ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION & SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Supporting Evidence-Based Decision Making

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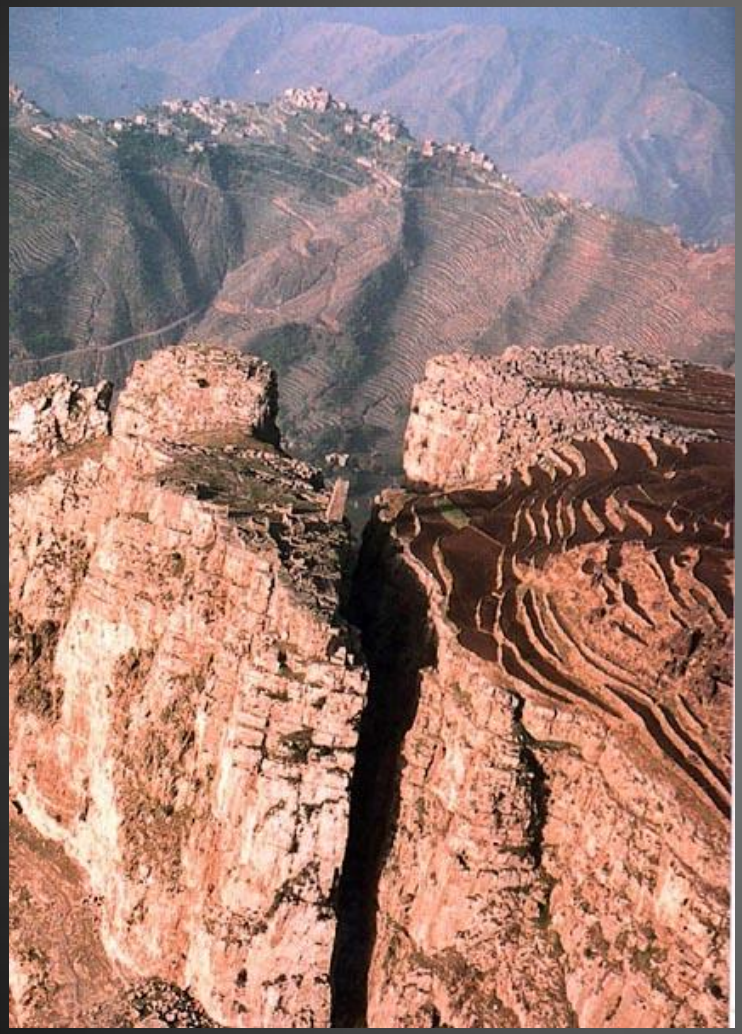
The Purpose

An initiative to develop a comprehensive methodological approach and evidence base for assessing the costs of land degradation and the economic rationale for sustainable land management

The Rationale

- Land resources underpin the economies of nations and the livelihoods of people across the developing world
- In many places these resources are being degraded by a series of pressures, and climate change will only make things worse
- The value of these resources, to national development and in poverty reduction, is often not understood properly

The Problems



- Are well understood and are why the UNCCD was created
- Variable and changing climates, poor management and over-exploitation of land resources and land-use changes all jeopardise the productivity of lands and the integrity of ecosystems
- Problems often most acute where poverty and dependence on land resources are highest

