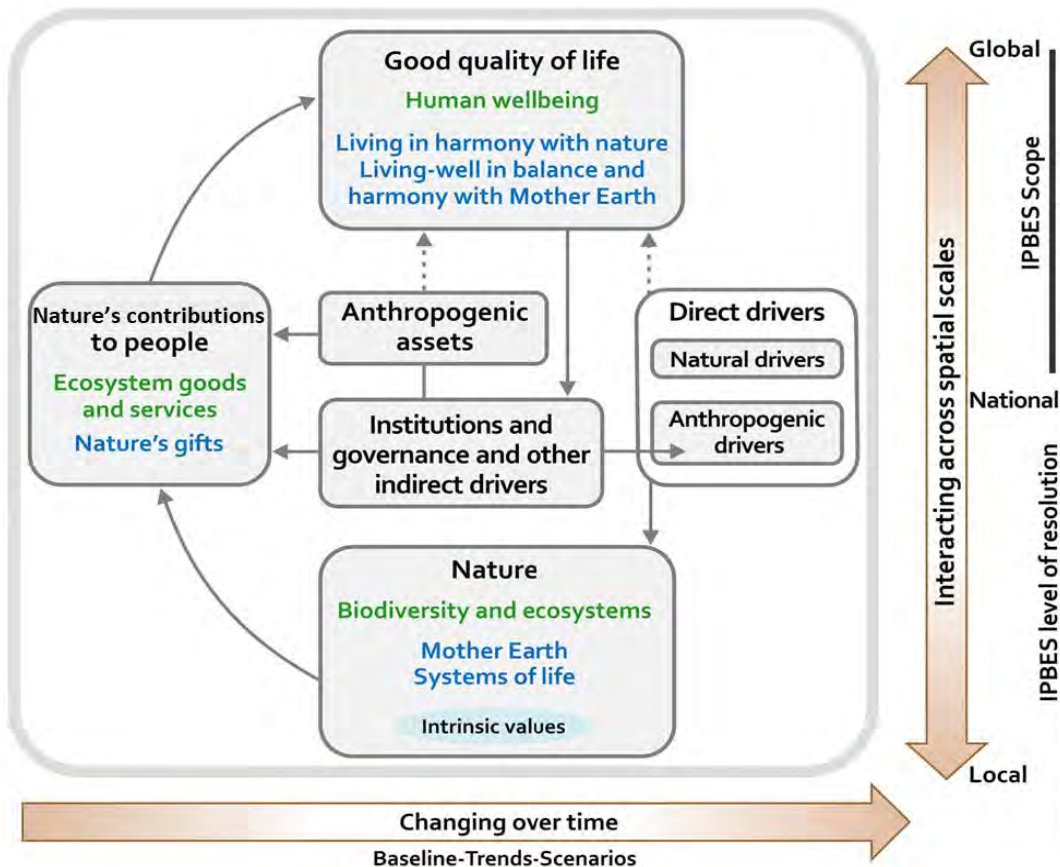
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



This report widely disseminated the concept of ES with its classification as:

- Support
- Supply
- Regulation
- Cultural

IBPES Conceptual Framework



Concepts of occidental science
Other forms of knowledge



- "Nature," "nature's contributions to people" and "good quality of life" are inclusive categories that have been identified in a participatory process.
- This includes other knowledge systems, such as those of indigenous peoples and local communities.


Explorer ▾

For Enterprise
Connexion

Vous regardez la vidéo d'essai 1 sur 3. Créer un compte pour regarder un nombre illimité de vidéos de cours.

Inscrivez-vous gratuitement



Martin Schlaepfer



Anthony Lehmann



Juliet Fall

1.0 General introduction



Ecosystem Services : a Method for Sustainable Development

General introduction

UNIGE **Ecosystem Services: a Method for Sustainable Development**
Université de Genève

★★★★★ 4.7 (221 évaluations) | 15K étudiants inscrits

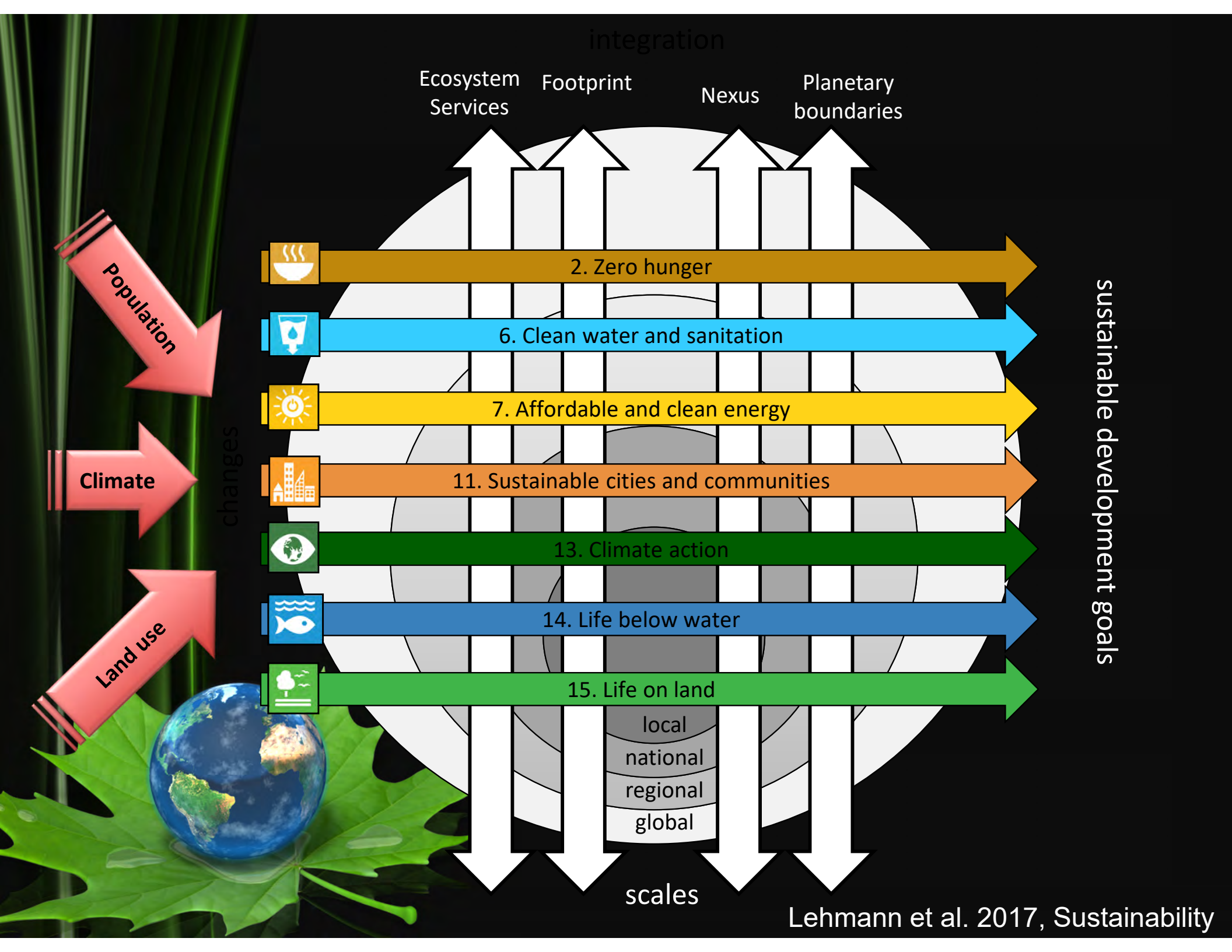
S'inscrire gratuitement

MOOC sur les Services Ecosystémiques

An online course developed at the University of Geneva that critically presents Ecosystemic Services, their economic, biophysical and spatial assessments, as well as their political implementation.

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/ecosystem-services>







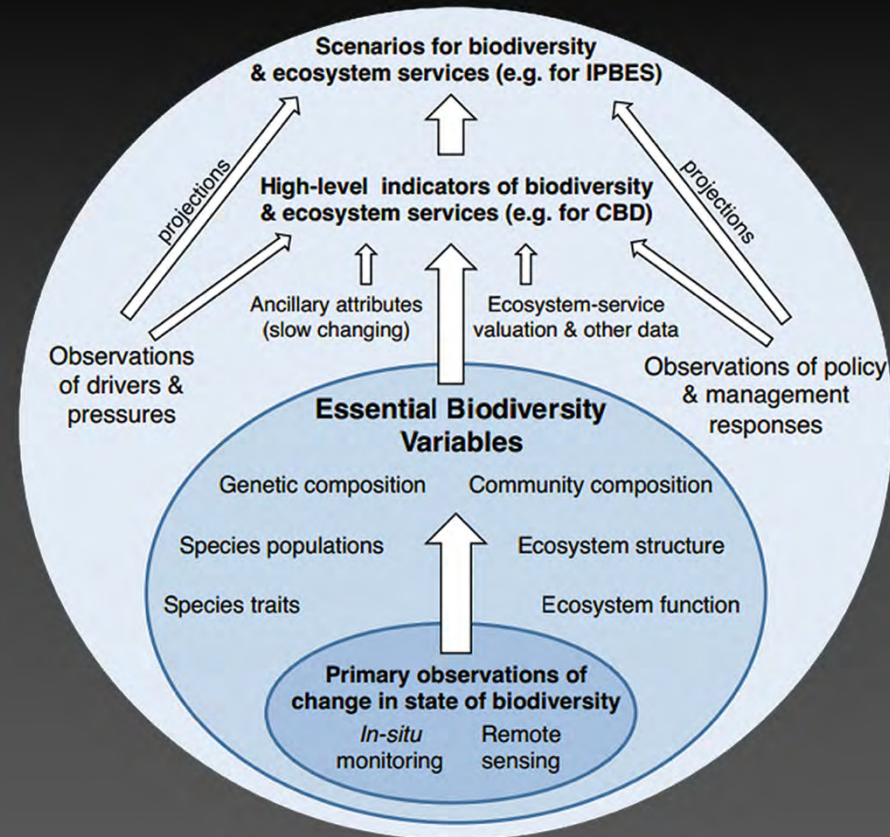
2

ESSENTIAL VARIABLES AND WORKFLOWS

Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)



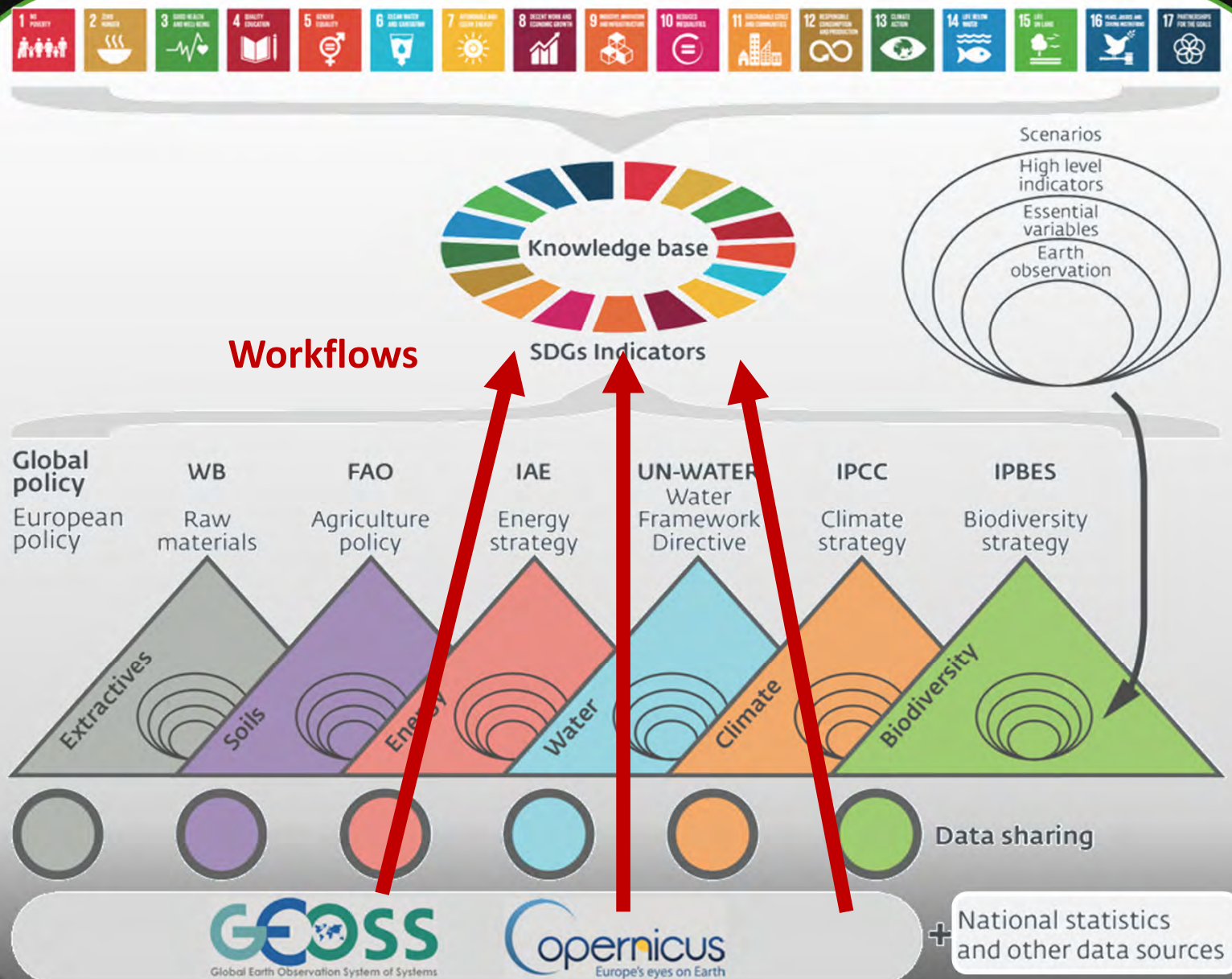
EBV classes	Candidates
Genetic composition	Co-ancestry Allelic diversity Population genetic differentiation Breed and variety diversity
Species populations	Species distribution Population abundance Population structure
Species traits	Phenology Body mass Natal dispersion distance Migratory behavior Demographic traits Physiological traits
Community composition	Species richness Species interactions
Ecosystem function	Net primary productivity Secondary productivity Nutrient retention Disturbance regime
Ecosystem structure	Habitat structure Ecosystem extent and fragmentation Ecosystem composition by functional type

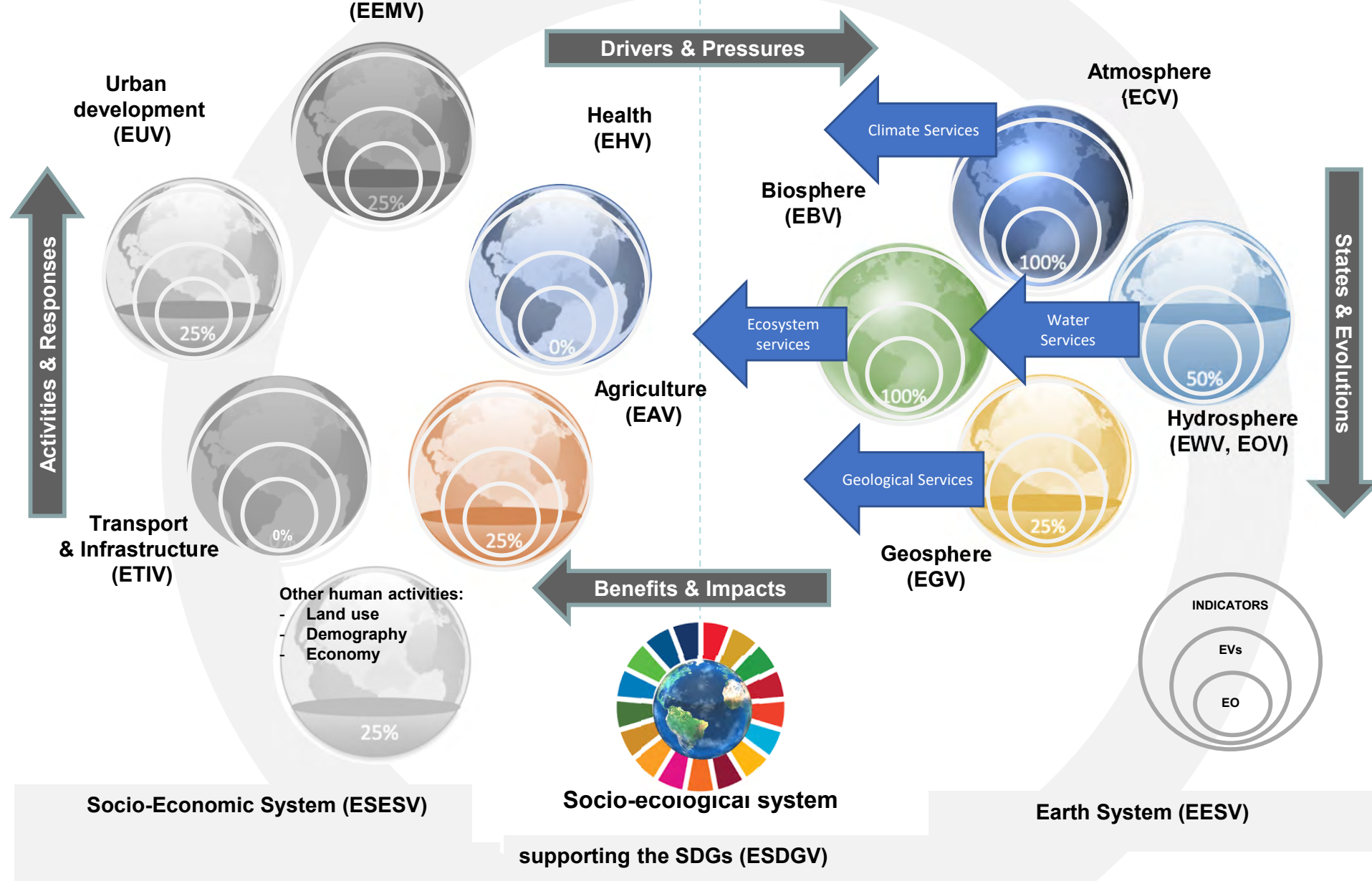


Essential variables of biodiversity are defined as the derived measures needed to study, report and manage changes in biodiversity, focusing on the state and trend of biodiversity elements. They provide the first level of abstraction between low-level primary observations and high-level biodiversity indicators.

