THE UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

Rurality and development: local and global issues

- Lecture -

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Understanding Urban and Rural Societies

BA (Hons) Sociology
BSc Geography

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Main Contents

Overview of the presentation

1. Introduction
2. Historical perspective of civilisations
3. Ecosystems: a key concept to understand rural societies
4. Synthesis
5. Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goals

What does rurality mean to you?

Rurality and development

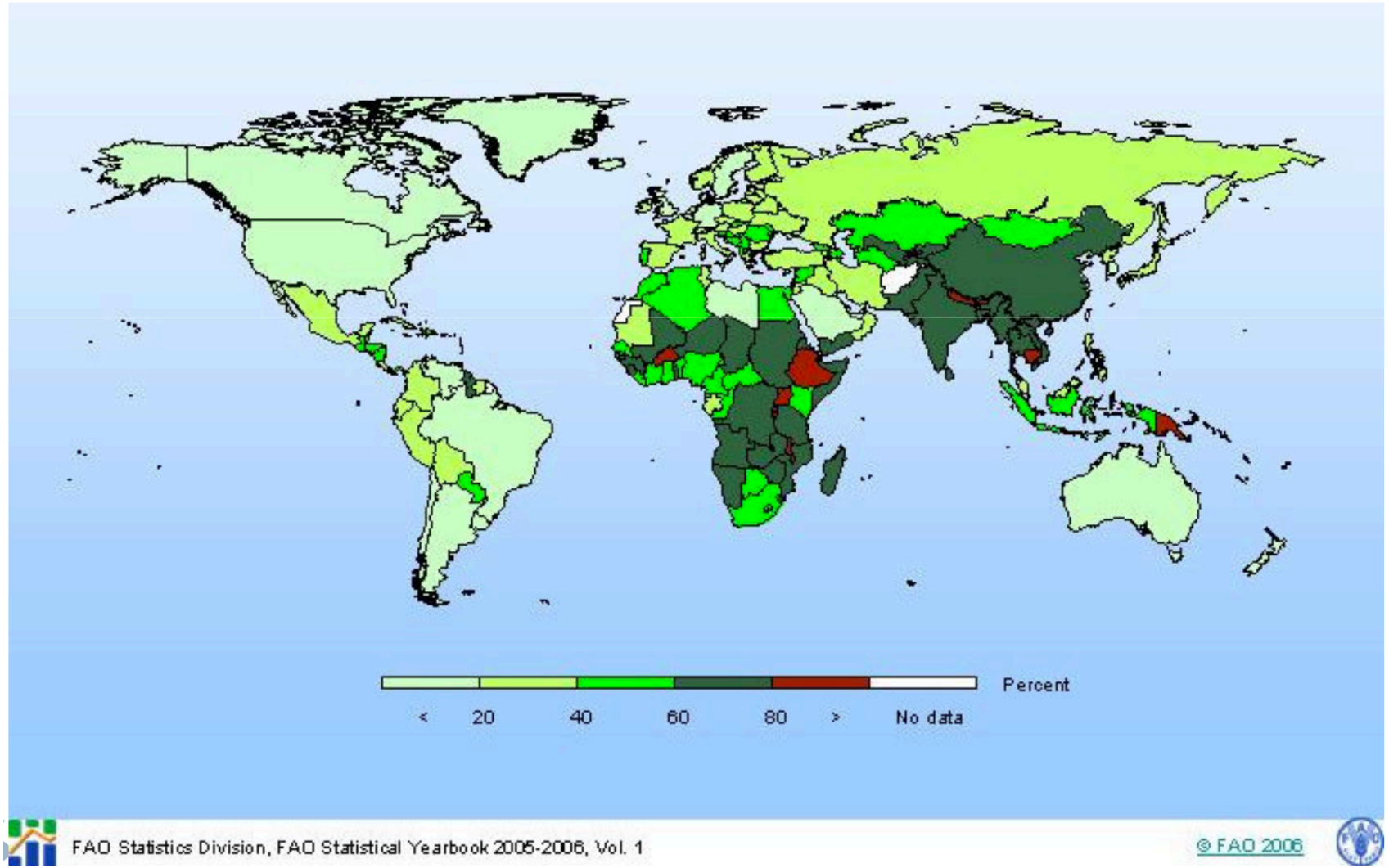
What is the contribution of the rural economy to economic development?

What does rurality mean to you?