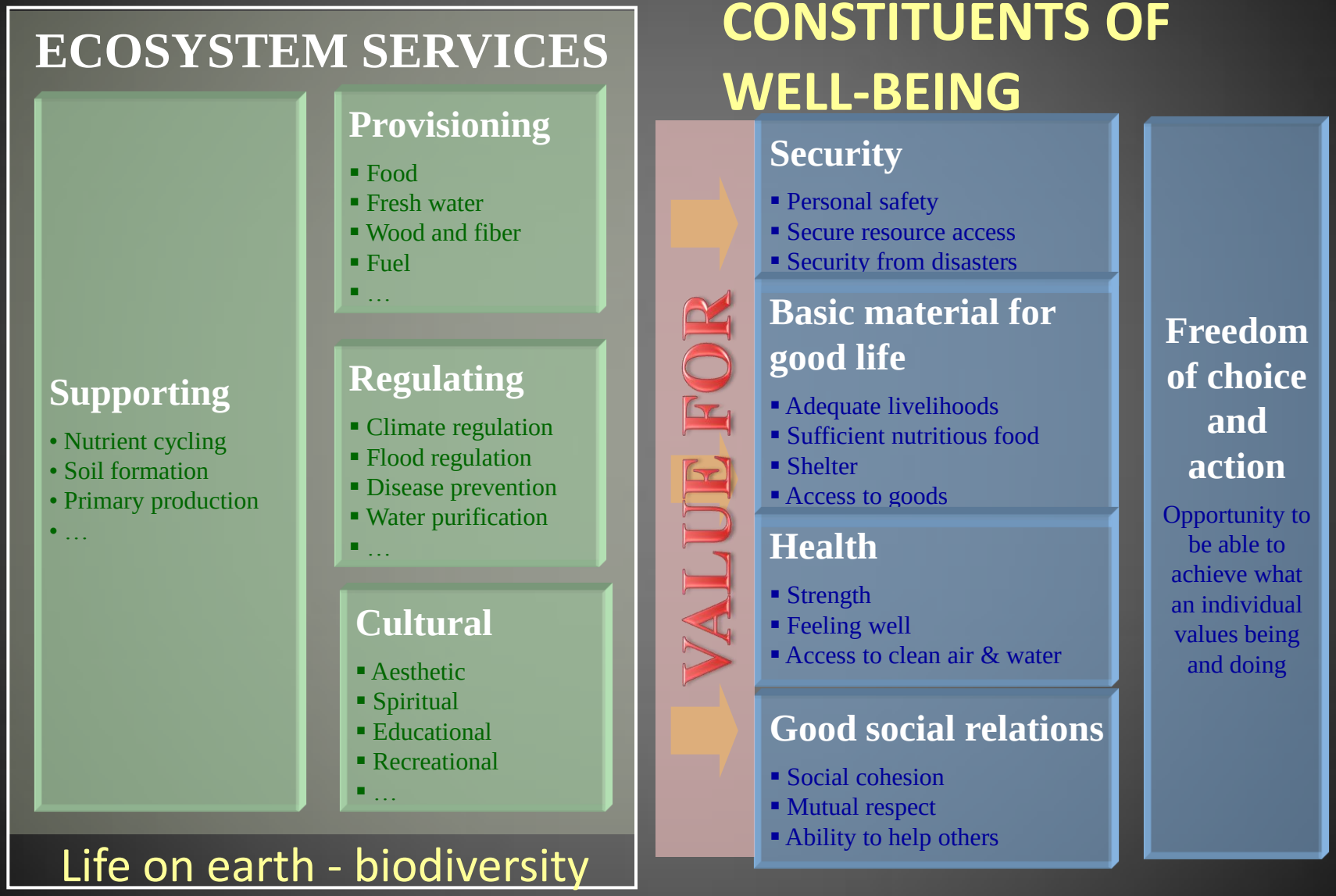
The Solutions

- Are known (technically) – many examples of SLM systems that reduce & reverse land degradation
- Many are built on traditional livelihoods, but add new knowledge and management practices
- SLM can have the dual benefit of reversing land degradation and improving livelihoods of the poor
- To be effective, we have to integrate the ***full*** value of land into decision-making