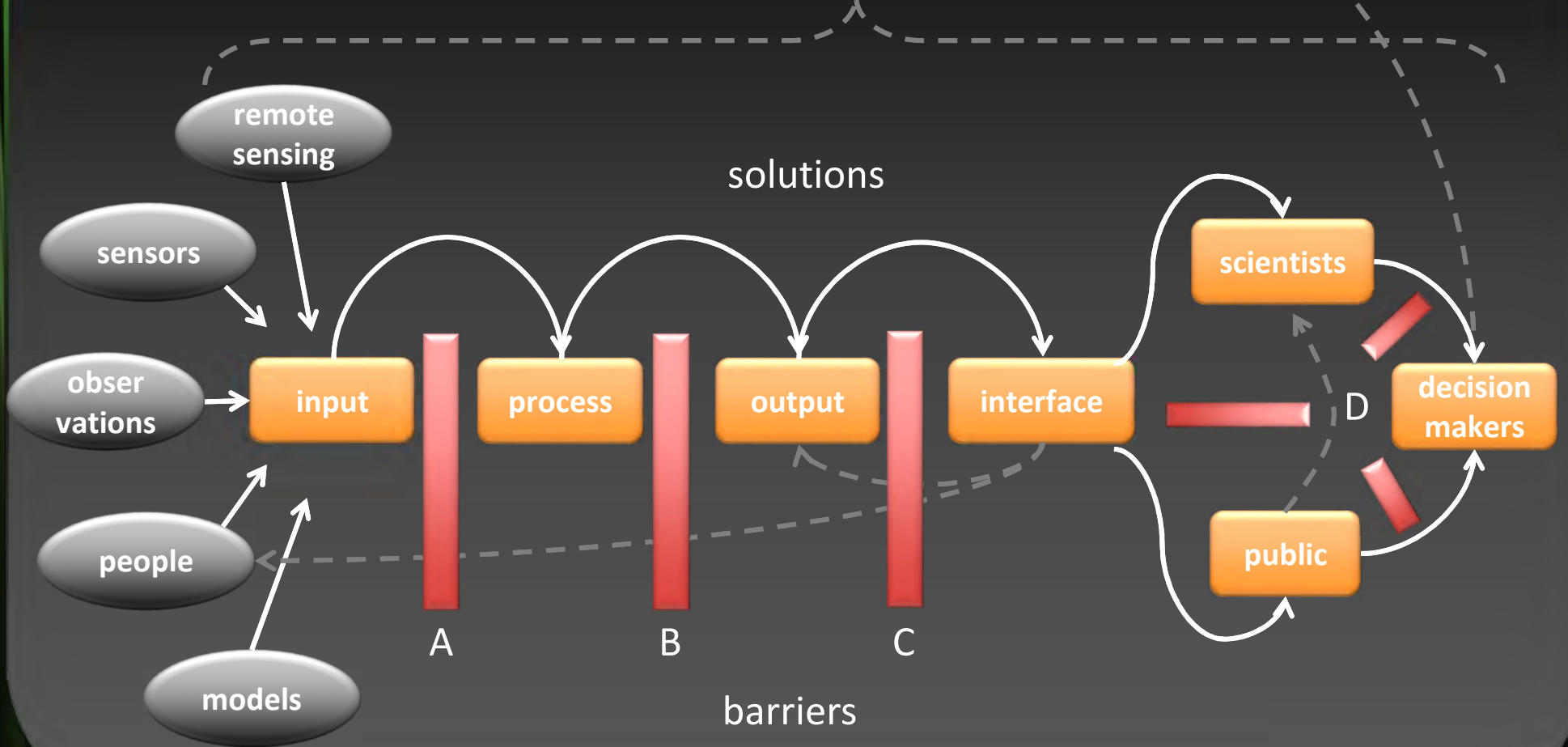
GEOEssential project

GEOEssential
general
framework
linking data
sources to
policy
indicators
through
Essential
Variables





Barriers and solutions in the flow of data to sustainability decision-making.

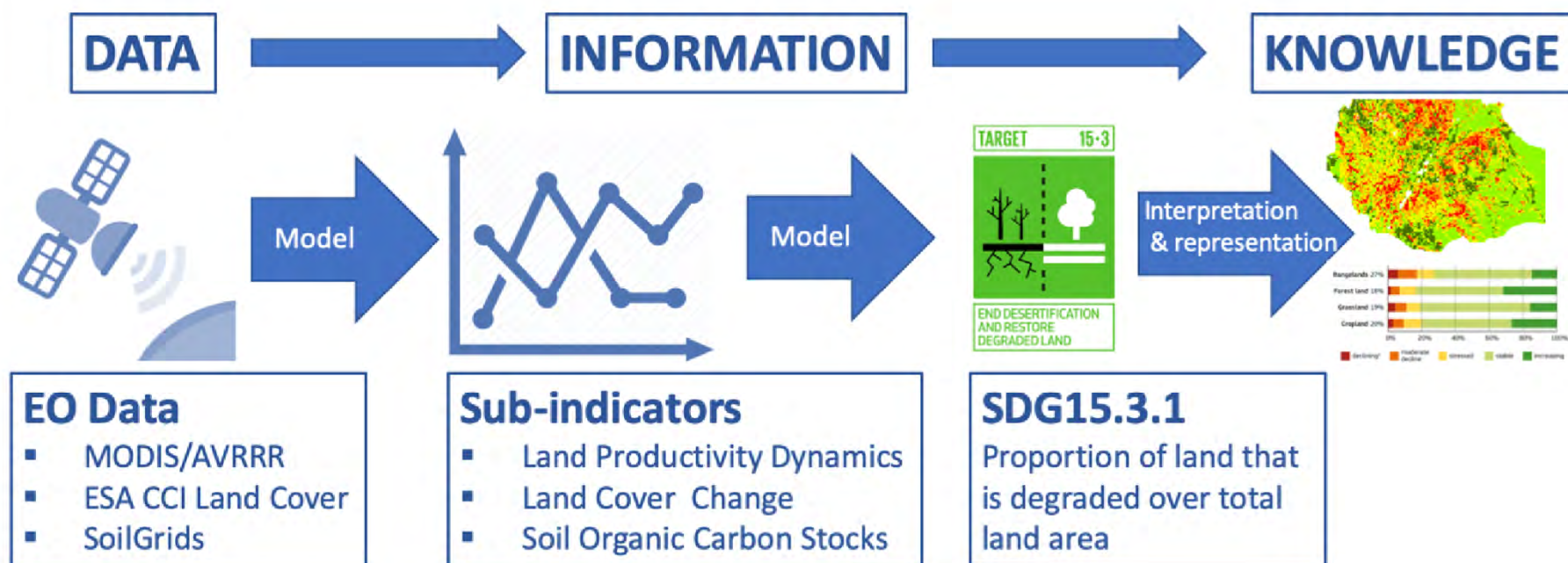


Lehmann et al. 2017. Sustainability

(A) access to data; (B) data size; (C) the ability to develop and iterate existing software; and (D) knowledge transmission. Simple arrows are solutions for removing obstacles, and dotted arrows represent an active feedback in the workflow.

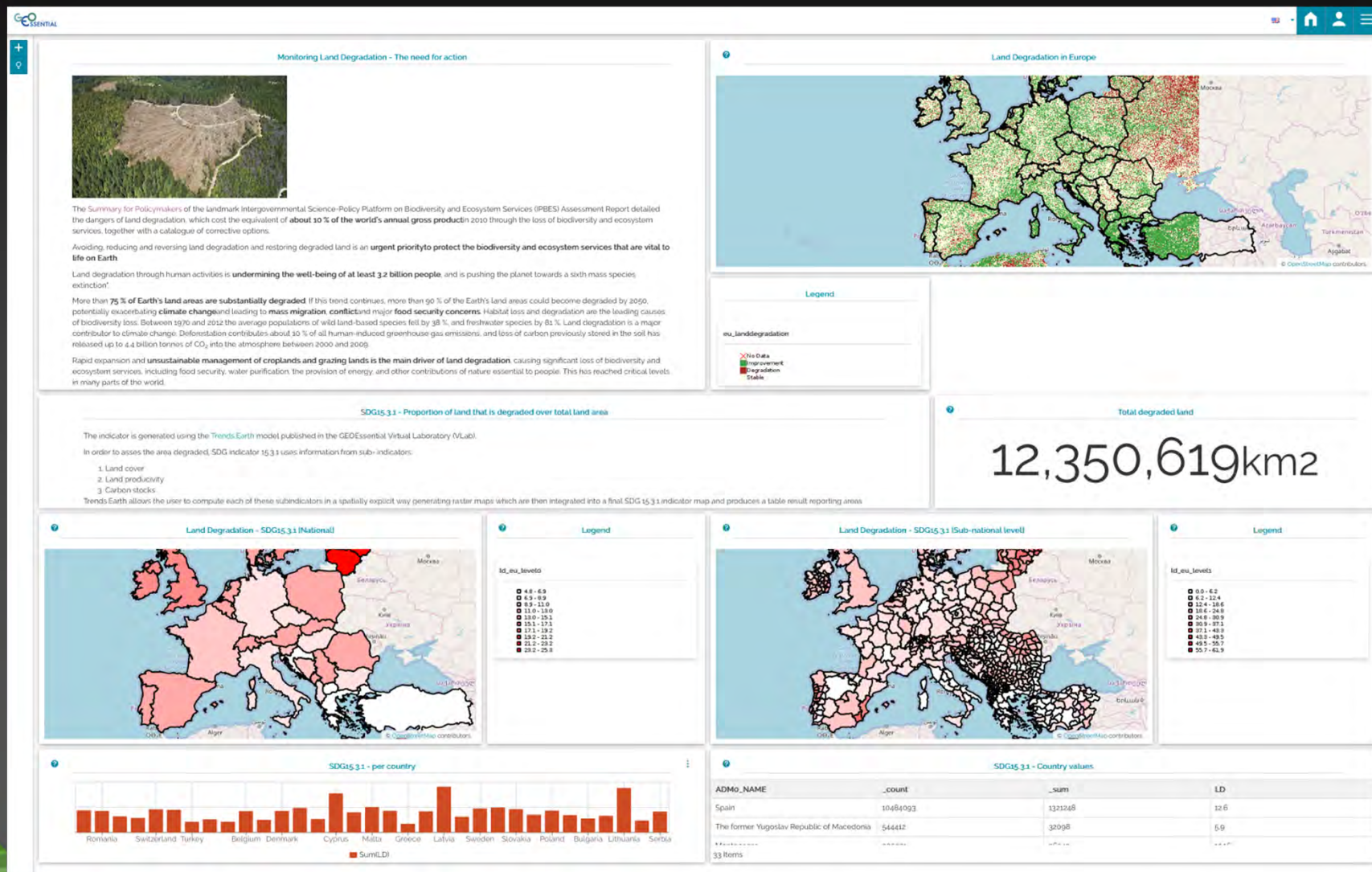
SDG 15.3.1 Land Degradation...

... is undermining the well-being of 3.2 billion people (IPBES)



GEOessential Dashboard...