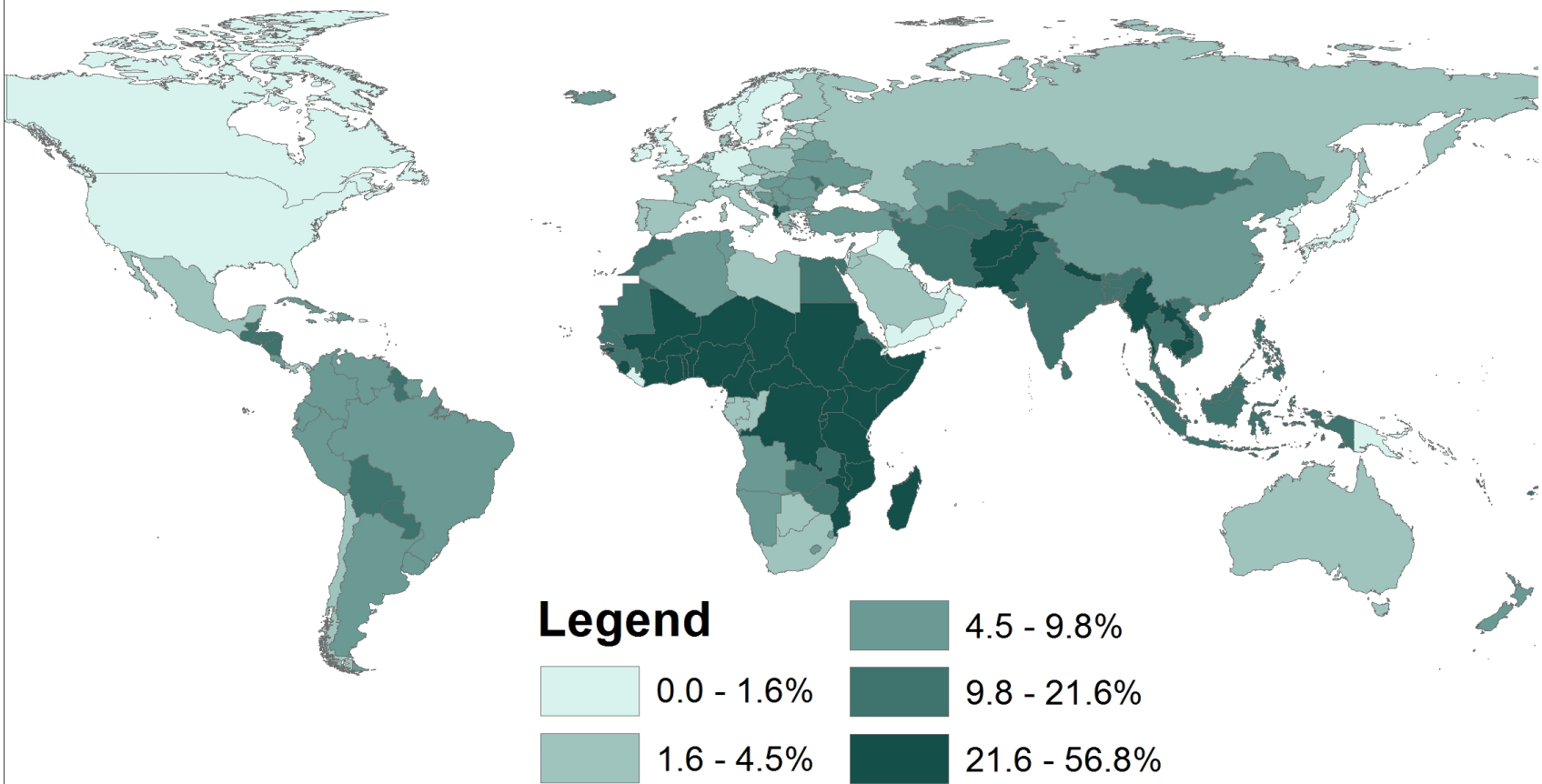
Rurality and development

What are the specificities of rural areas?

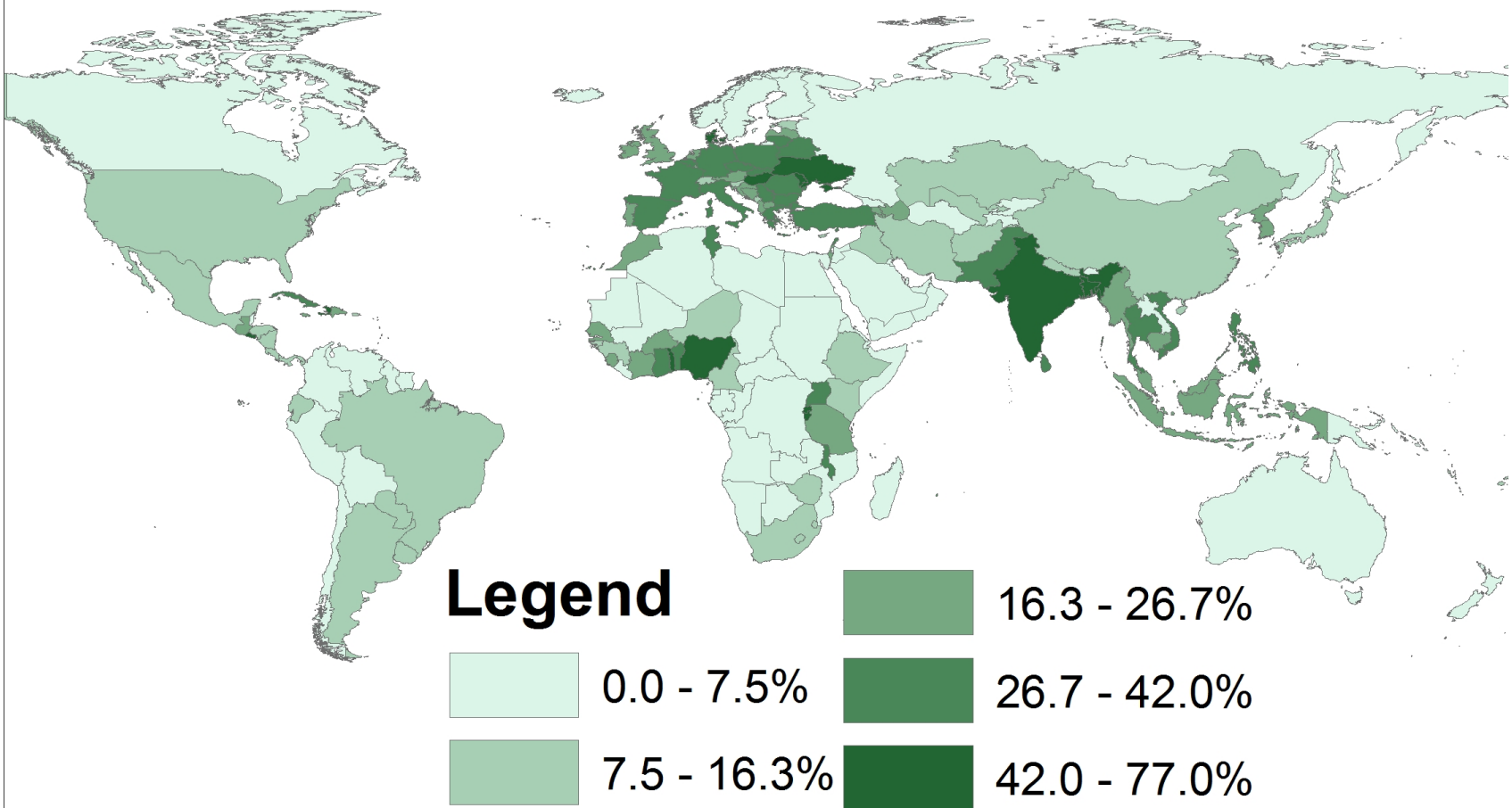
Rural population



Agriculture and economy



Cultivated land



Rural perspectives

Background to the problem

"85% of the poor people from developing countries live in rural areas."

Alkire *et al.* (2014)

Rural perspectives

Background to the problem

"There has never been a more important time to address **rural poverty** in developing countries. It looks likely that **global food security and climate change** will be among the key issues of the 21^{st} century."

Kanayo Nwanze (2010)

Rural perspectives

Background to the problem

Agrarian societies

- Uncompetitive markets
- Volatile food prices
- Weak rural infrastructures
- Low levels of investment
- Deteriorating natural resources
- Inappropriate policies
- Inadequate financial services
- Threat of climate change

Rural perspectives

Background to the problem

Agrarian societies

Industrial societies

- Affordable housing (problem of dormitory villages)
- Transport services
- Transition of economy
- Urbanisation
- Farm productivity

Main disciplines

Sociology

Economics

Geography

Anthropology

Environmental sciences

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Inequalities between societies

Why did the rate of progress differ so much for cultures on different continents?