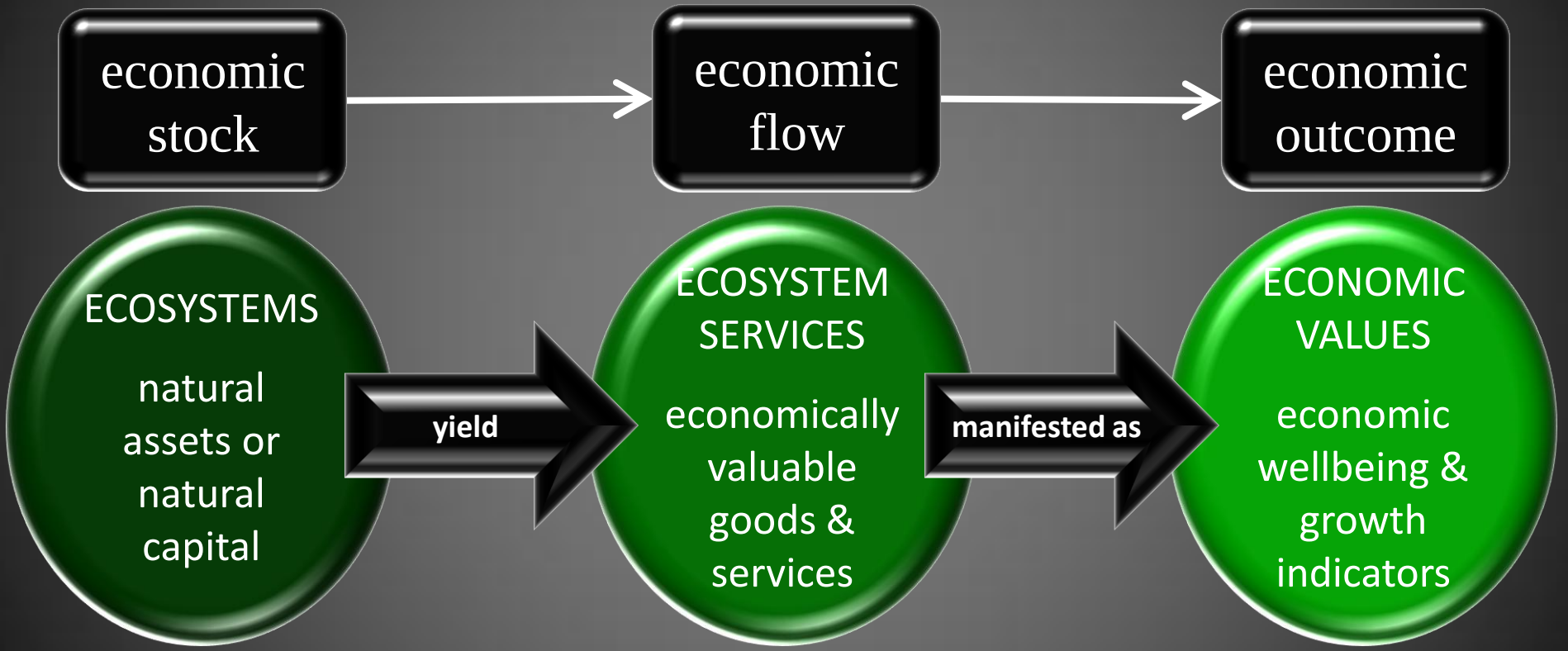
Some Basic Concepts

- We need to understand some concepts that are unfamiliar to many if we are to appreciate the full value of land resources
- Understanding this range of values, and the potential trade-offs between them, is the basis for rationale choices in sustainable land management