...using GeoServer, GeoNetwork, MapStore



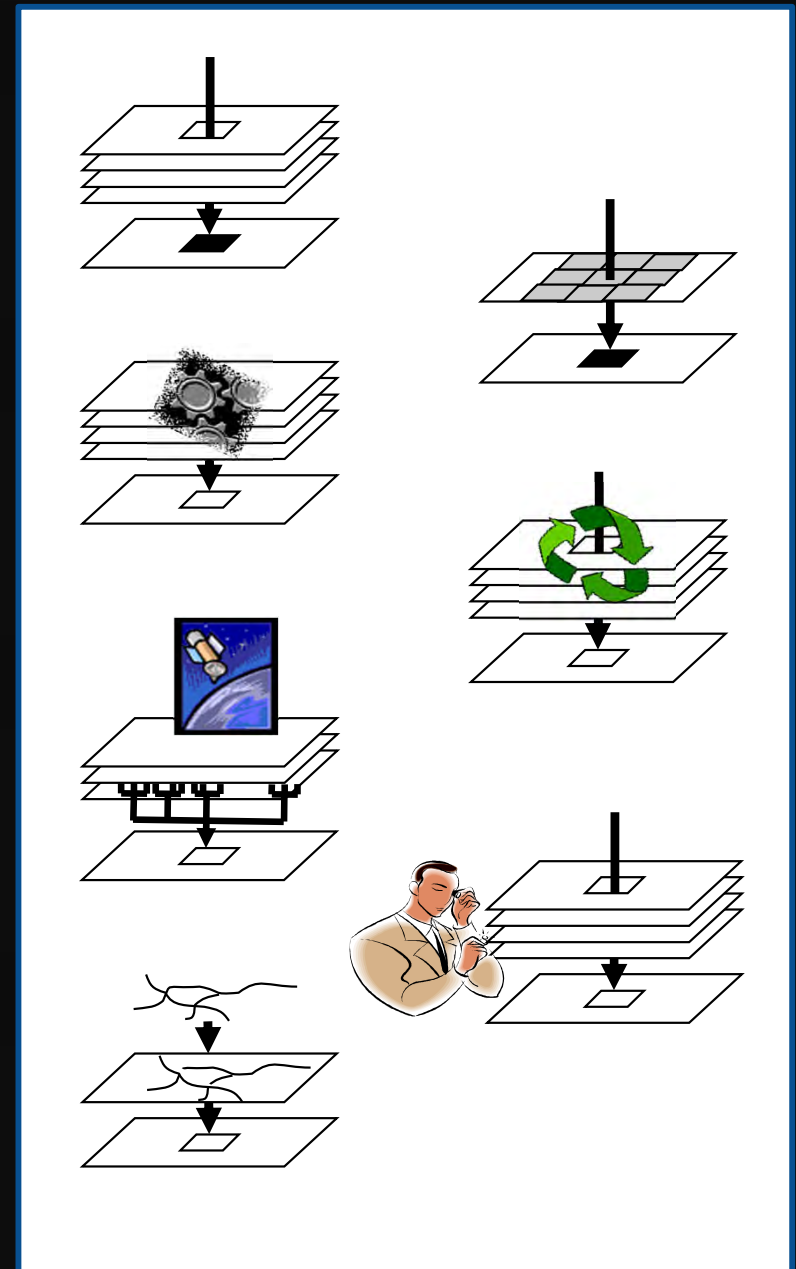


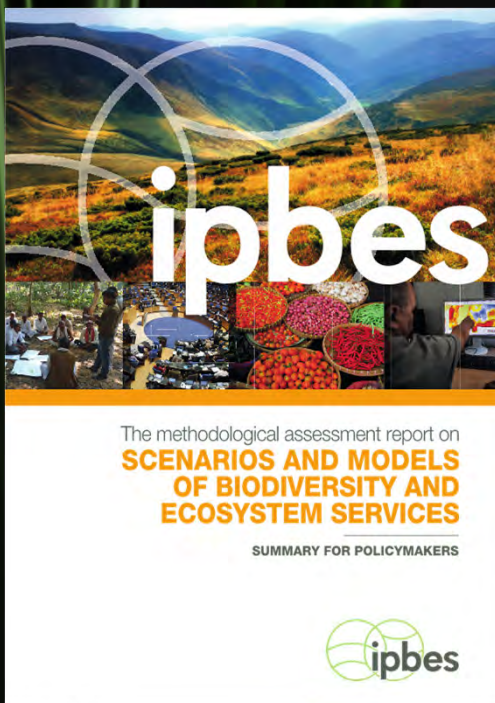
3

INDIVIDUAL MODELS

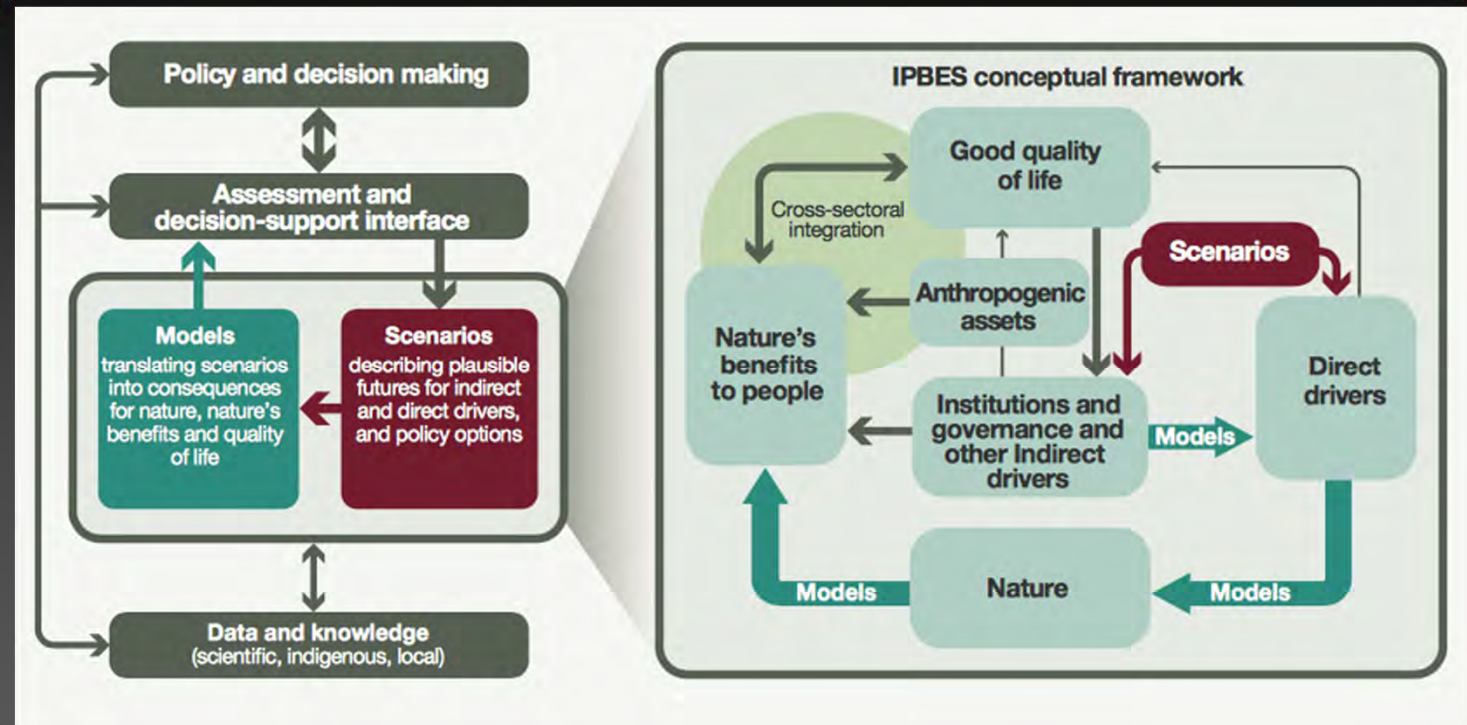
The tools available for spatial analyses

- **Statistics:** GIS layer combination through a statistical model established on observation points: Regression...
- **Geostatistics:** Spatialization of point information using spatial self-correction by interpolation: Krigage, Neural Networks...
- **Dynamics:** Integration of space-time dynamism in the model: cellular automats...
- **Experts:** Replaces the statistical model when data is missing.
- **Process:** GIS layer combination via a conceptual model of the relationship between parameters and the search for their coefficients.
- **Remote sensing:** Satellite or airborne, allows you to obtain a continuous description of space at different wavelengths.
- **Digitalization:** Digitalization of existing maps remains a precise and effective way to capture spatial information.





Scenarios and models

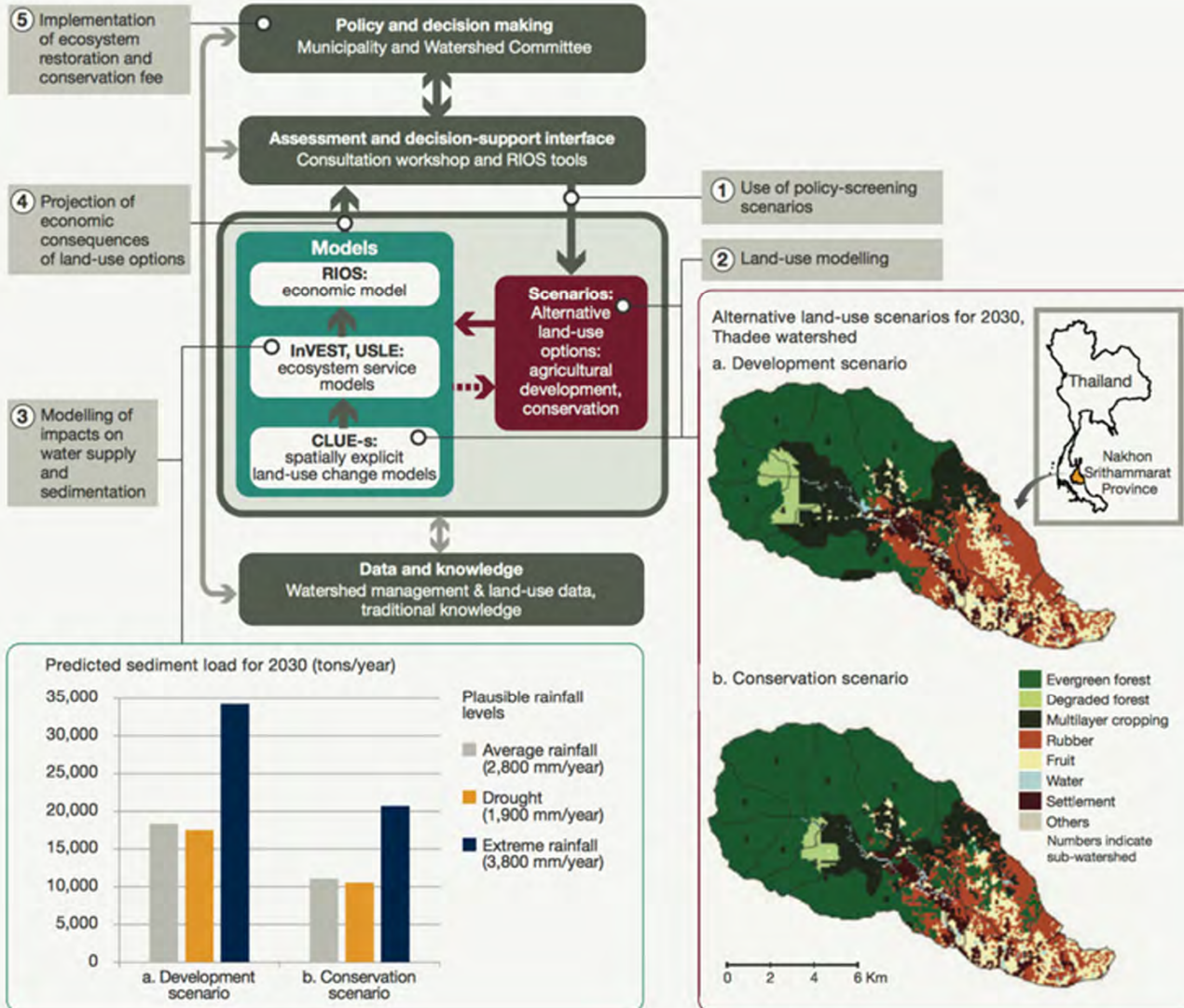


The panel on the left points out that scenarios and models are directly dependent on data and knowledge for their construction and testing and add value by synthesizing and organizing knowledge.

The right panel provides a detailed view of the relationships between scenarios, models and key elements of the platform's conceptual framework

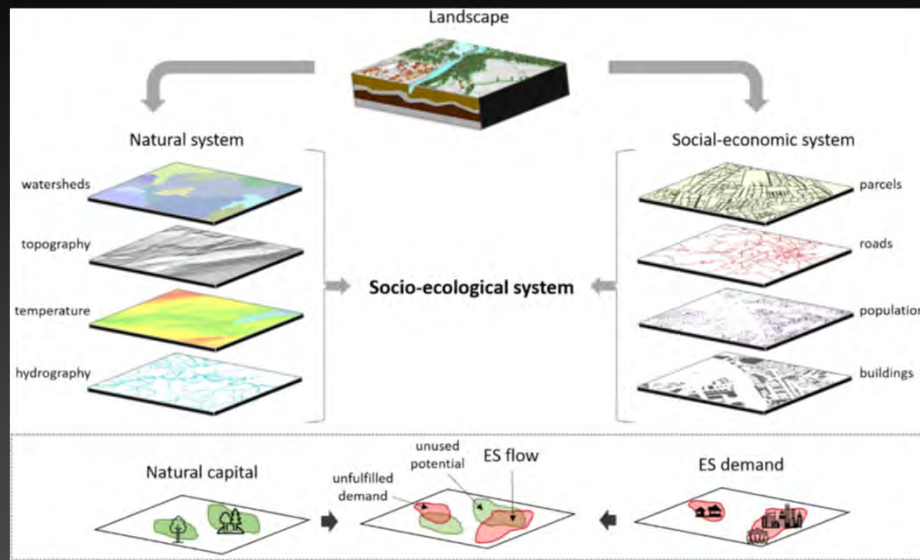
Scenarios and models

LOCAL POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION



Thadee watershed, Thailand, where farmers' water supply and household consumption have been degraded by the conversion of natural forests to rubber plantations.

Ecosystem Services

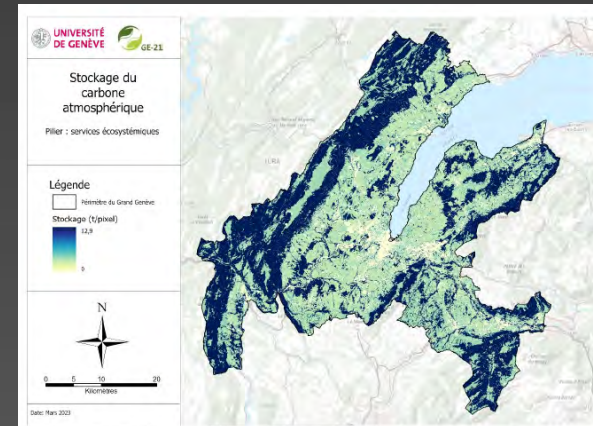


- Pollinator-friendly areas
- Carbon storage
- Water quality regulation
- Erosion control & sediment retention
- Local climate regulation and air quality

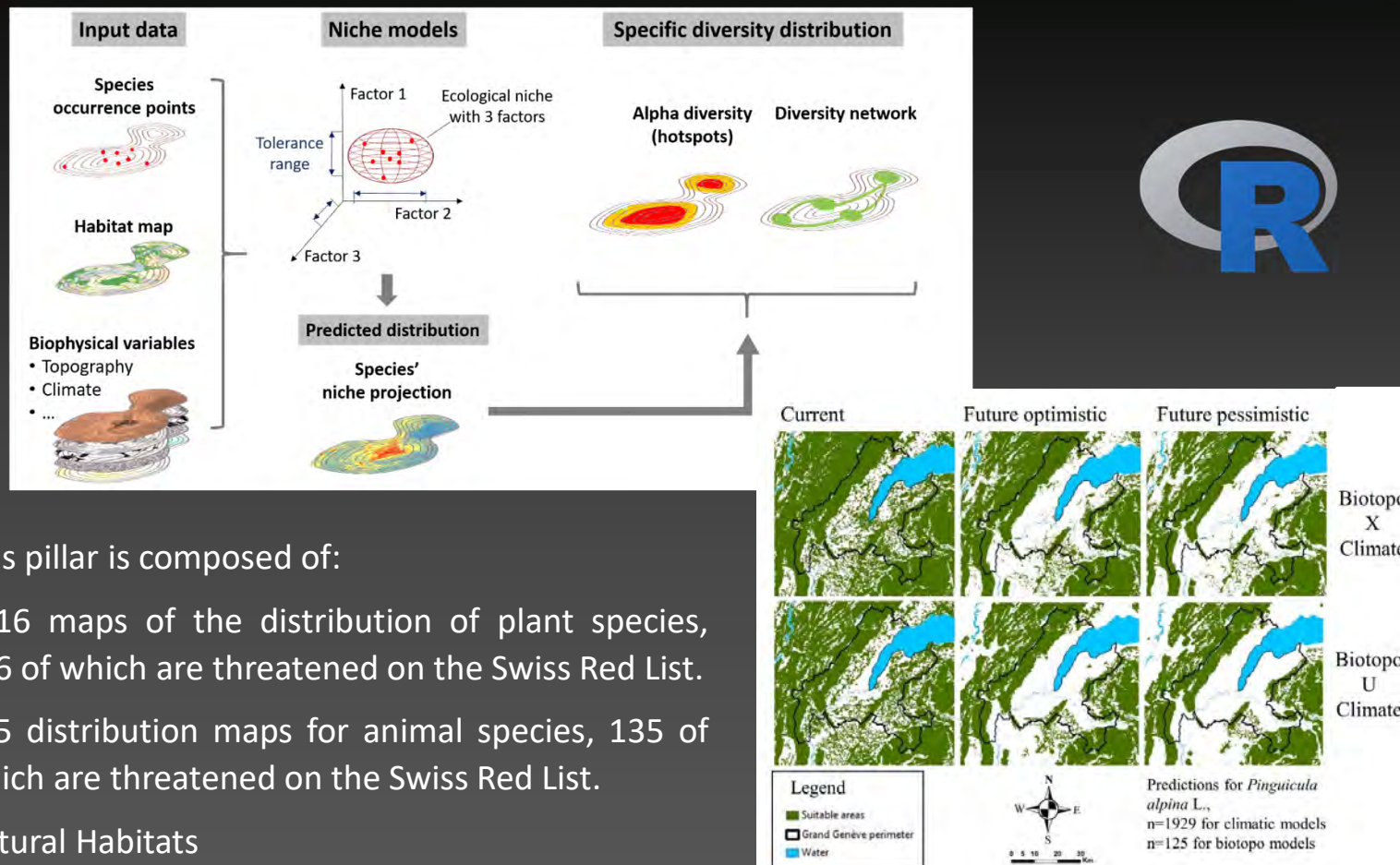
InVEST

integrated valuation of
ecosystem services
and tradeoffs

Carbon storage



Composition Pillar: Species and Ecosystems



This pillar is composed of:

1816 maps of the distribution of plant species, 336 of which are threatened on the Swiss Red List.

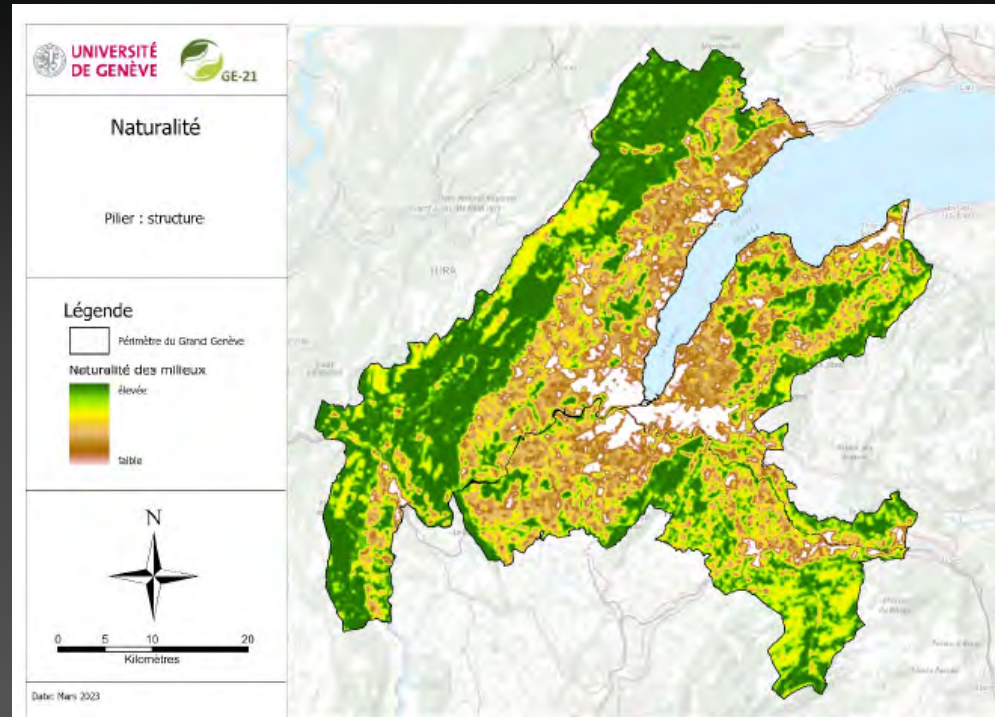
585 distribution maps for animal species, 135 of which are threatened on the Swiss Red List.