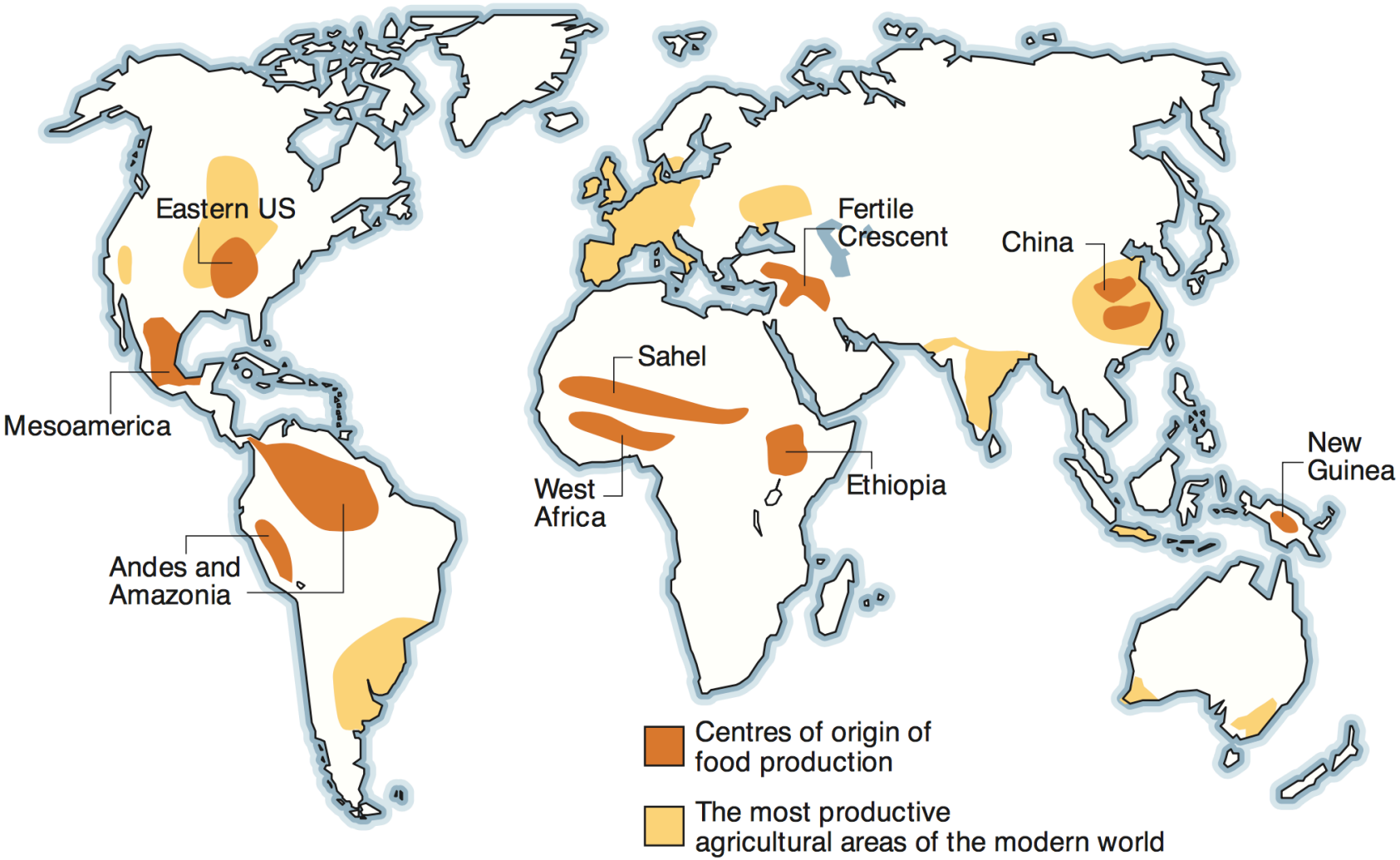
Inequalities between societies

Why did the rate of progress differ so much for cultures on different continents?

From hunter-gatherers to food producers

- **11,000 years ago:** 5 million people (100% hunter-gatherers)
- **5,000 years ago:** 50 million people (90% farmers)
- **Farming and cattle breeding**
  - Social stability
  - Labor specialisation
- **Decision-making**
  - Decline in availability of wild game, prestige, and cultural attitudes
  - Availability of domesticable wild plants and animals, technologies
  - Population pressures from growth

Distribution of plants and animals



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Distribution of plants and animals

Distribution of plants and animals

- **North of China:** rice, soya
- **Mexico:** maize, beans, cotton
- **Middle-East:** wheat, malt, barley
- **Papua New Guinea:** taro

Distribution of plants and animals

Common food systems

- 1 cereals or tuber - *for calories*
- 1 leguminous plant - *for proteins*
- textile
- cattle