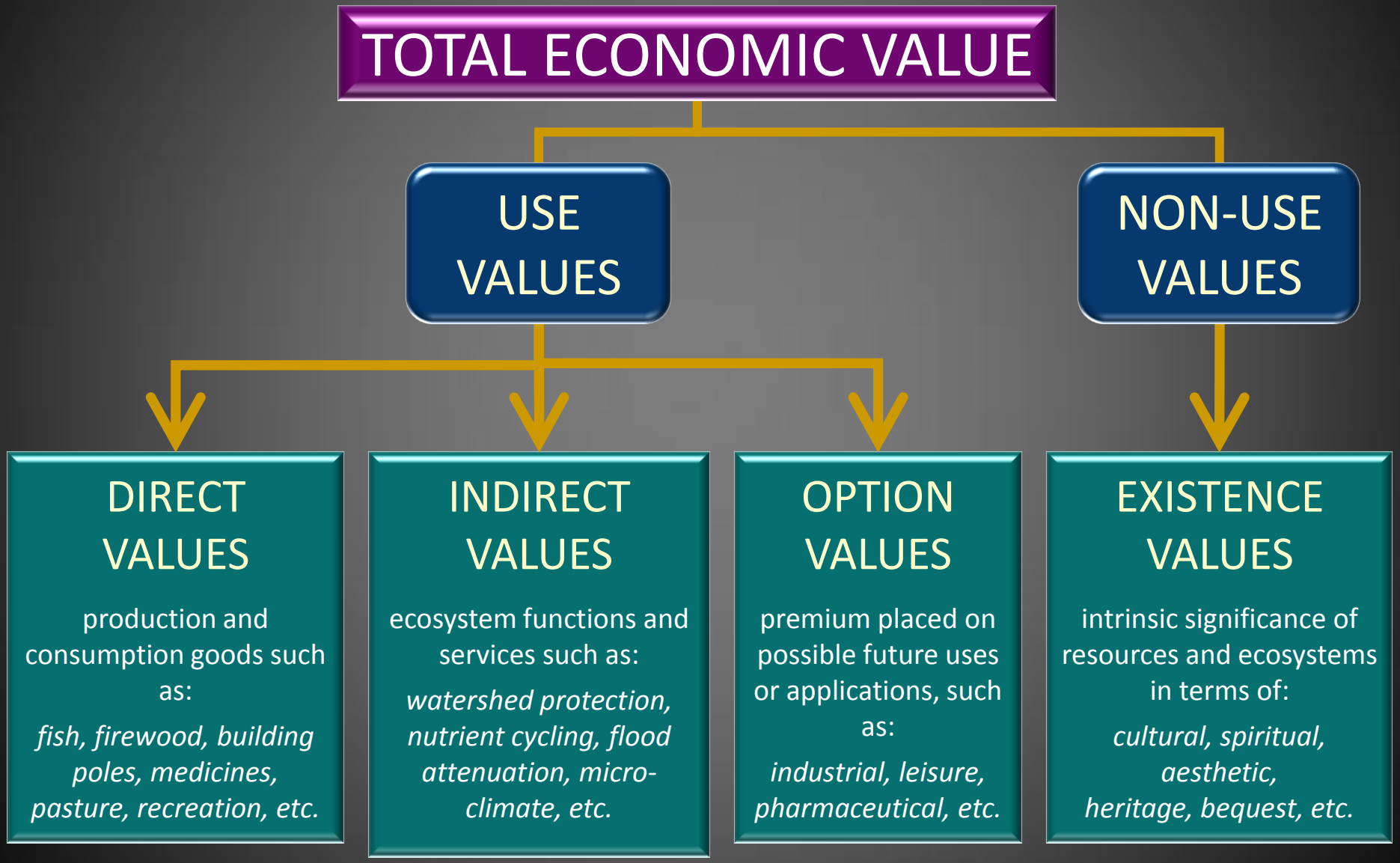
The MA Framework



The Return on Ecosystems Investments



The Total Economic Value Framework



Understanding the Values of Land

- Land resources generate a wide range of ecosystems services values, many of which are not usually considered when making decisions on land management regimes:
- Provisioning services: crops, timber, livestock, fish, fuelwood, building materials etc etc etc
- Carbon sequestration, in plants and soils
- Biodiversity
- Water Regulation & supply
- Disaster mitigation: floods, droughts, storms
- Cultural and aesthetic values