Natural Habitats

Landscape structure

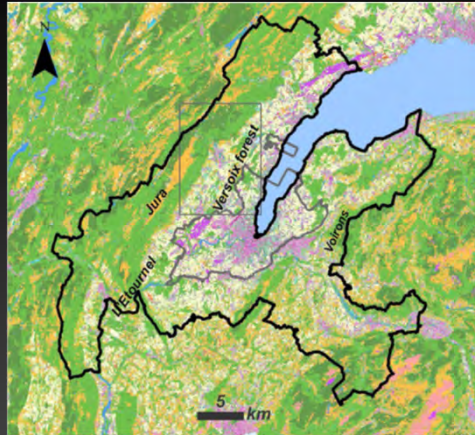
- Fragmentation (or continuity) index of natural habitats
- Permeability of land use classes
- Naturalness of the territory
- Diversity of green environments (Shannon index)
- Central zone indicator

FragStats

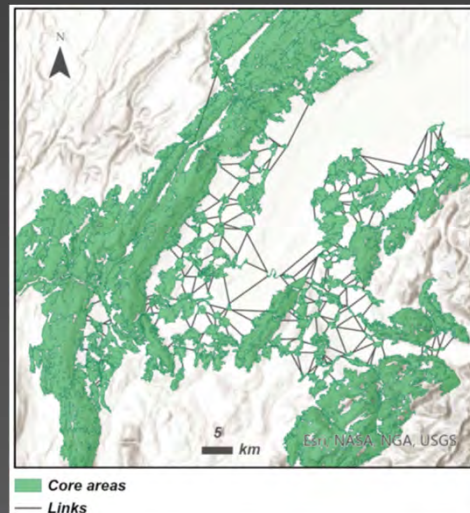


Connectivity for Deer

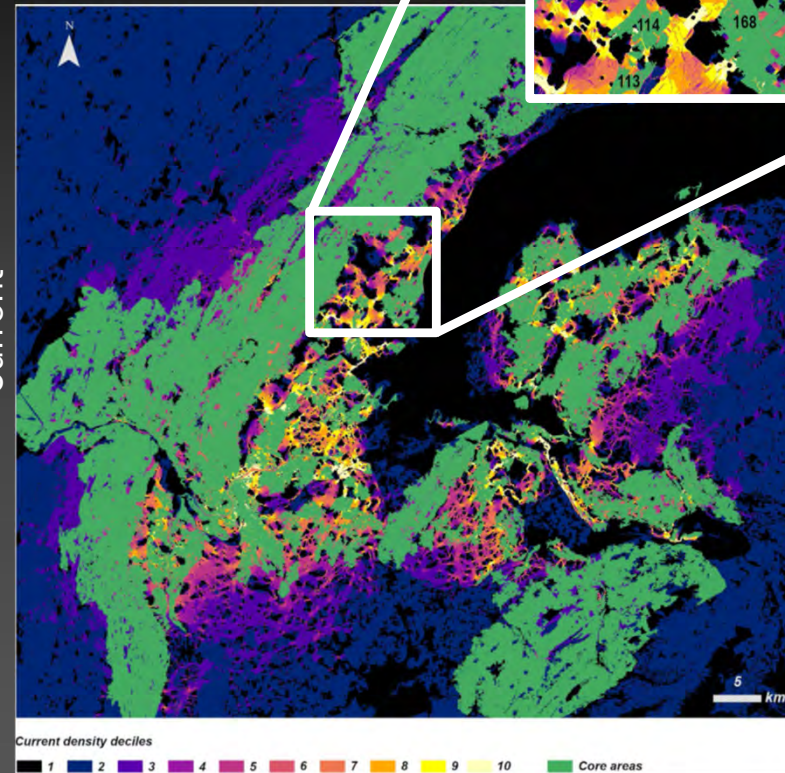
Natural Habitats



Connections



"Current"

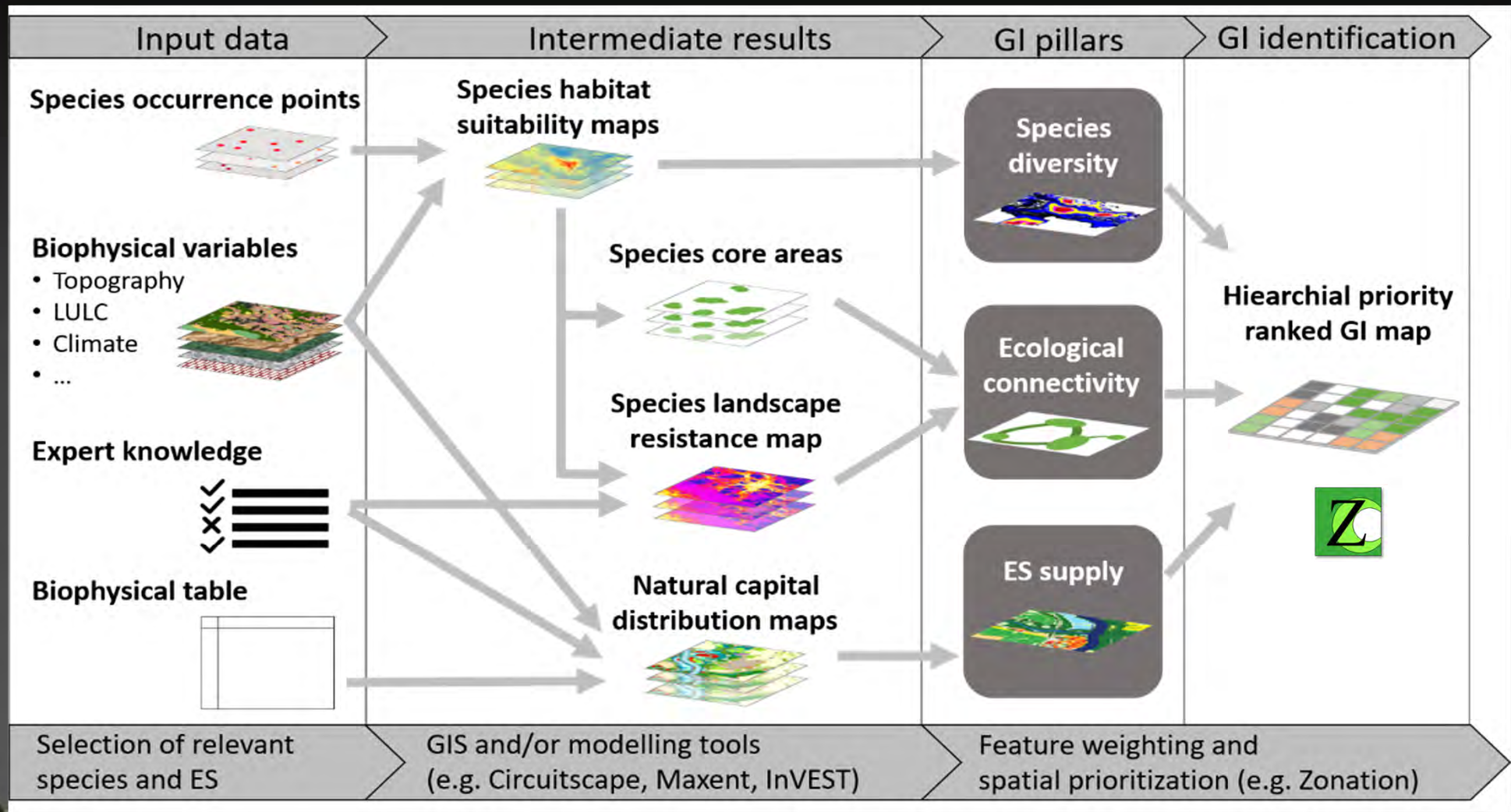




4

ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURES

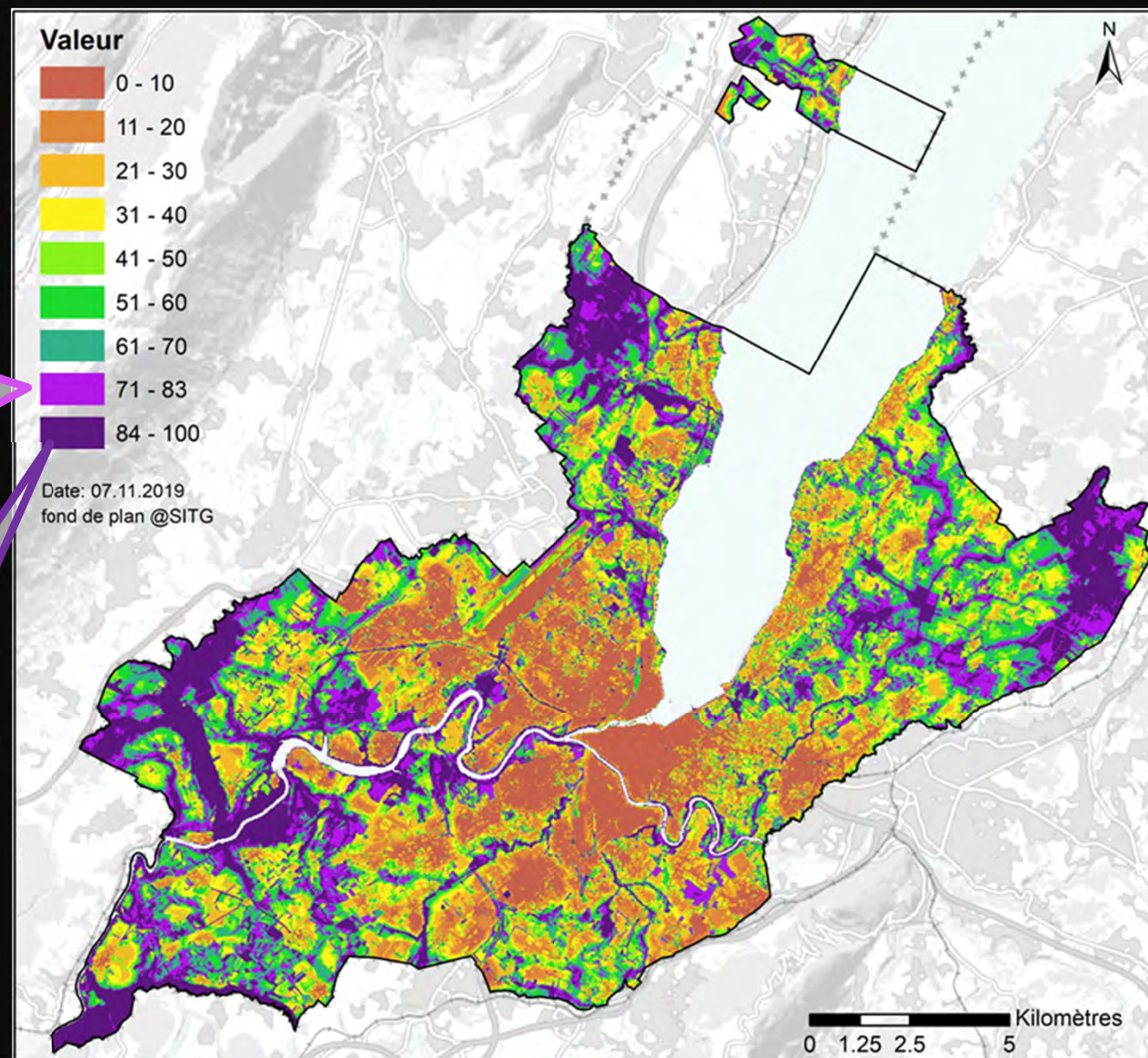
Proposed Methods for Identifying EI



Infrastructure Ecologique de Genève >> PDCn

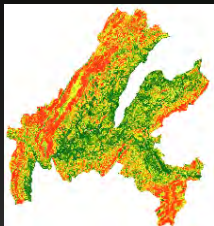
13% additional
networking of main
habitats

17% of the most
interesting areas
including existing
protected areas. This
corresponds to the
main habitats and the
CBD Aichi Object

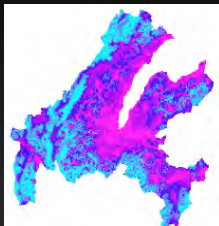


Ecological infrastructure of Greater Geneva >> VTT

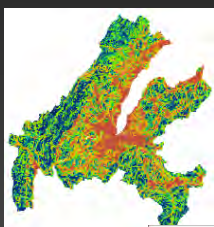
Composition



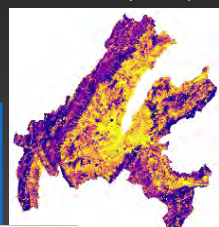
Connectivité



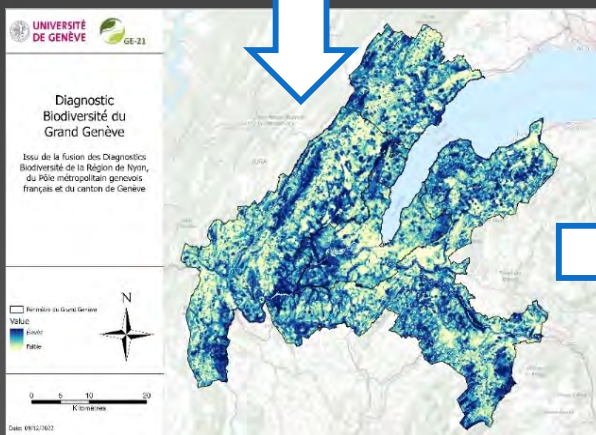
Structure



Services écosystémiques



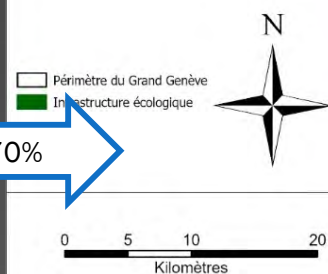
ZONATION



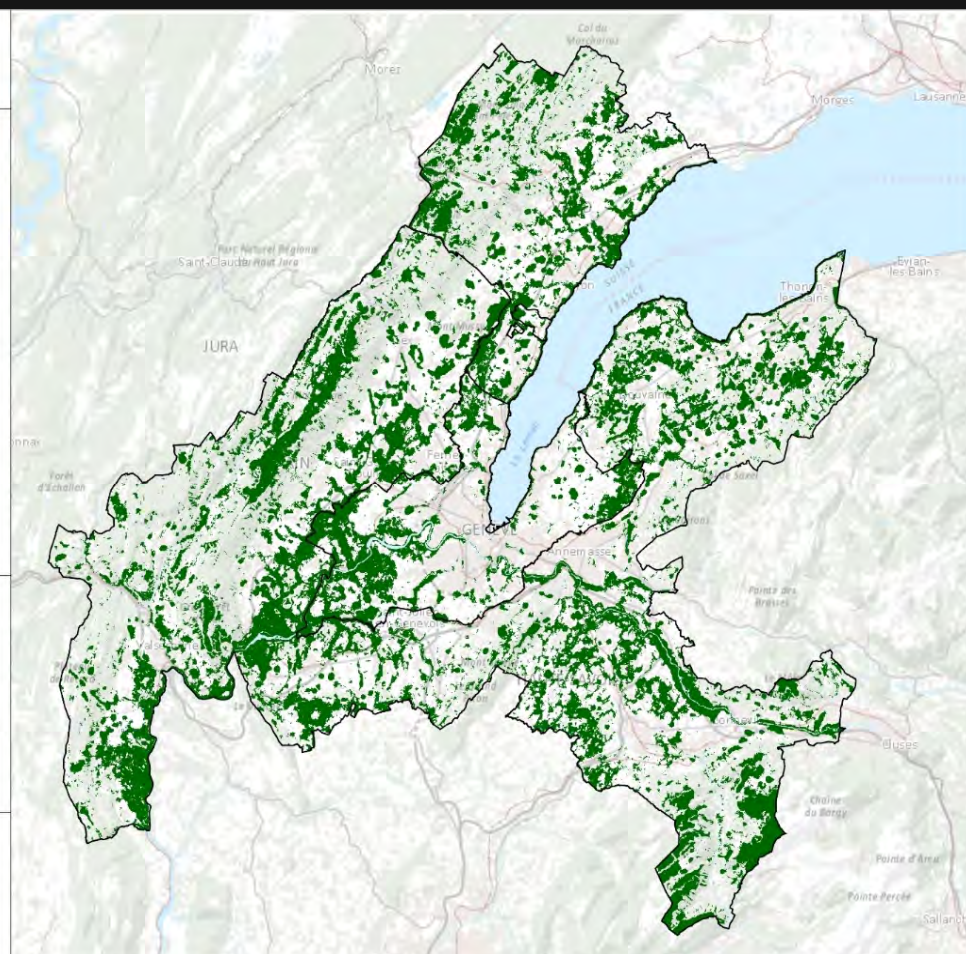
Diagnostic: 0 -> 100

Infrastructure écologique du Grand Genève

Issue de la fusion des IEs du District de Nyon, du Pôle métropolitain genevois français et du canton de Genève



Date: 09/12/2022



Infrastructure: 0 / 1

ValPar.CH: Added value of EI



ValPar.CH

[Home](#) [Portrait](#) [Équipe](#) [Publications](#) [News](#) [Contact](#)

Module A L'état général actuel et les tendances d'évolution des services écosystémiques ▼

L'objectif du Module A est de faire le point sur l'état général actuel et sur l'évolution à ce jour des habitats, de la biodiversité et des services écosystémiques en Suisse et dans les parcs étudiés, notamment sous la forme de cartes. L'accent est mis sur l'analyse quantitative spatio-temporelle des services écosystémiques fournis et assurés par les réseaux d'habitats qui constituent l'infrastructure écologique (IE). Au niveau national, les analyses se baseront sur une série de cartes de l'occupation et de l'utilisation des sols à une résolution de 25 m, sur la cartographie par modélisation des espèces et de la biodiversité, ainsi que sur des indicateurs issus d'images satellites fournis par le Swiss Data Cube. Des analyses et modélisations plus précises seront effectuées dans les parcs sélectionnés, où des données à haute résolution permettront la prise en considération des structures paysagères et des relations spatiales au sein des espèces et des éléments de l'utilisation des sols, ainsi qu'entre ces composants. Ces bases, combinées au développements quantitatifs et qualitatifs des services écosystémiques effectués en parallèle au sein du projet, seront ensuite utilisées pour modéliser et cartographier l'IE à l'échelle nationale, en hiérarchisant le territoire afin d'identifier les régions les plus propices à assurer une IE opérationnelle. Au niveau régional, l'IE sera également évaluée mais de manière plus fine. Une généralisation sera finalement réalisée au moyen d'une classification permettant d'obtenir une série d'archétypes de l'IE permettant de transposer les résultats à d'autres parcs et d'autres régions de Suisse.