Distribution of plants and animals

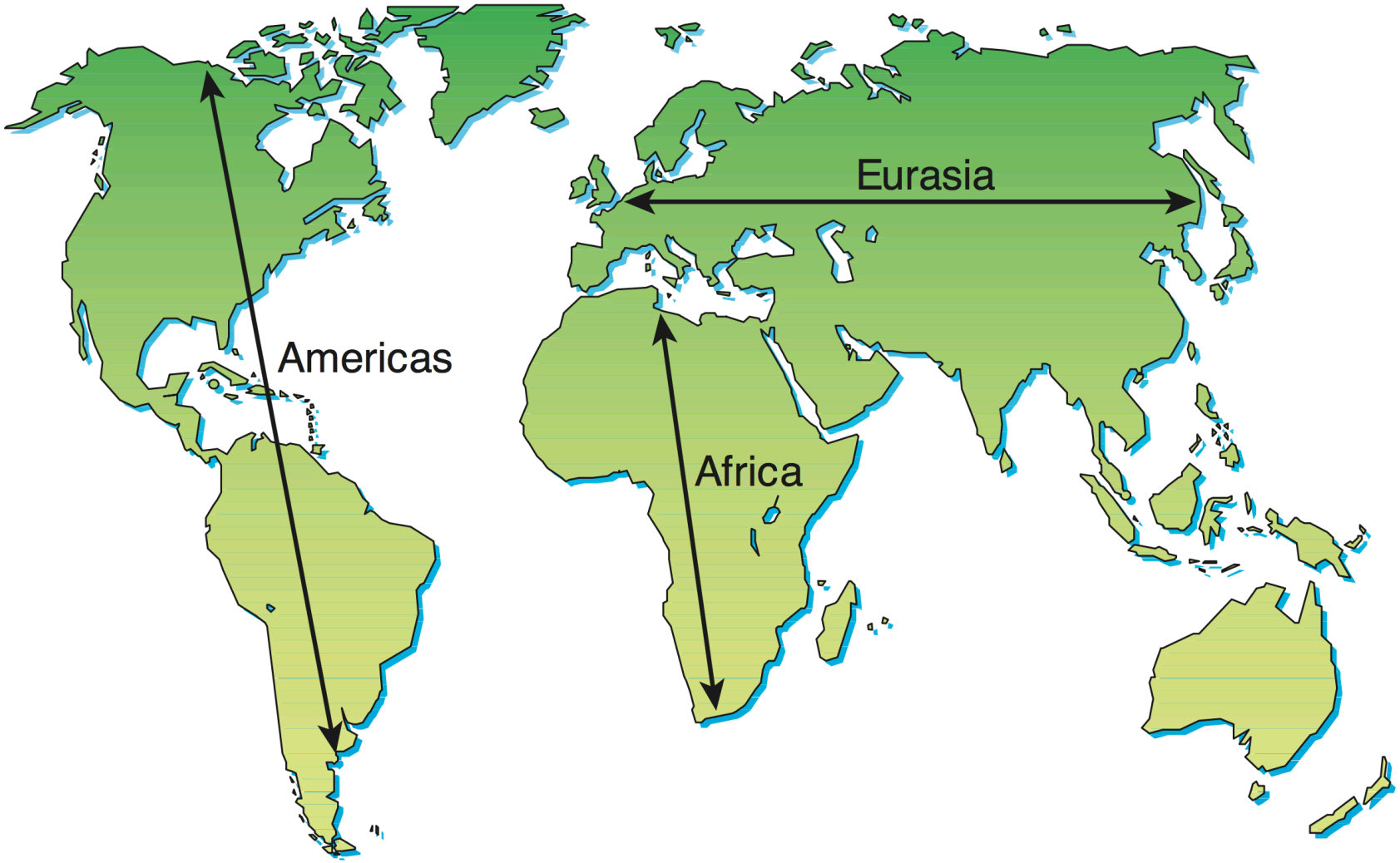
Distribution of plants and animals

Common food systems

Food production

- Increased crop yields
  - Larger population density
  - More frequent child-bearing
  - Storage of food surpluses $\rightsquigarrow$ can sustain specialists
  - Animals for warmth, transport and *germs (immunity of Eurasian population)*

Geographic orientation



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Contemporary developments

Green revolution

- Industrialisation
- Mechanisation
- Fertilisers

Contemporary developments

Green revolution

Paradigms for rural development

- A world view underlying the theories and methodology of a particular scientific subject
- Perception of the world
- Socially built and historical
- Guide development trajectories

Contemporary developments

Paradigms for rural development

Rural policies

- **Before 1980:** Interventionist paradigm
  - North: agricultural modernisation
  - South: State policies (green revolution, export)
  - Price control, public investments, State control
- **1980 - 2000:** Free market
  - North: Reforms
  - South: Structural Adjustment
  - Macro-economy, market regulation, privatisation
- **2000 - now:** Institutional economics
  - North: International Trade policies
  - South: Policies against poverty, agricultural policies
  - Imperfect markets, sustainable development

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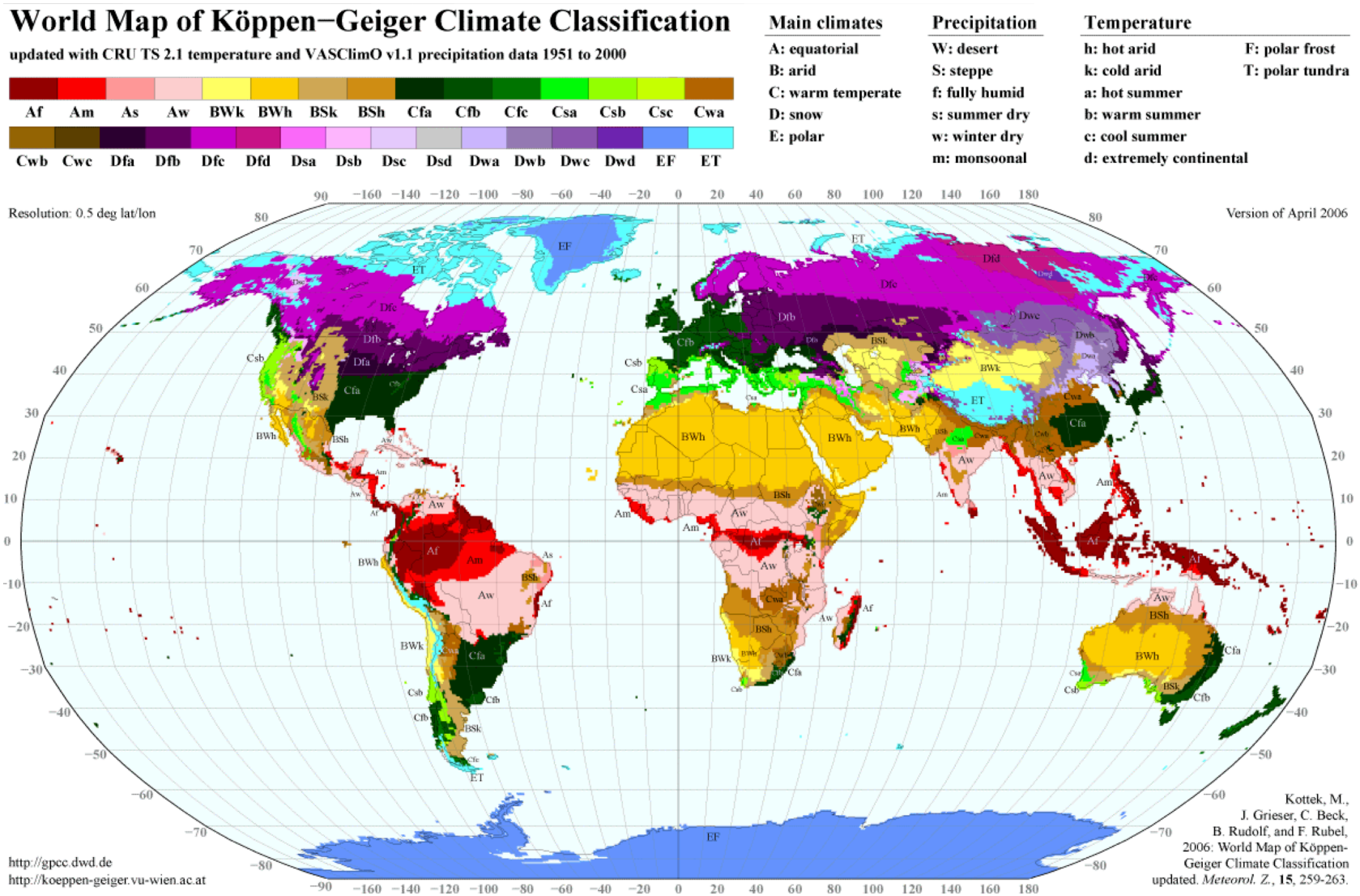
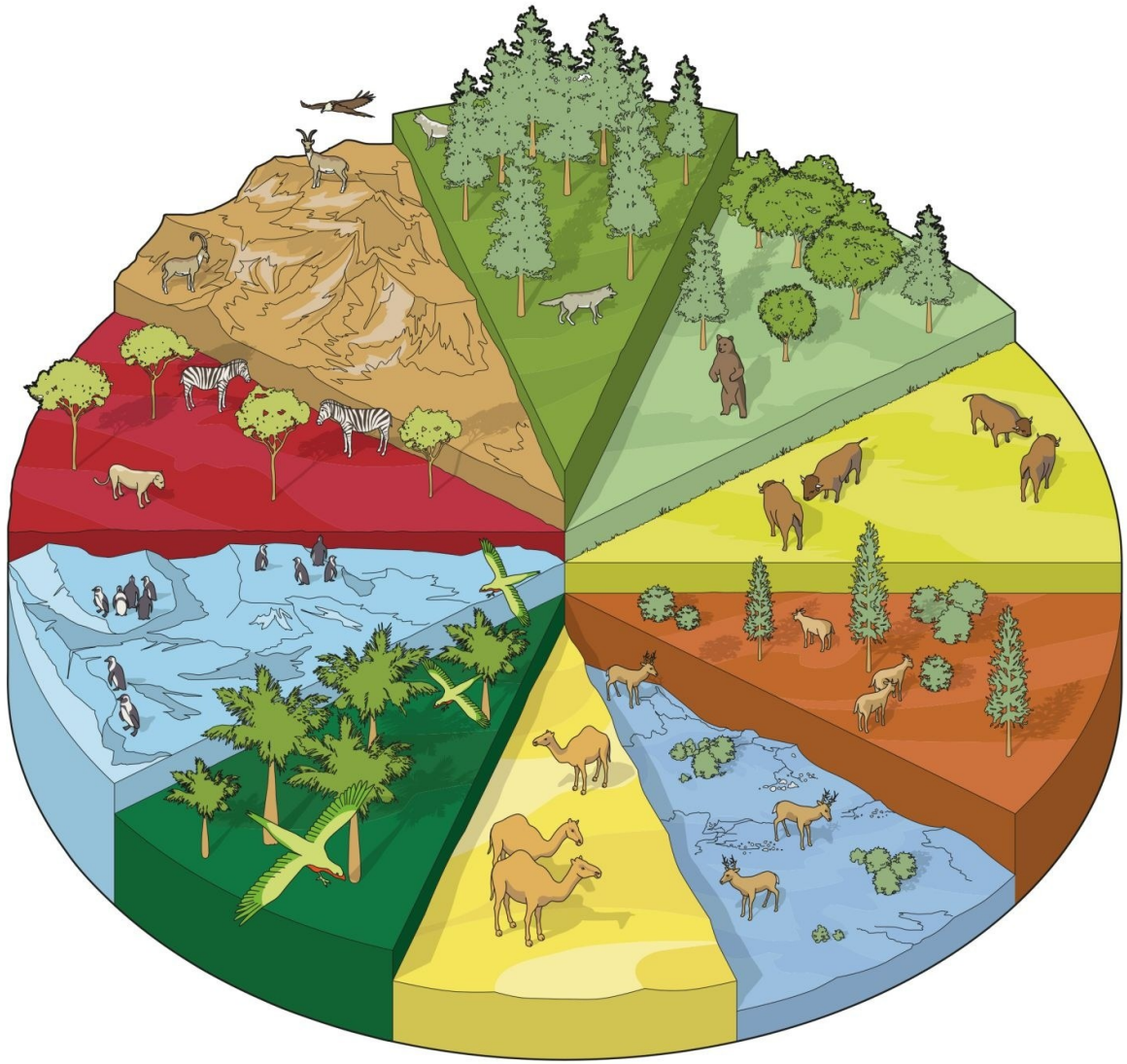
Climate and ecoregions