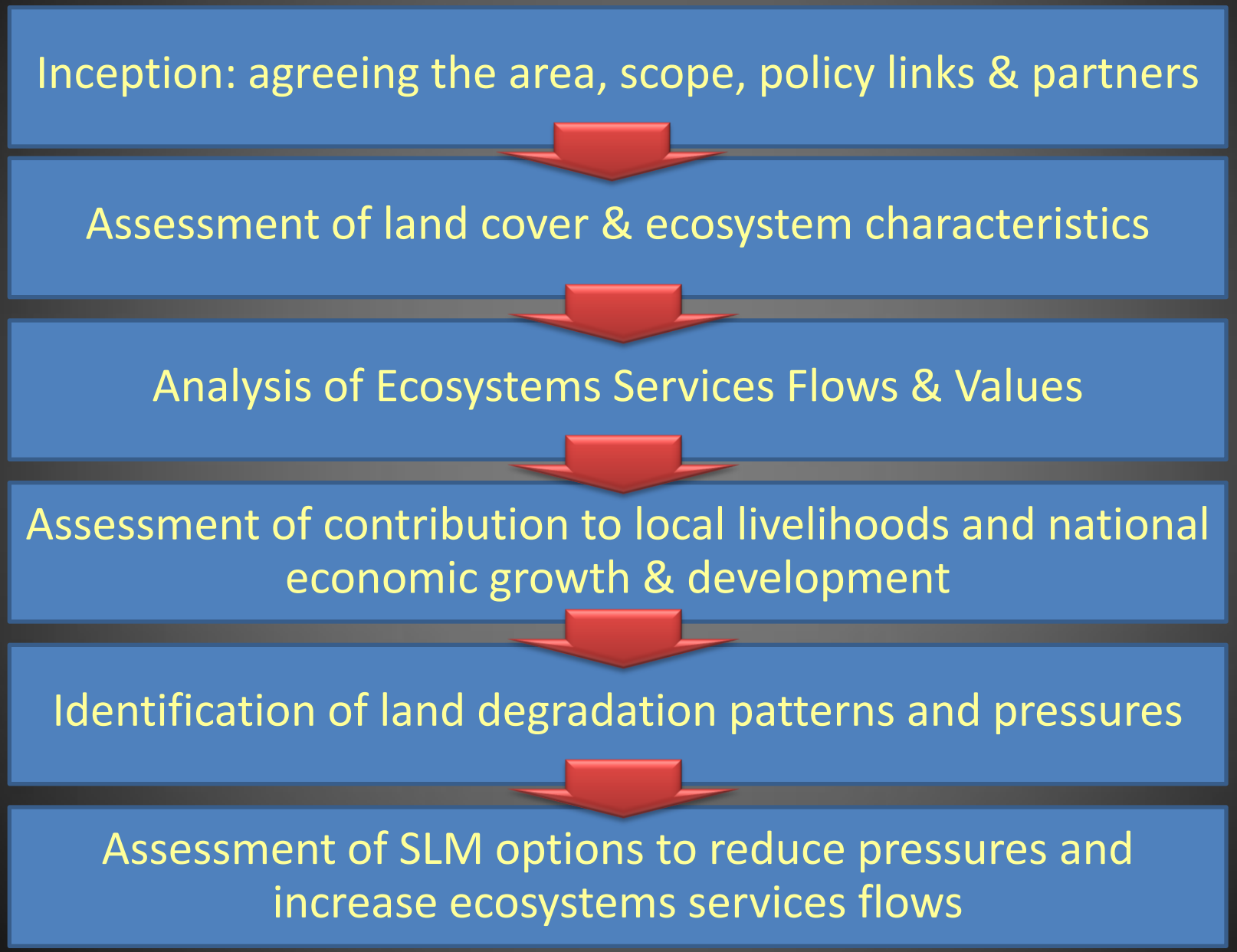
Comparable Approaches that we can Integrate and Build On

- The Stern Report
- TEEB: the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Valuation studies on individual ecosystems
- Studies of local livelihoods and the management of common property resources
- Anthropological studies
- Studies on PES, REDD, etc

Developing a Methodology: The Approach

- Assess the ***total values*** of land resources through the appraisal of the Ecosystems Services they generate
- Value the contribution of these resources to the livelihoods of communities and national economies
- Develop scenarios that:
  - Demonstrate the costs of inaction and identify the drivers of land degradation
  - Assess the costs and benefits of reducing unsustainable land management practices
  - Provide arguments for maintaining and improving existing land resource values

Six Stages in Assessment



Thanks for Listening