Méthodes

- Réduction d'échelle (downscaling) des cartes d'utilisation du sol de Suisse
- Modélisation des principaux services écosystémiques à l'échelle nationale et des parcs sélectionnés
- Modélisation de la distribution potentielle des espèces à l'échelle nationale et des parcs sélectionnés
- Cartographie de l'IE par priorisation de l'ensemble du territoire suisse et des parcs sélectionnés
- Classification des éléments du paysage suisse en fonction de leurs valeurs de biodiversité et des services écosystémiques
- Mise à disposition des codes et des résultats de ces analyses spatiales dans une infrastructure de données aboutissant à des tableaux de bord et des « story maps »

Direction

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ECOSPAT lab
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✉ antoine.guisan@unil.ch

Équipe complète ►

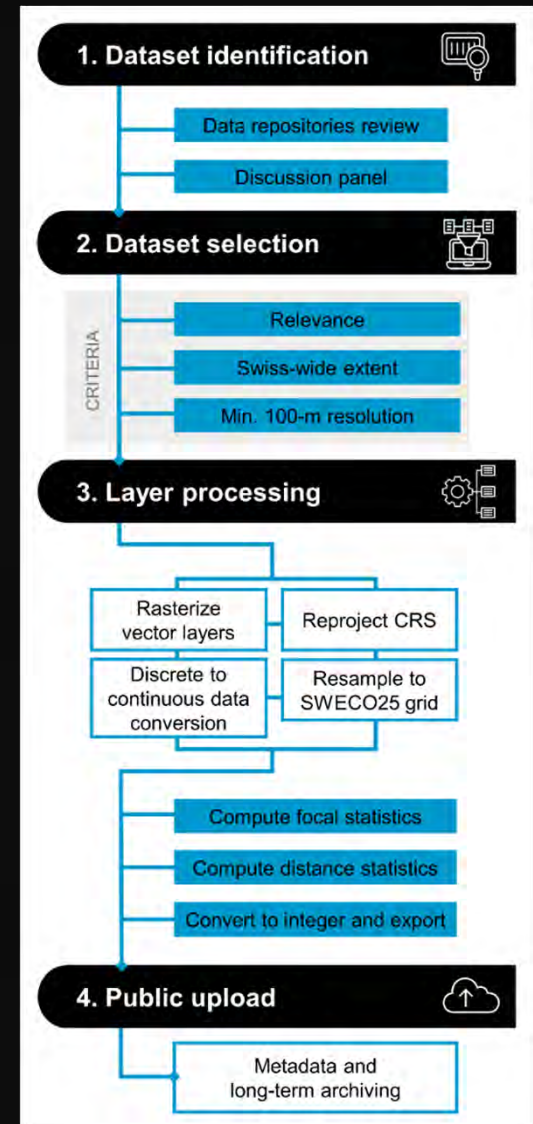
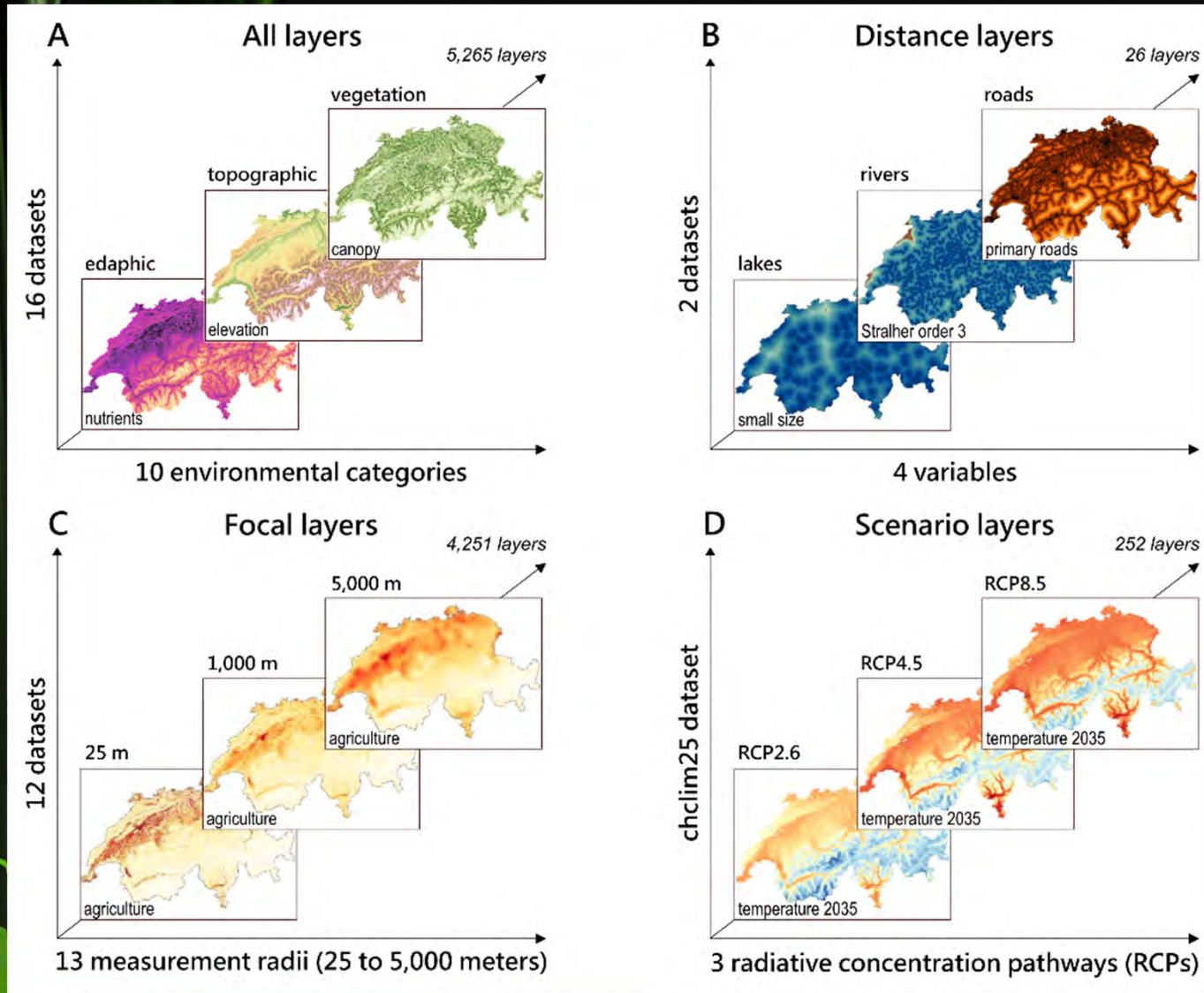
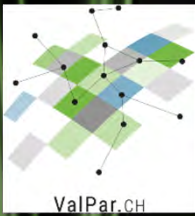
Produits

- Cartes à haute résolution (25 m) de l'utilisation du sol, des services écosystémiques et de la biodiversité de toute la Suisse
- Modèles de pointe permettant d'appréhender les services écosystémiques et la biodiversité à l'échelle des parcs sélectionnés
- Cartographie de l'infrastructure écologique selon la priorisation des services écosystémiques et de la biodiversité
- Classification des archétypes de l'IE



Un projet de recherche soutenu dans le cadre d'un projet pilote du « plan d'action de la Stratégie Biodiversité Suisse (SBS) » par l'Office fédéral de l'environnement (OFEV)

SWECO25: a raster database for ecological research in Switzerland



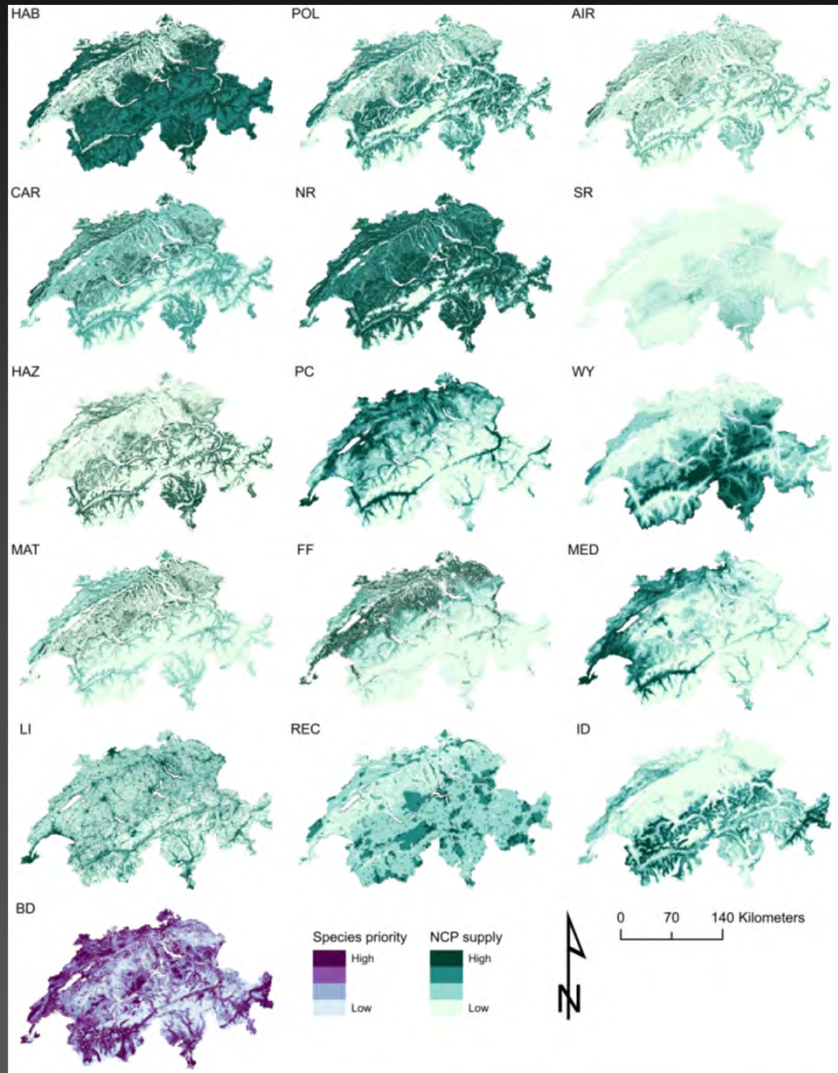
5 265 couches en 10 catégories: géologique, topographique, bioclimatique, hydrologique, édaphique, utilisation et couverture des sols, population, transport, végétation et télédétection

Choix des indicateurs des SE base sur la liste des categories de l'IPBES



N°	Category	Name (IPBES)	IPBES reference	Indicator used
1	Nature/non anthropocentric	Individual organisms	N1	
2	Nature/non anthropocentric	Biophysical assemblages	N2	
3	Nature/non anthropocentric	Biophysical processes	N3	Landscape connectivity for target species
4	Nature/non anthropocentric	Biodiversity	N4	
5	Regulation	Habitat creation and maintenance	C2.1	Habitat quality index
6	Regulation	Pollination and dispersal of seeds	C2.2	Habitat abundance for pollinators
7	Regulation	Regulation of air quality	C2.3	Annual removal of PM10 by vegetation
8	Regulation	Regulation of climate	C2.4	Carbon stored in biomass and soil
9	Regulation	Regulation of freshwater quantity, location and timing	C2.6	Annual water yield
10	Regulation	Regulation of freshwater quality	C2.7	Annual nutrient retention by vegetation
11	Regulation	Formation, protection and decontamination of soils	C2.8	Erosion control by sediment retention
12	Regulation	Regulation of hazards and extreme events	C2.9	Landscape protection from natural hazards (forests + floods)
13	Regulation	Regulation of organisms detrimental to humans	C2.10	Distribution of main predators to main pests
14	Material	Energy	C3.11	Wood-derived energy production
15	Material	Food and feed	C3.12	Crop production
16	Material	Materials and assistance	C3.13	Wood (timber) production
17	Material	Medicinal, biochemical and genetic resources	C3.14	Distribution of medicinal plant species
18	Non-Material	Learning and inspiration	C4.15	Picture-taking probability
19	Non-Material	Physical and psychological experiences	C4.16	Accessibility to recreation areas
20	Non-Material	Supporting identities	C4.17	Index of species richness for "supporting identities" [1-0]
21	Options value for NCPs	Maintenance of options	C1.18	Genetic diversity distribution of selected species

15 mapped ES and Biodiversity

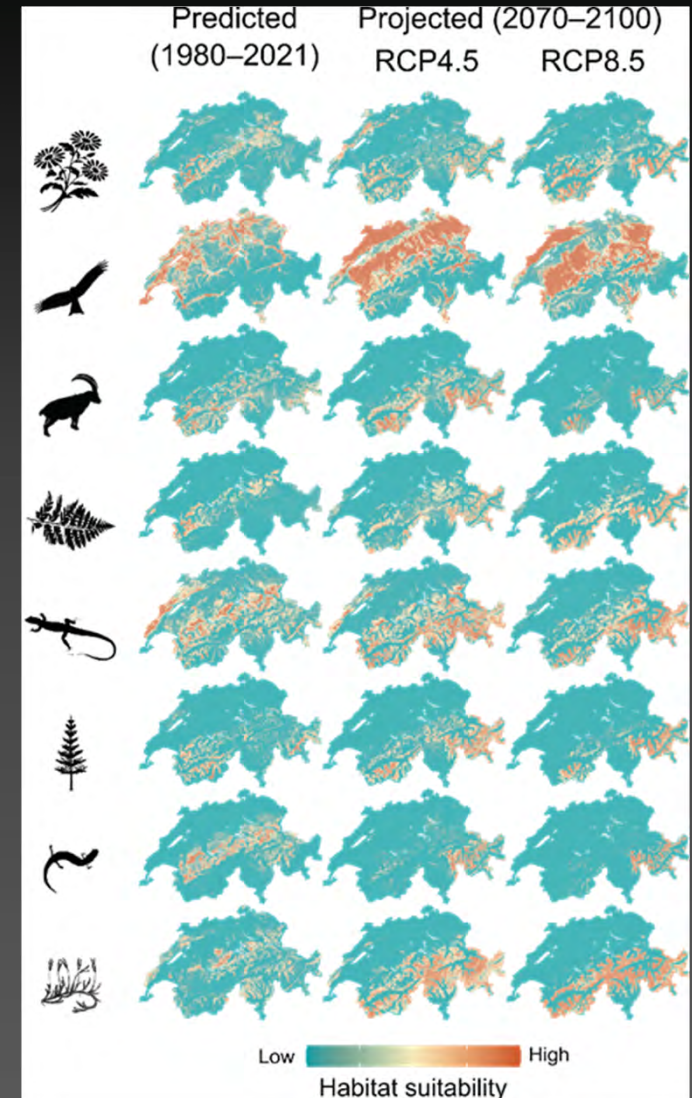


Normalized distribution of indicators maps. Color schemes defined by Jenks natural breaks. **BD** - Red list species, **HAB** - Habitat quality, **POL** - Pollinator abundance, **AIR** - Removal of PM10 by vegetation, **CAR** - Carbon stored in biomass, **NR** - Nutrient retention by landscape, **SR** - Sediment retention by landscape, **HAZ** - Protective forests and floodplains, **PC** - Pest control species, **WY** - Annual water yield, **MAT** - Wood provision potential, **FF** - Landscape suitability for agriculture, **MED** - Medicinal plants, **LI** - Landscape suitability for picture-taking, **REC** - Recreation potential, and **ID** - Emblematic species.