Biomes



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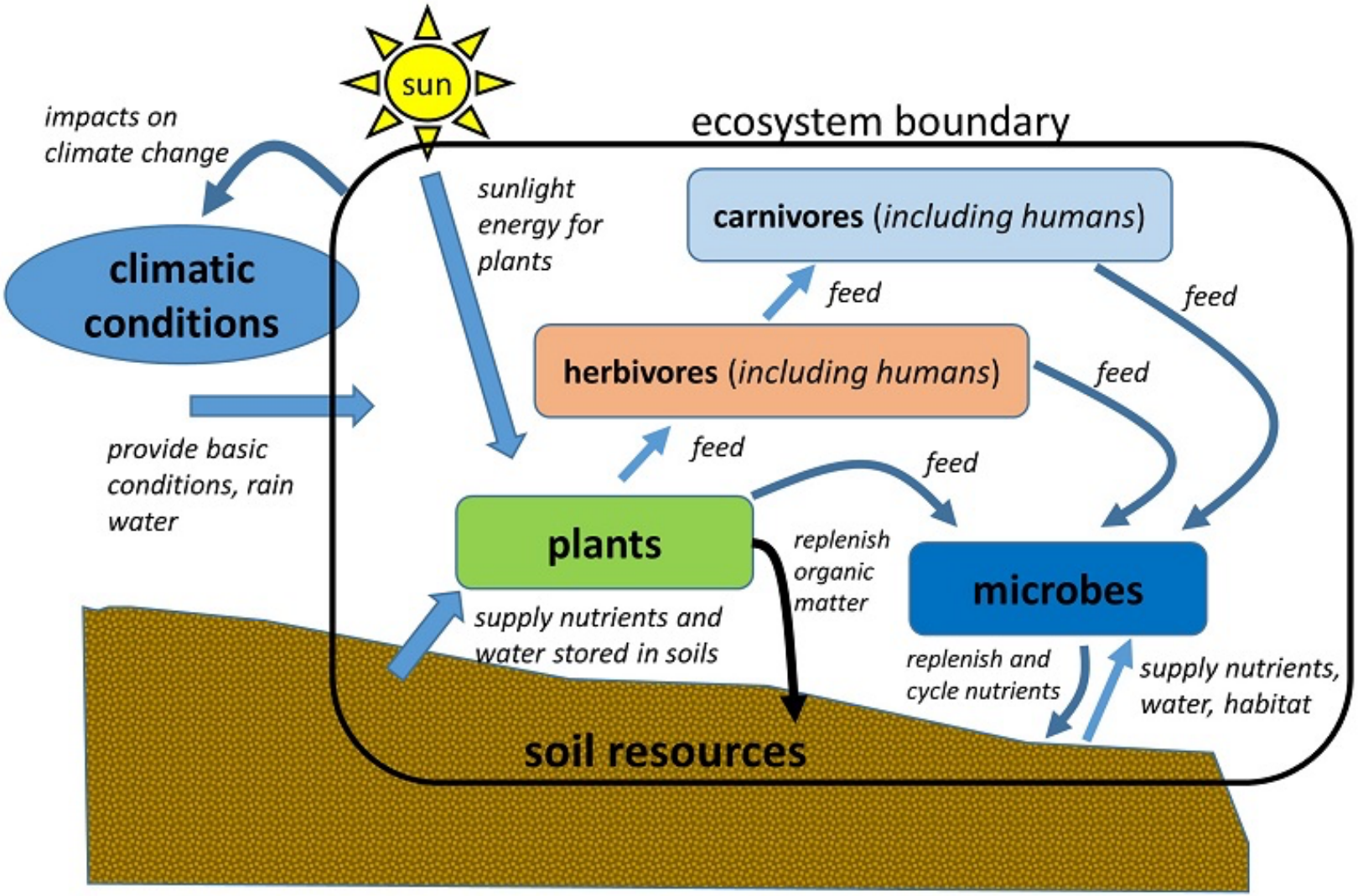
Ecosystems

Definition

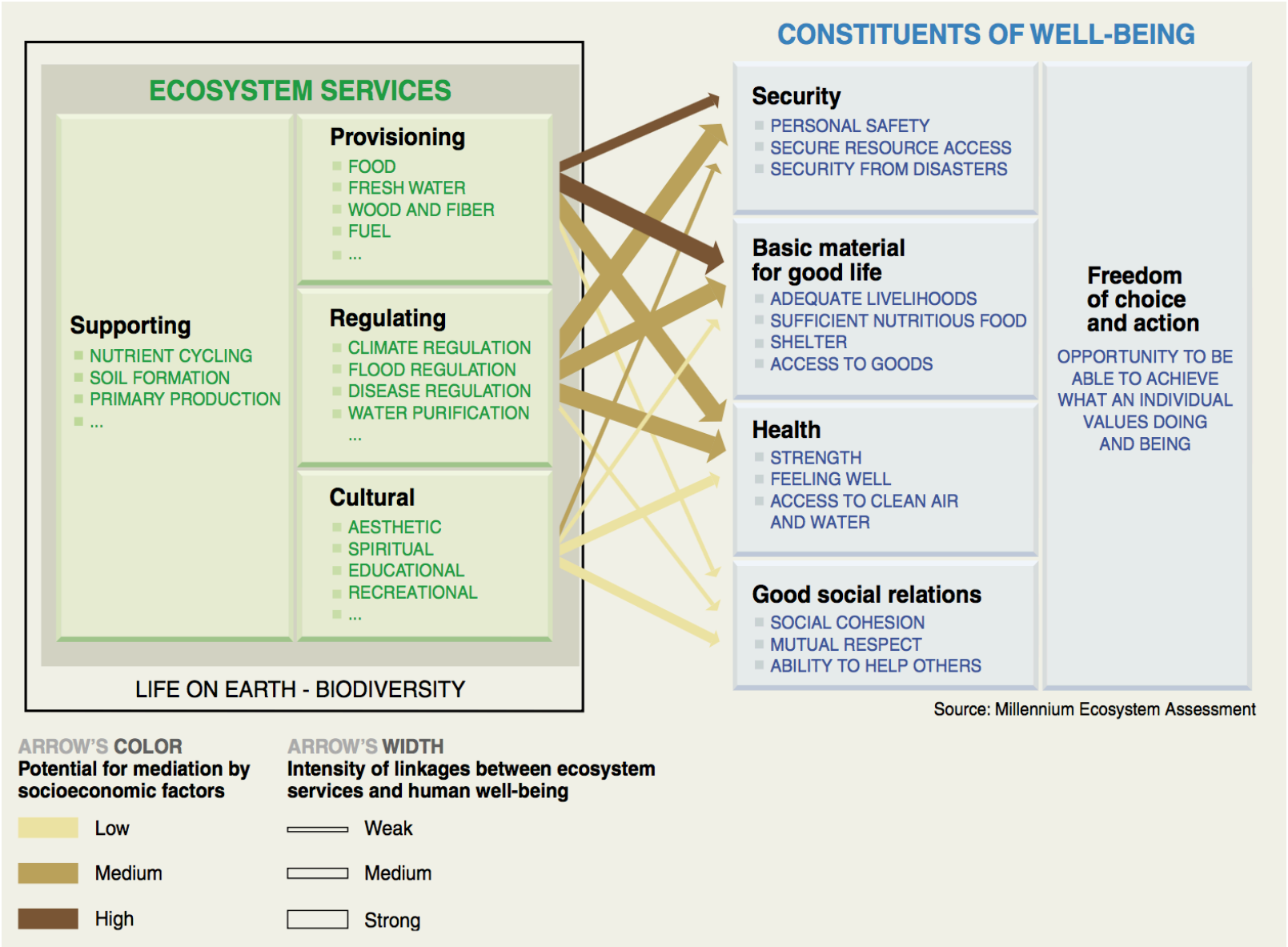
"An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and the nonliving environment interacting as a functional unit."

Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)

Ecosystems



Ecosystem services



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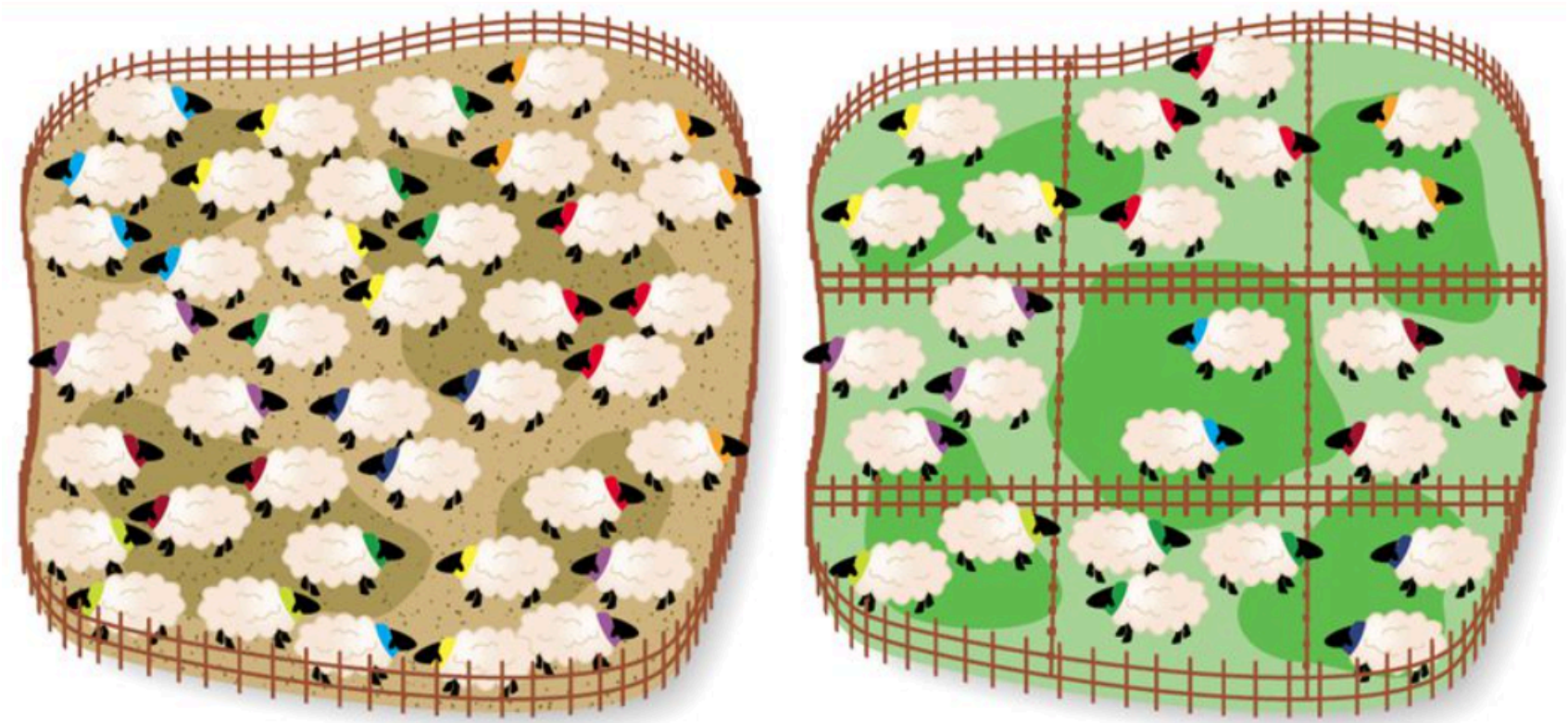
Tragedy of the commons