New distribution maps of the 7,000 species for Switzerland

- Using N-SDM, we produced maps for ~7,000 individual species (native and invasive) and aggregate biodiversity indices
- These maps cover the whole of Switzerland with a spatial resolution of 25 metres
- They are made available for current and future periods (up to 2100), according to several climate change scenarios

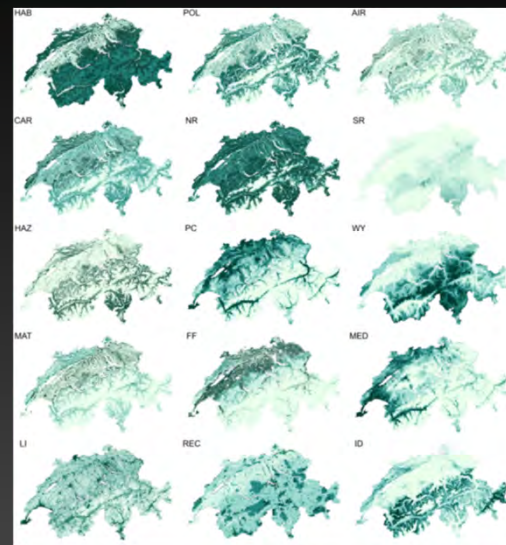
Cartographie des aires de répartition potentielles actuelles et futures de huit espèces savantes



National Ecological Infrastructure

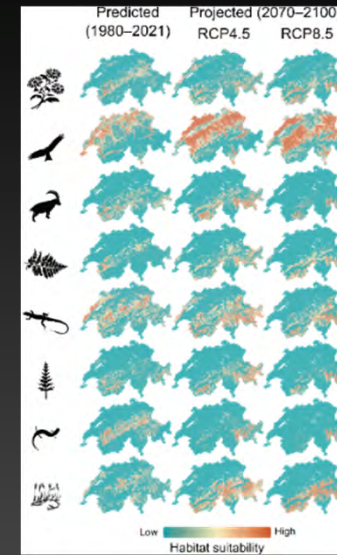


UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE



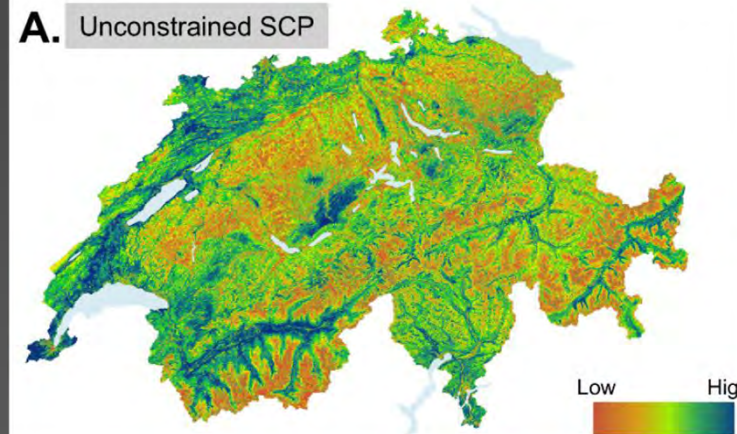
Ecosystem Services

ZONATION



SDMs

A. Unconstrained SCP



Regional parcs

Cantons

Communes



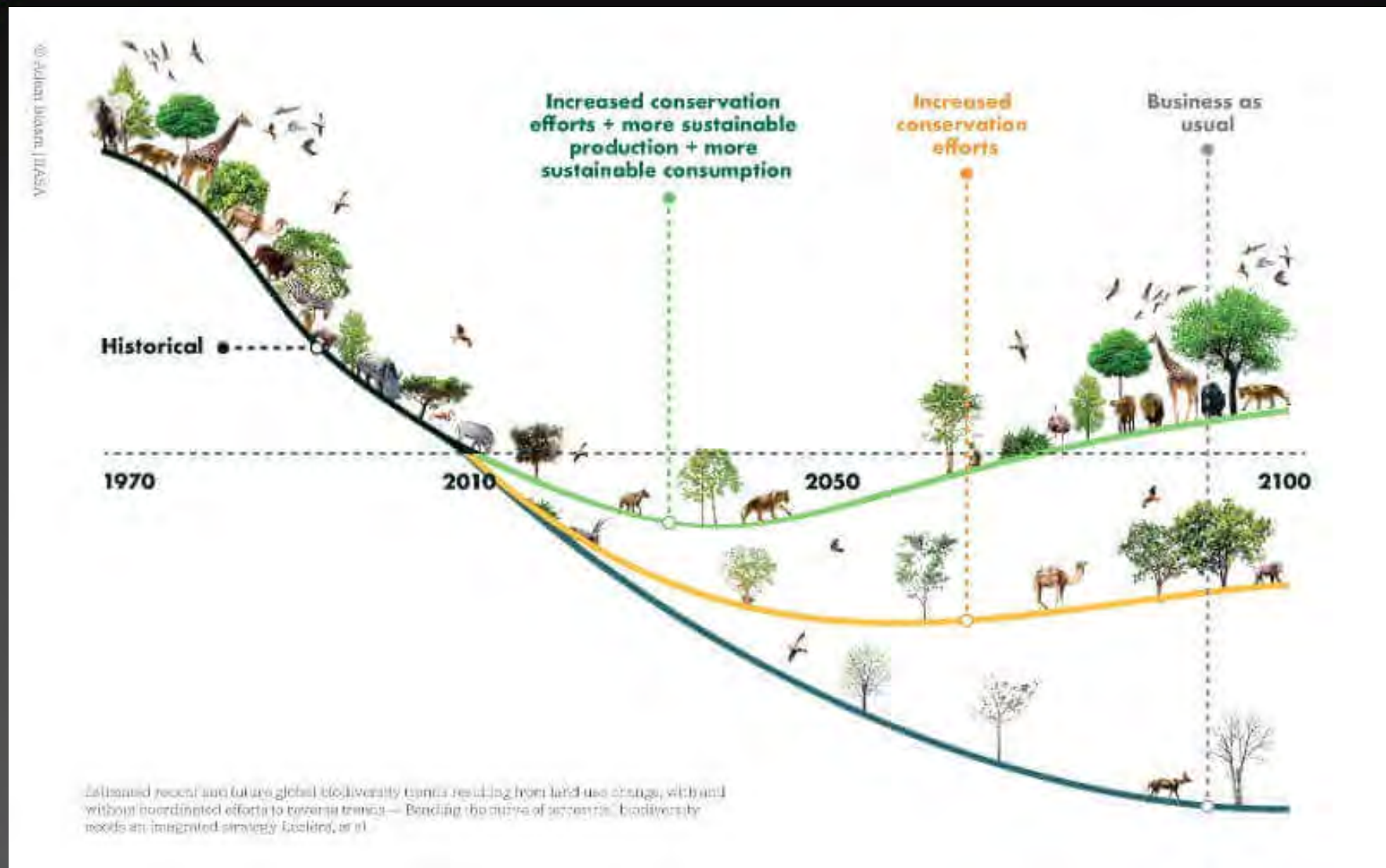
Külling et al, submitted.



5

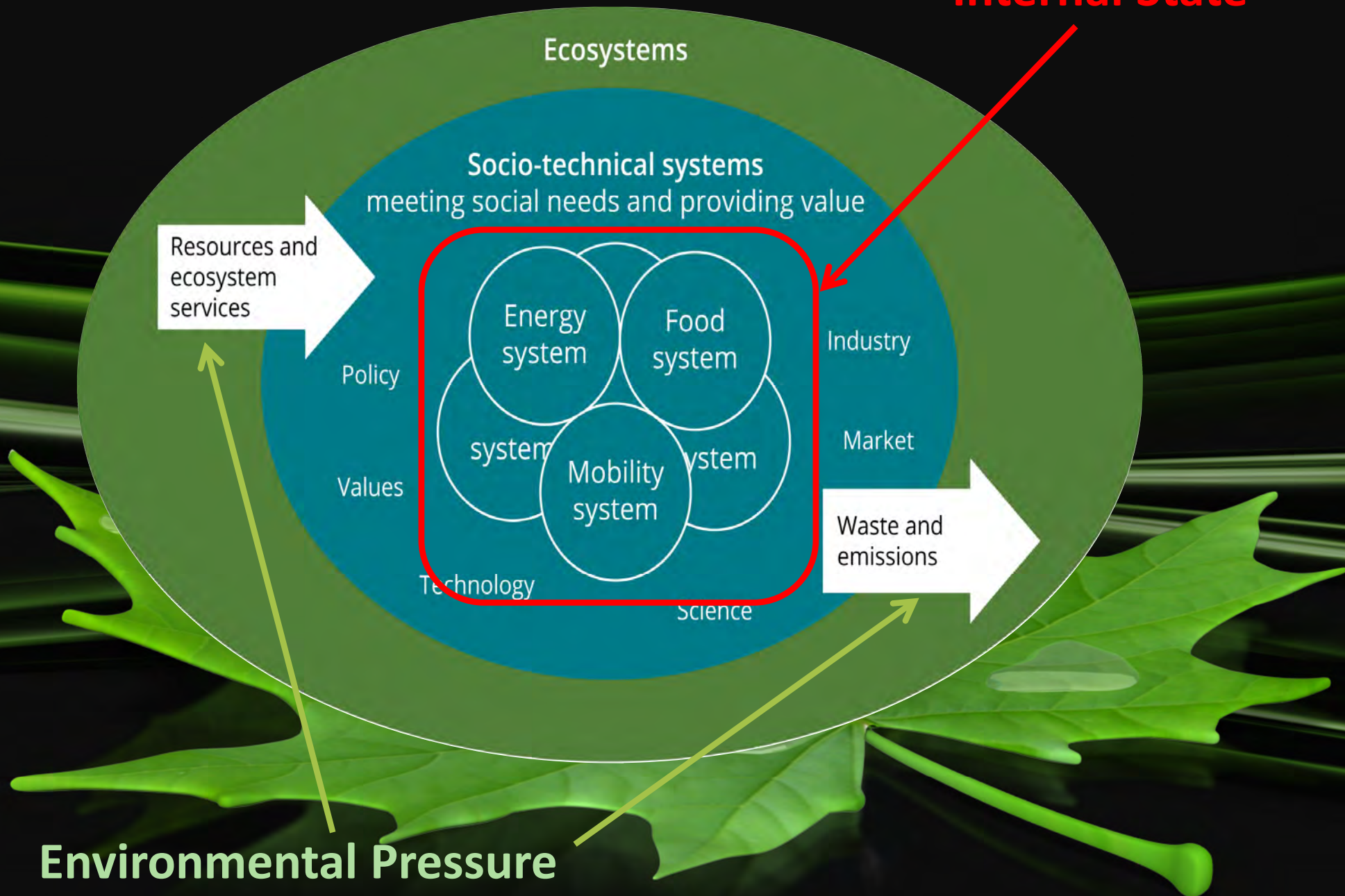
THE NEED FOR A NEXUS APPROACH

Nature positive initiative



The narrative of the
European Environmental Agency

Internal State



Characterizing the Security of Food Systems for a selected region: the case of Greater Geneva agglomeration

Alexander Folz

Phd student, UNIGE and Liphe4

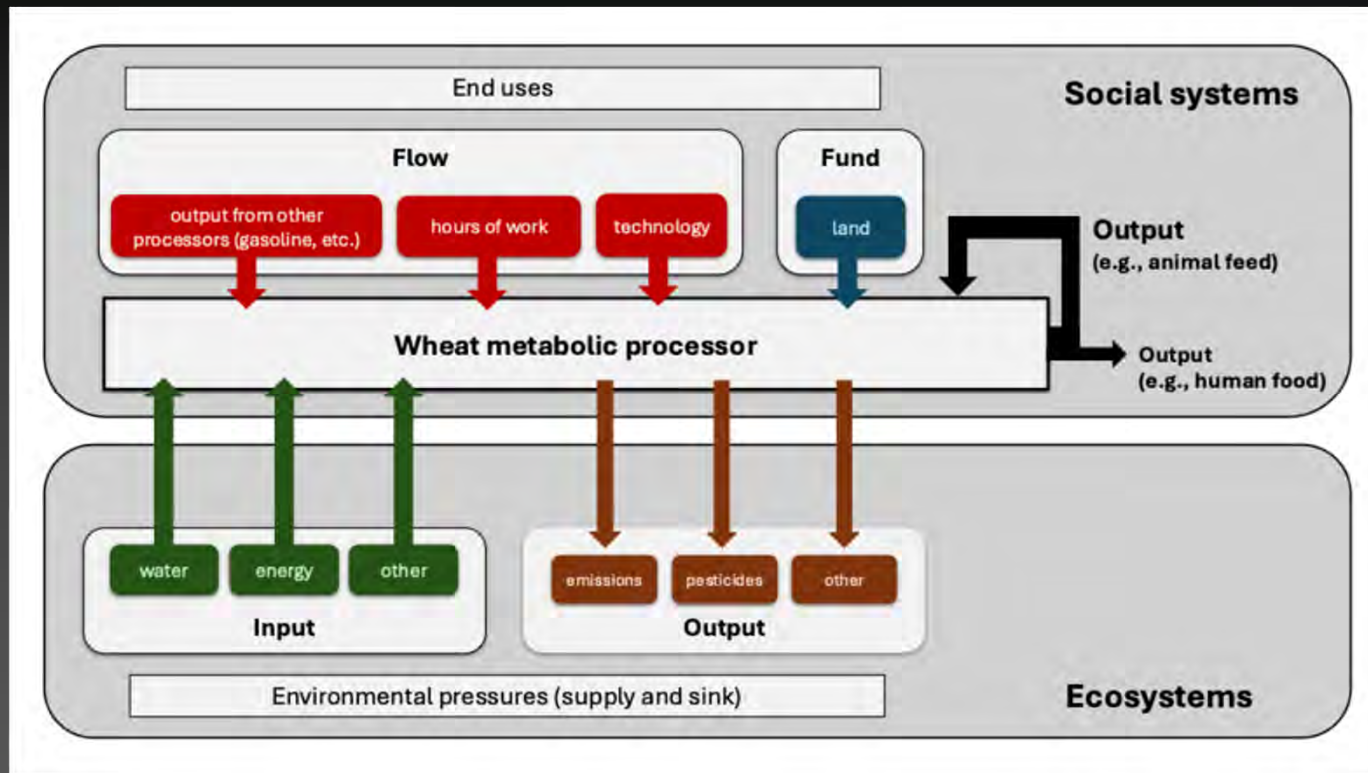


- 209 transboundary communes on ~ 2000 km² [3]
- ~ 946 000 inhab. (2014) [3], ~ +30 % in 2040 [4]
- Climatic projection in 2035 (1980-2010; RCP8.5) [5]
 - Temperature ~ +1.4°C (winter) & +1.3°C (summer)
 - Precipitation ~ +13.3% (winter) & -3.4% (summer)
 - Increase in evapotranspiration
 - Negative glacier balance

NEXUS avec MuSIASEM

Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of
Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism

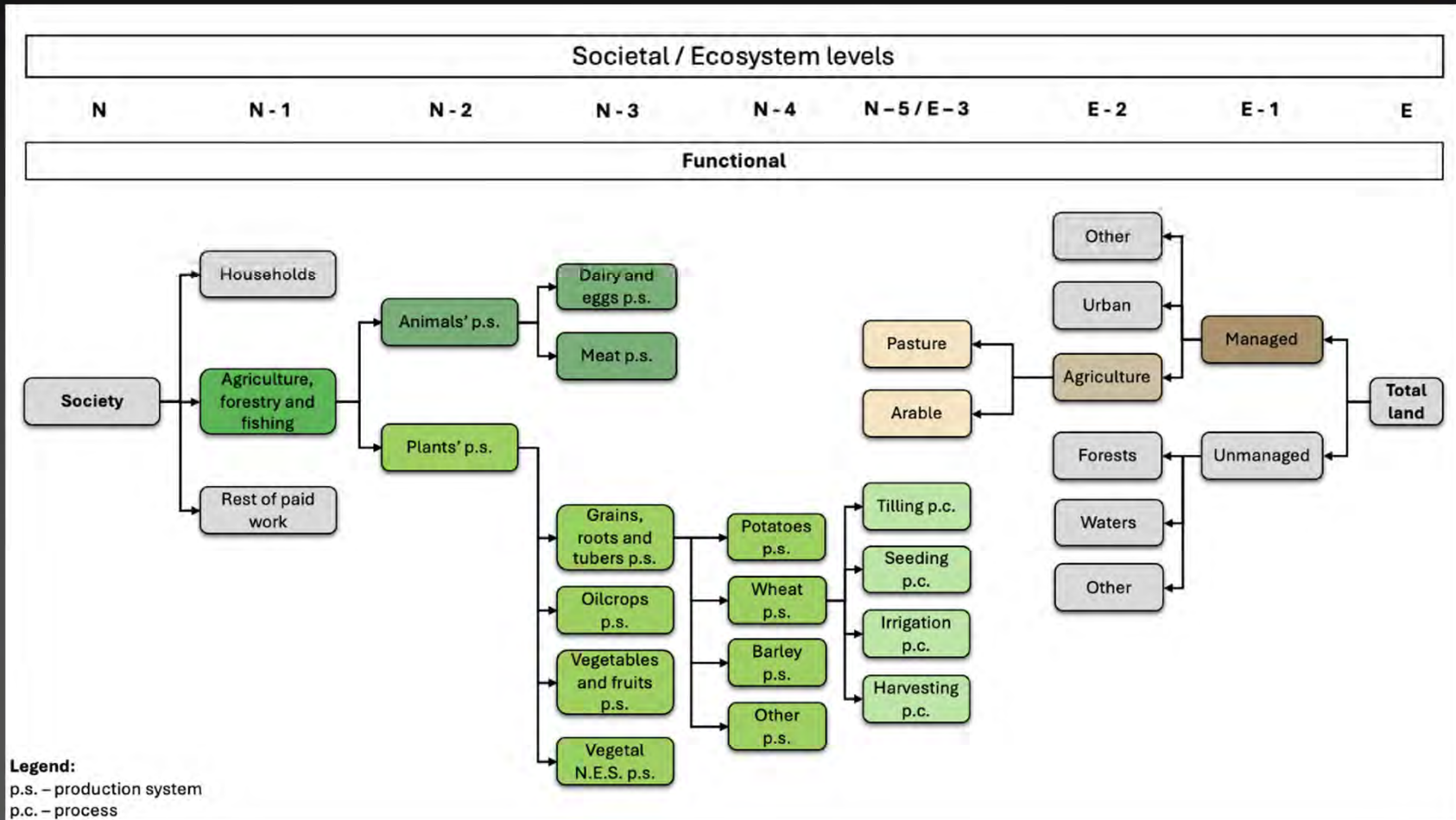
Example of a wheat metabolic processor



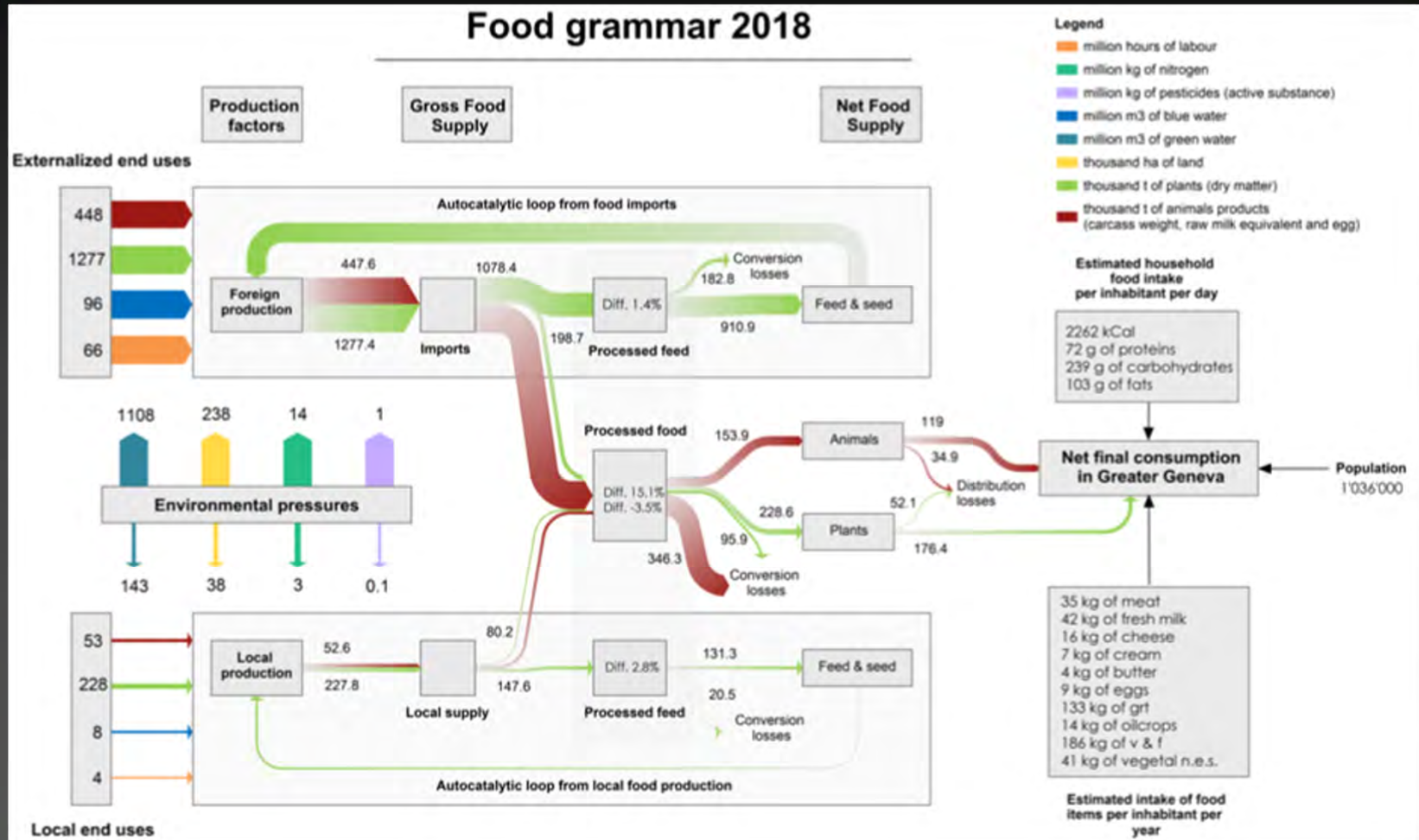
Folz et al. submitted

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MuSIASEM>

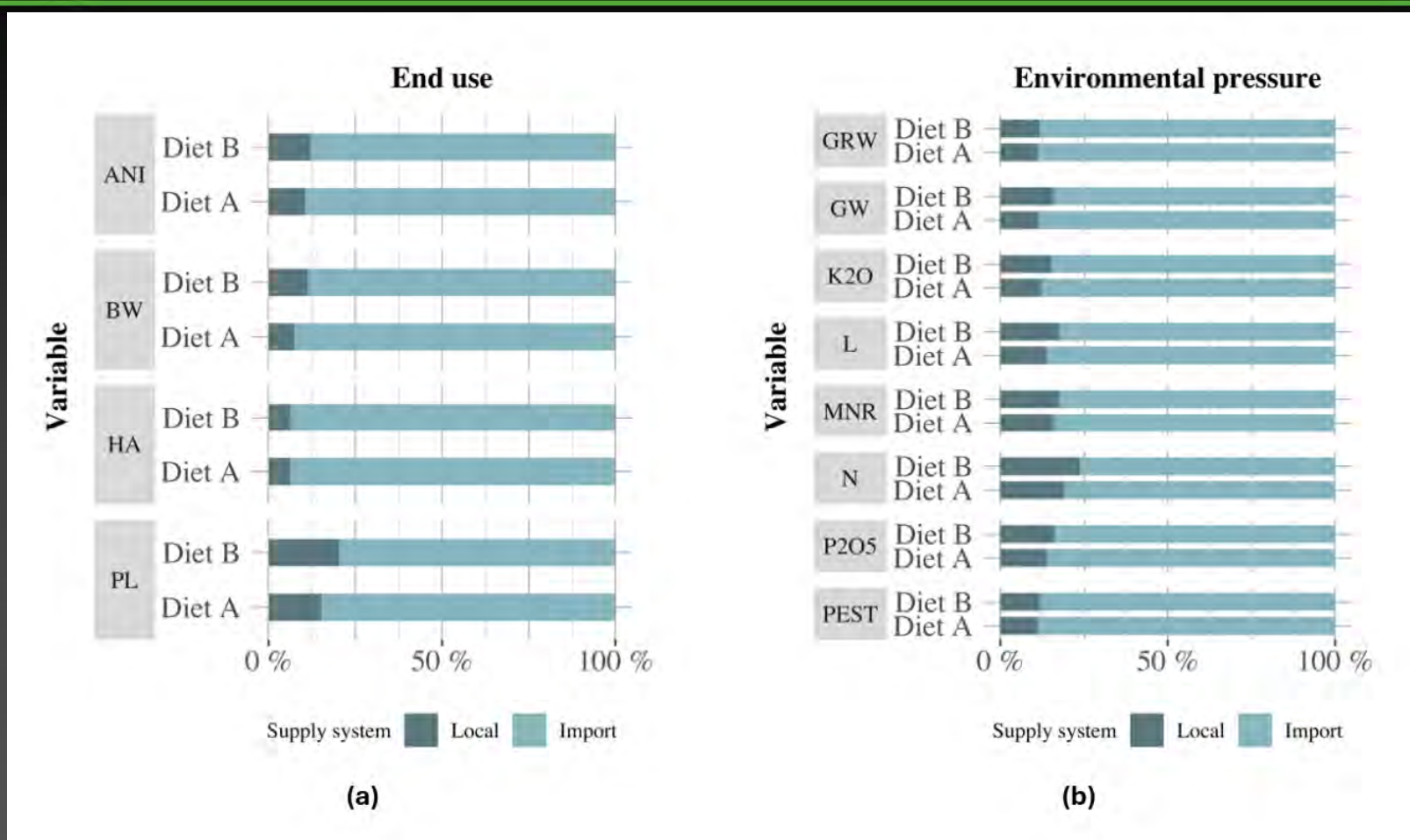
Hierarchical levels of Greater Geneva's food metabolic pattern



Greater Geneva's food grammar



End use (a) and environmental pressure (b) of Greater Geneva's agricultural system with diet A and B respectively.



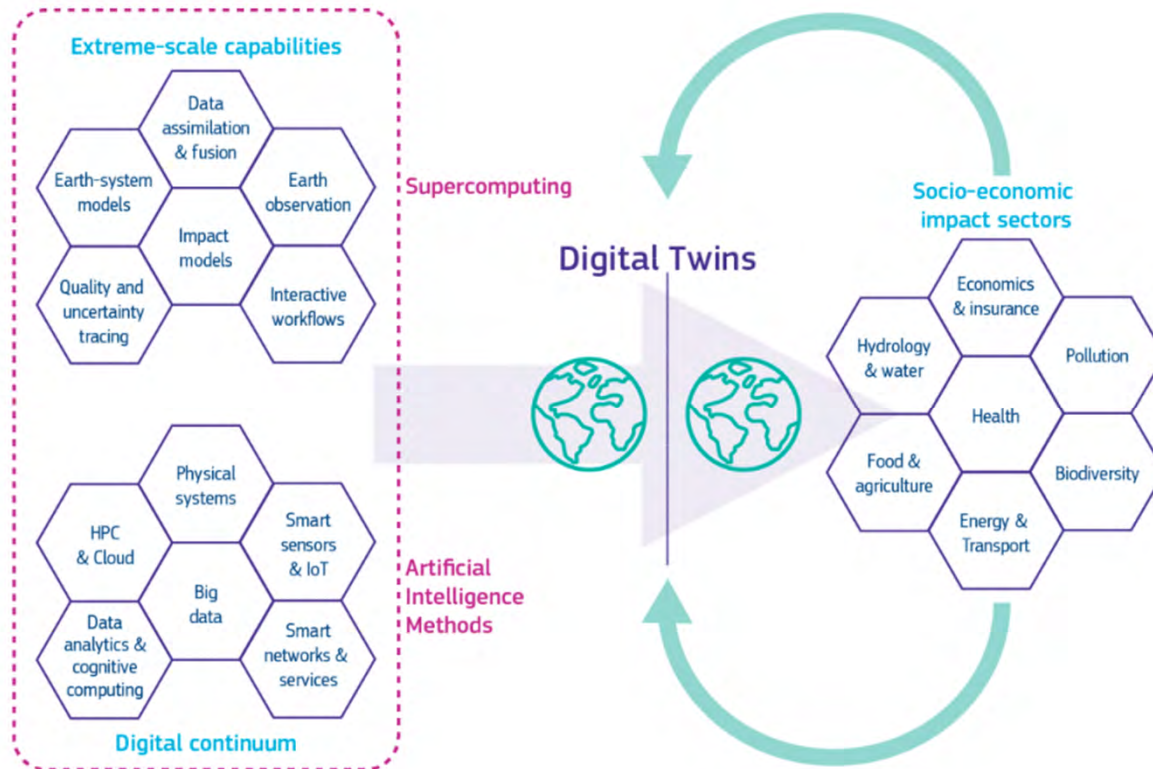
PL – Plants; ANI – Animals; BW – Blue water; HA – Human activity;
 GW – Green water; GRW – Grey water; L – Land; N/P2O5/K2O – Fertilizer ; PEST – Pesticides; MNR – Manure.



6

DIGITAL TWINS

Destination Earth digital twins

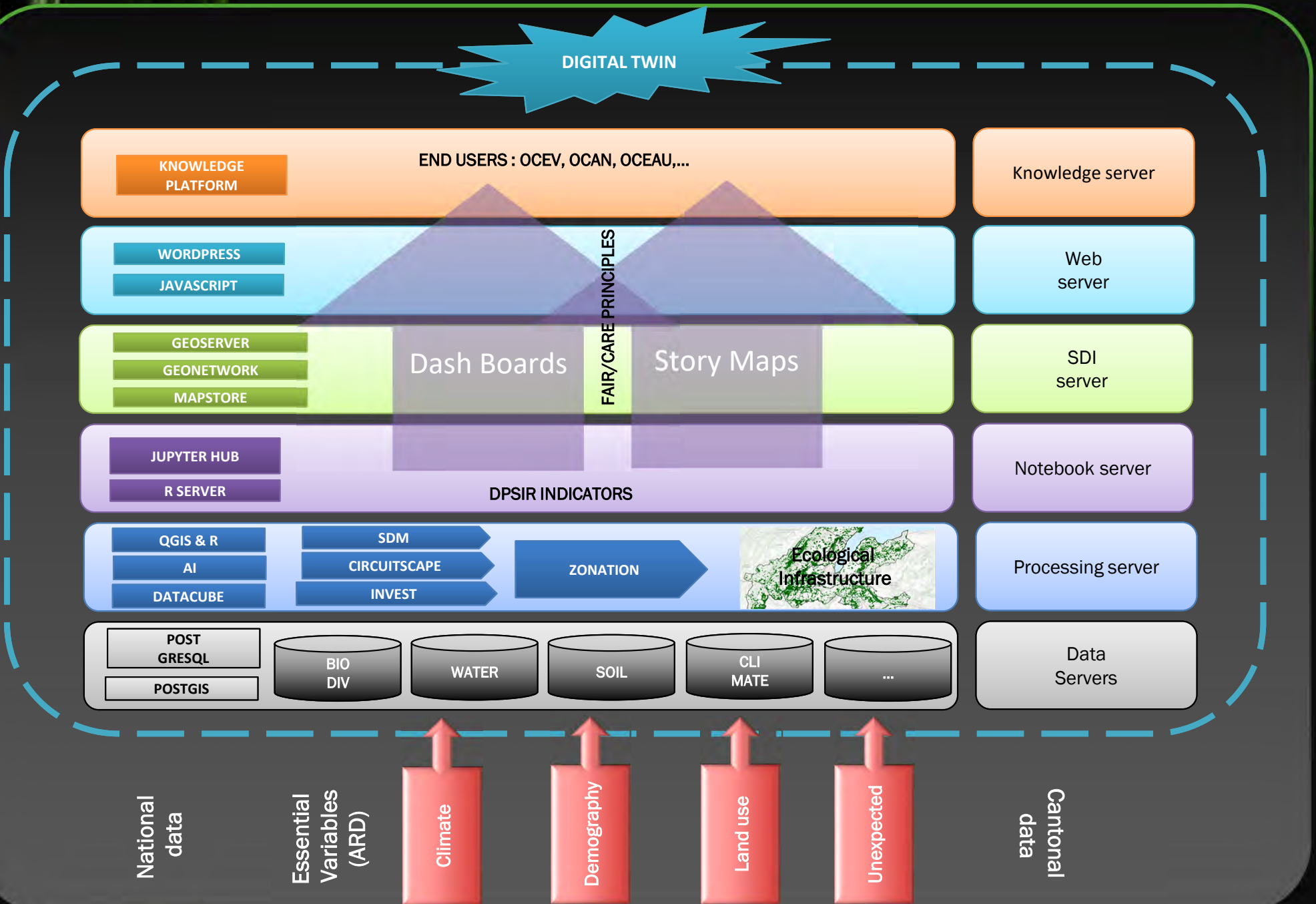


“Digital twins are interactive systems where you can change things in the digital world, which in turn helps you plan, define and operate assets in the real world such as dykes, wind farms, or flood dams,” Peter Bauer, ECMWF.