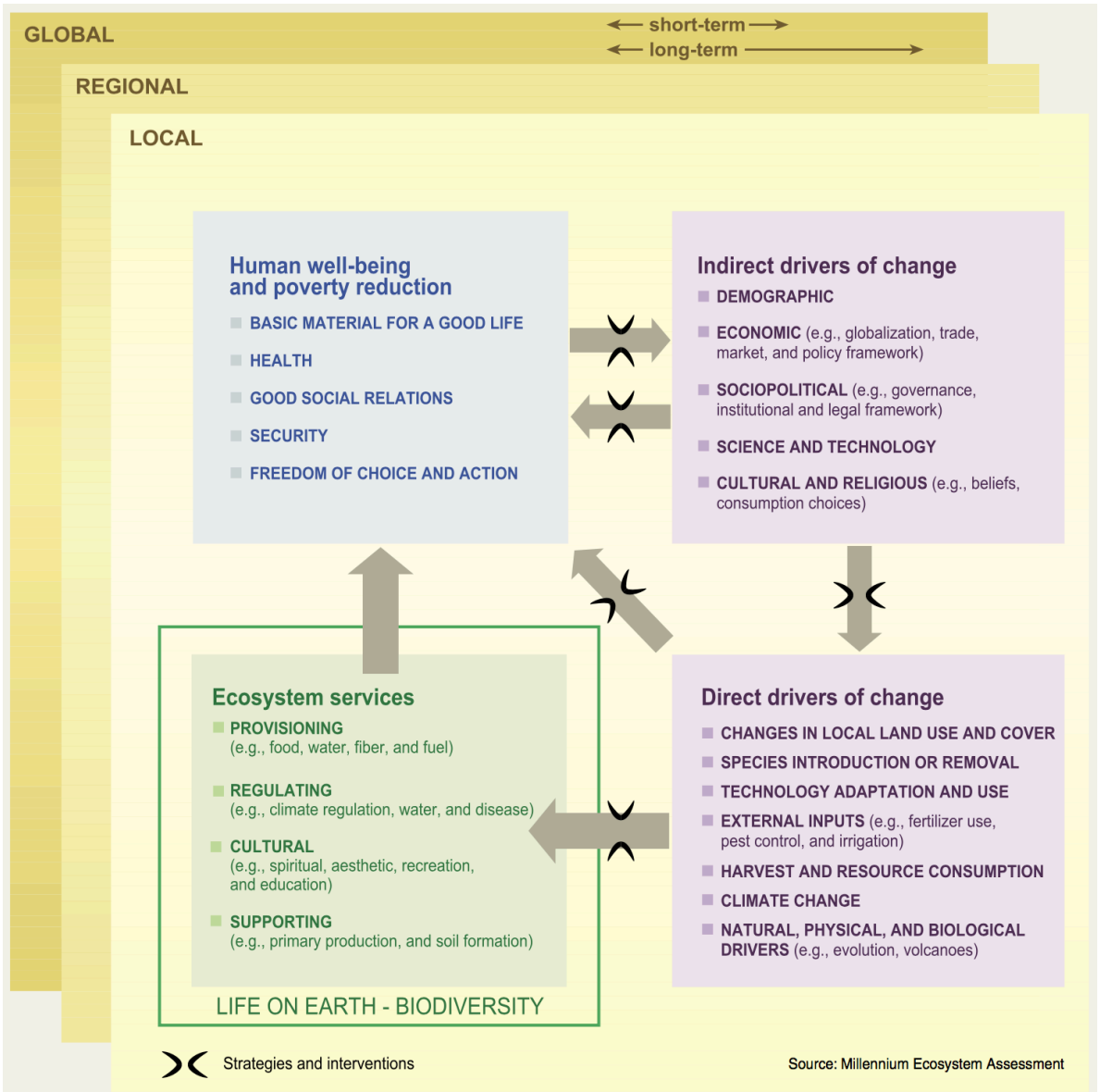


Garrett Hardin (1968)

Common-pool resources

	Excludable	Non-Excludable
Rivalrous	**Private Goods** food, clothing, cars, personal electronics	**Common Goods** fish stocks, timber, coal
Non-Rivalrous	**Club Goods** cinemas, private parks, satellite tv	**Public Goods** air, national defense