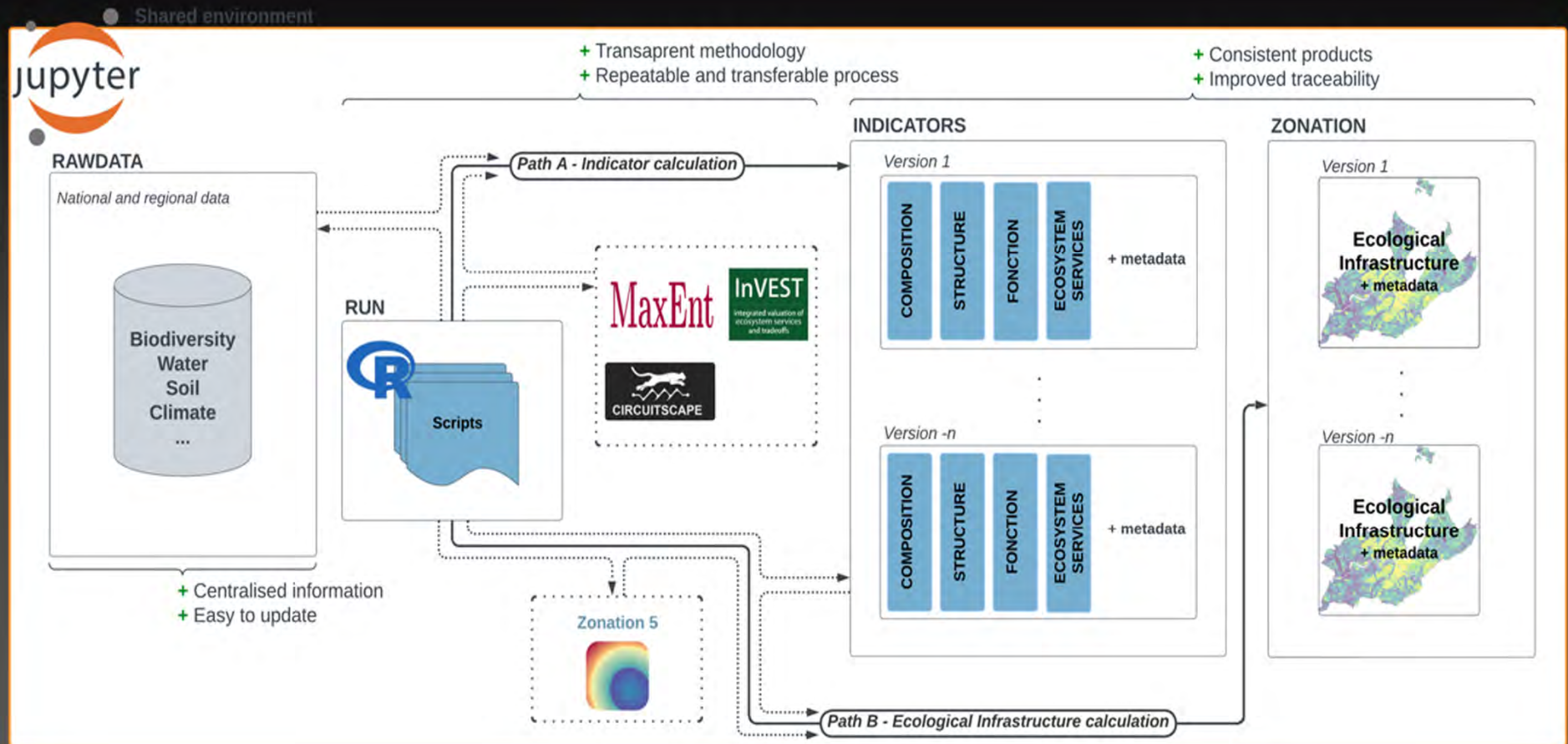
Destination Earth digital twins are digital replicas of the Earth system. The ultimate aim is to integrate these digital replicas to form a comprehensive digital twin of the complete Earth system. Source: EC Europa.

<https://www.climateforesight.eu/seeds/digital-twin>

Integration of the JupyterHub solution into the general objective of developing a digital twin for the environment in Geneva

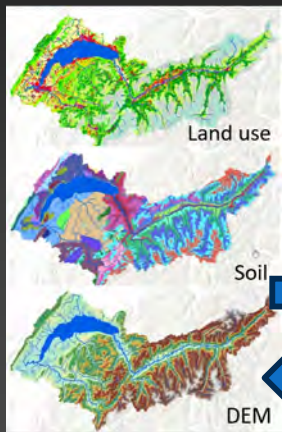


Architecture of the Shared JupyterLab Environment and the Automation Process for Ecological Infrastructure (EI) Calculation and Its Indicators



Integration of different modeling approaches into the JupyterHub solution

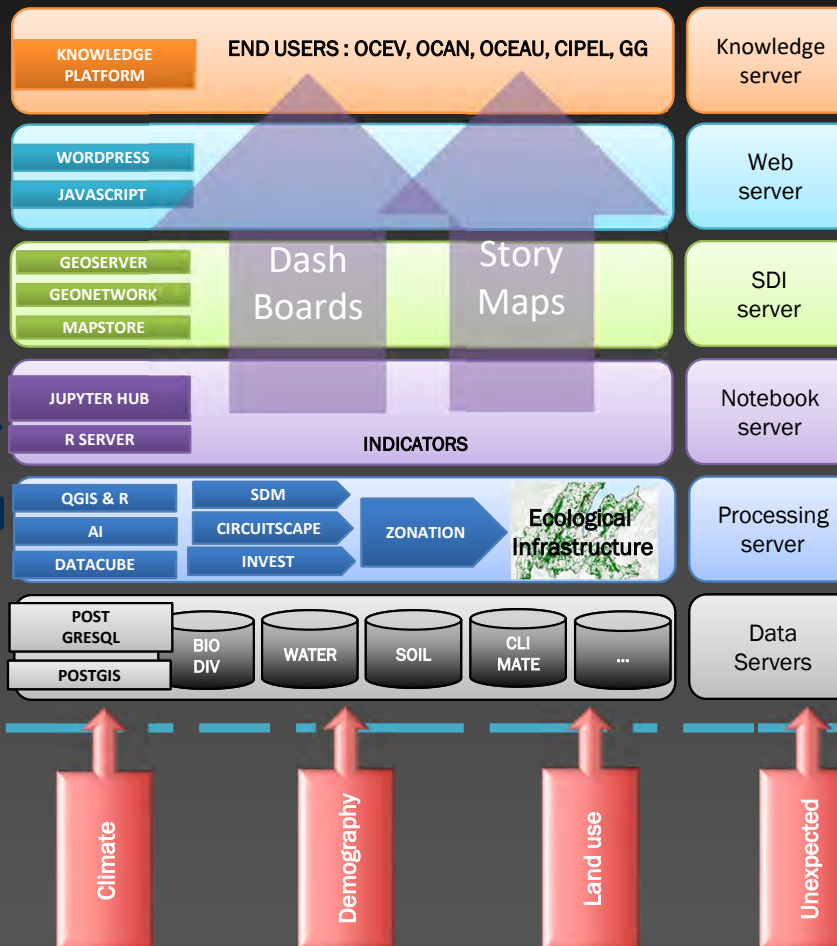
SWAT: Soil and Water Assessment Tool



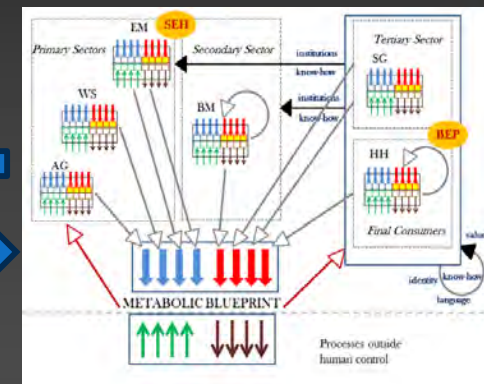
indicators

outputs

Essential Variables (ARD)



MuSIASEM: Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism





CONCLUSIONS

Is there a pilot on the plane?



The current level of control around sustainable development issues

Is there a pilot on the plane?



The level of control we'd like to see everywhere

Is there a pilot on the plane?



The level of control we'd like to see everywhere



Conclusions

We have the data and individual models to assess different dimensions of the environment

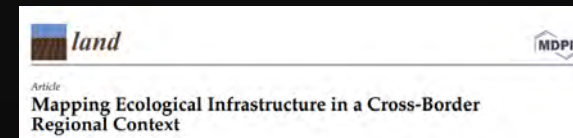
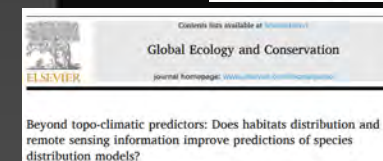
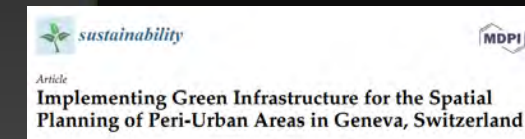
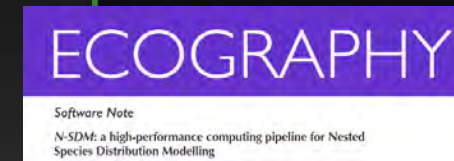
We have methods such as ecological infrastructure to integrate individual models into land use planning

Digital Twins and Nexus approach bring new opportunities to monitor and model socio-ecological systems in order to better inform decision making for a more sustainable world



Selected publications from enviroSPACE

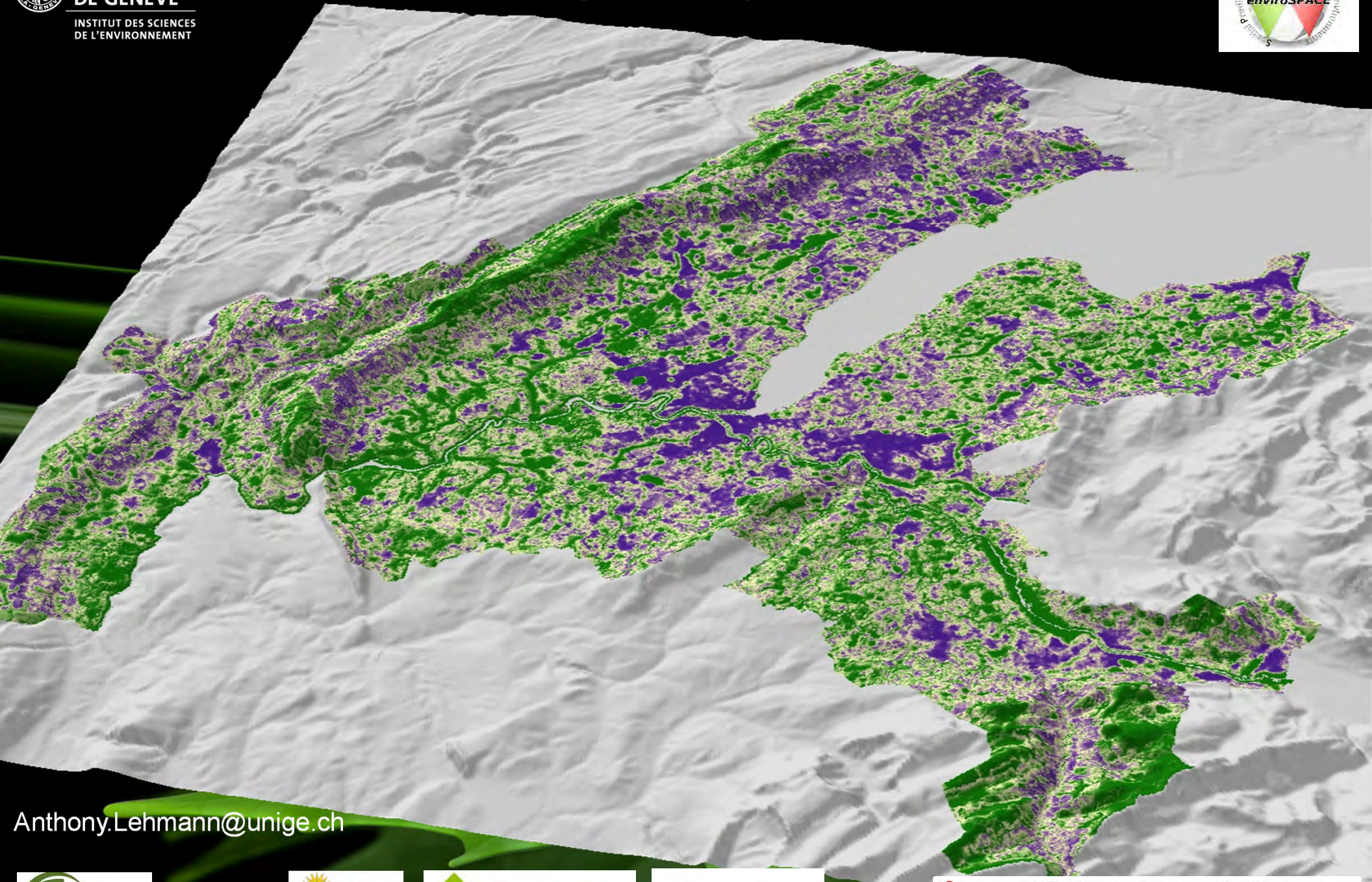
- Adde, A., et al. 2023. N-SDM: a high-performance computing pipeline for Nested Species Distribution Modelling. *Ecography*.
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- Giuliani, G. et al. Knowledge generation using satellite earth observations to support sustainable development goals (SDG): A use case on Land degradation: *Int. Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* (2020).
- Honeck, E.C., et al., 2021, Integrating ecosystem services into policymaking – A case study on the use of boundary organizations: *Ecosystem Services*, v. 49, no. 101286.
- Honeck, E.C., et al., 2020, Implementing Green Infrastructure for the Spatial Planning of Peri-Urban Areas in Geneva, Switzerland: *Sustainability*, v. 12, no. 4, p. 1387.
- Honeck, E.C. Sanguet, A., et al., 2020, Methods for identifying green infrastructure: *SN Applied Sciences*, v. 2, no. 1916.
- Kuelling, N., Adde, A., et al., soumis. SWECO25: a cross-thematic raster database for ecological research in Switzerland.
- Kuelling, N., et al., in prep. What is the driver? Ecosystem services and biodiversity patterns of Switzerland
- Lehmann, A. et al. Lifting the Information Barriers to Address Sustainability Challenges with Data from Physical Geography and Earth Observation. *Sustainability* 9 (2017).
- Lehmann, A. et al. GEOEssential – mainstreaming workflows from data sources to environment policy indicators with essential variables: *International Journal of Digital Earth* (2019).
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- Sanguet, A., et al. 2022. Beyond topo-climatic predictors: Does habitats distribution and remote sensing information improve predictions of species distribution models? *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 39.
- Sanguet, A., et al. 2023. Mapping Ecological Infrastructure in a Cross-Border Regional Context. *Land* 2023, 12, 2010.
- Urbina, L., et al. 2023. Modeling red deer functional connectivity at a regional scale in a human-dominated landscape. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 11: 1198168.
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Thank you for your attention



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GE-EN-VIE

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RENCONTRE 2025

« Changements globaux: s'adapter grâce au socle du vivant »

1. **Date: 24 Juin de 15h30 à 19h**
2. Lieu: Maison Internationale de l'Environnement 2, Châtelaine
3. **Keynote: 30' Mario Giampietro: Time to move to better sustainability discussions . . .**
4. Speakers: 10'
 1. ETAT: Socle du vivant GG (Walter Vetterli)
 2. HES: Projet substrat des toitures (Patrice Prunier, Philippe Royer)
 3. UNIGE: Consommation (Marlyne Sahakian)
5. Pause: 30'
6. Ateliers : 60'
 1. GE-NEXUS Agriculture (Alexander Folz, Mario Giampietro,...)
 2. GE-NEXUS Eau (Igor Chernov, Mostafa Jafari,...)
 3. Adaptation et socle du vivant pour PDCn (Walter Vetterli, Nathan Külling, Anthony Lehmann,...)
7. Wrapup et discussion : 30'
8. Apéro: 30'