Drivers of change



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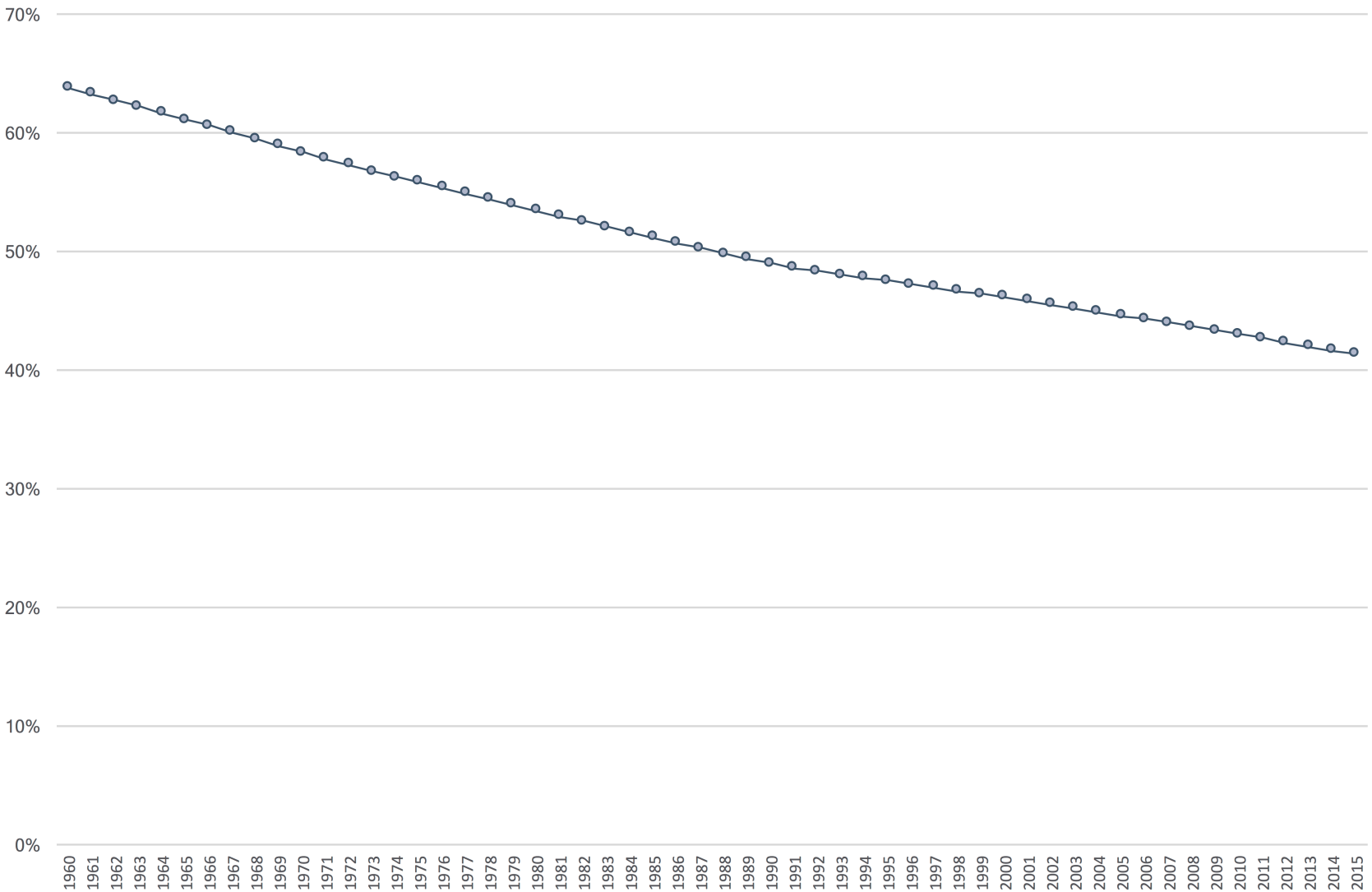
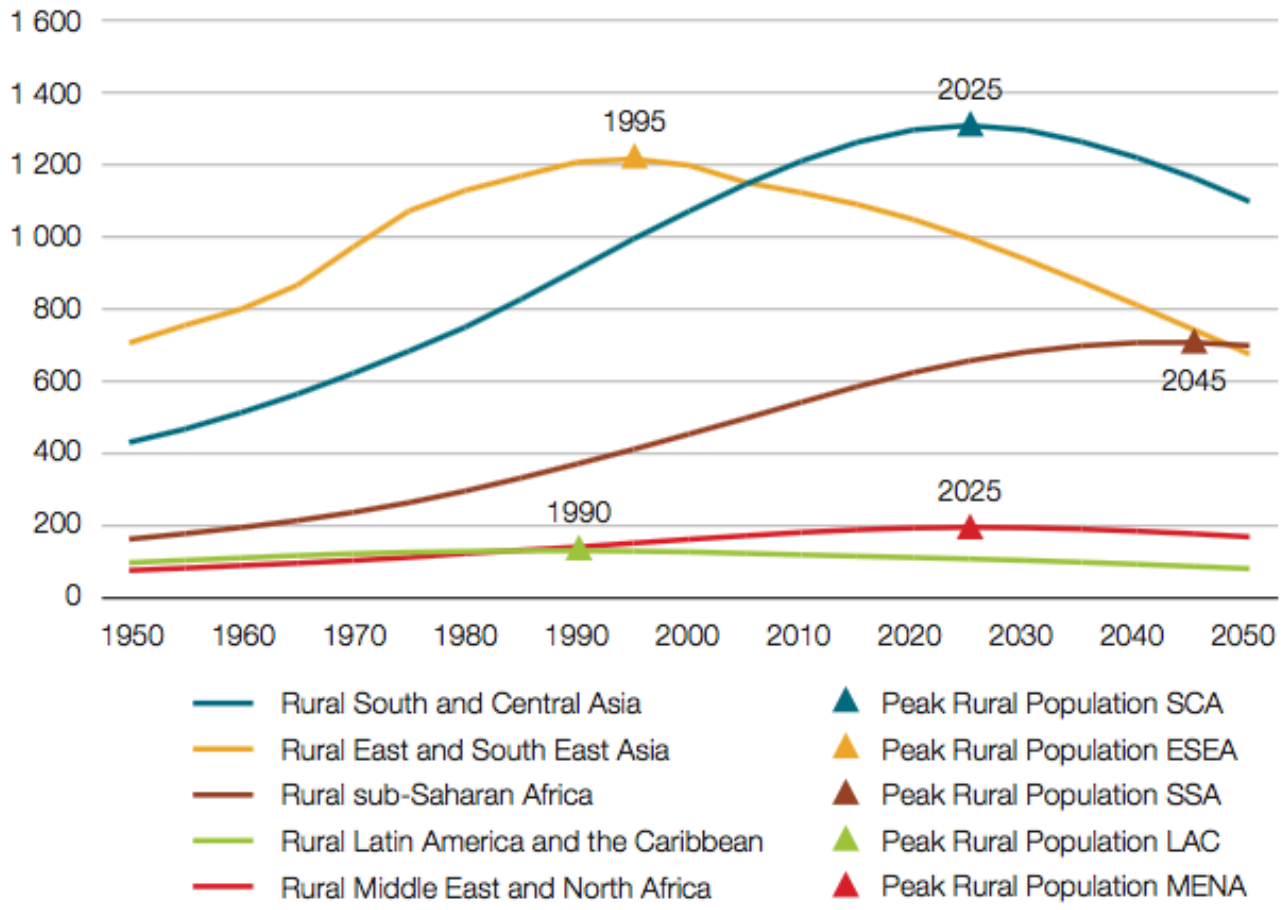
Rural population trends



Rural population trends



Sources: FAOSTAT available at: http://faostat.fao.org/, and originally from the World Population Prospects available at: http://esa.un.org/unpp/

Rural economies in transition

On-farm

- Agriculture
  - Subsistence agriculture
  - Commercial agriculture
- Livestock rearing
  - Dairy production (cows)
  - Meat production (goats)
- Fishing
  - Capture fishing
  - Aquaculture fisheries
- Forestry
  - NTFPs
  - Timber

Off-farm

Rural economies in transition

On-farm

Off-farm

- Rural industry
  - Agro-processing
  - Manufacturing
  - Mining & Quarrying
  - Construction
  - Tourism
- Rural services
  - Retailing & Trading
  - Social services
  - Transport & Storage
  - Communication
  - Residence

Rurality and development

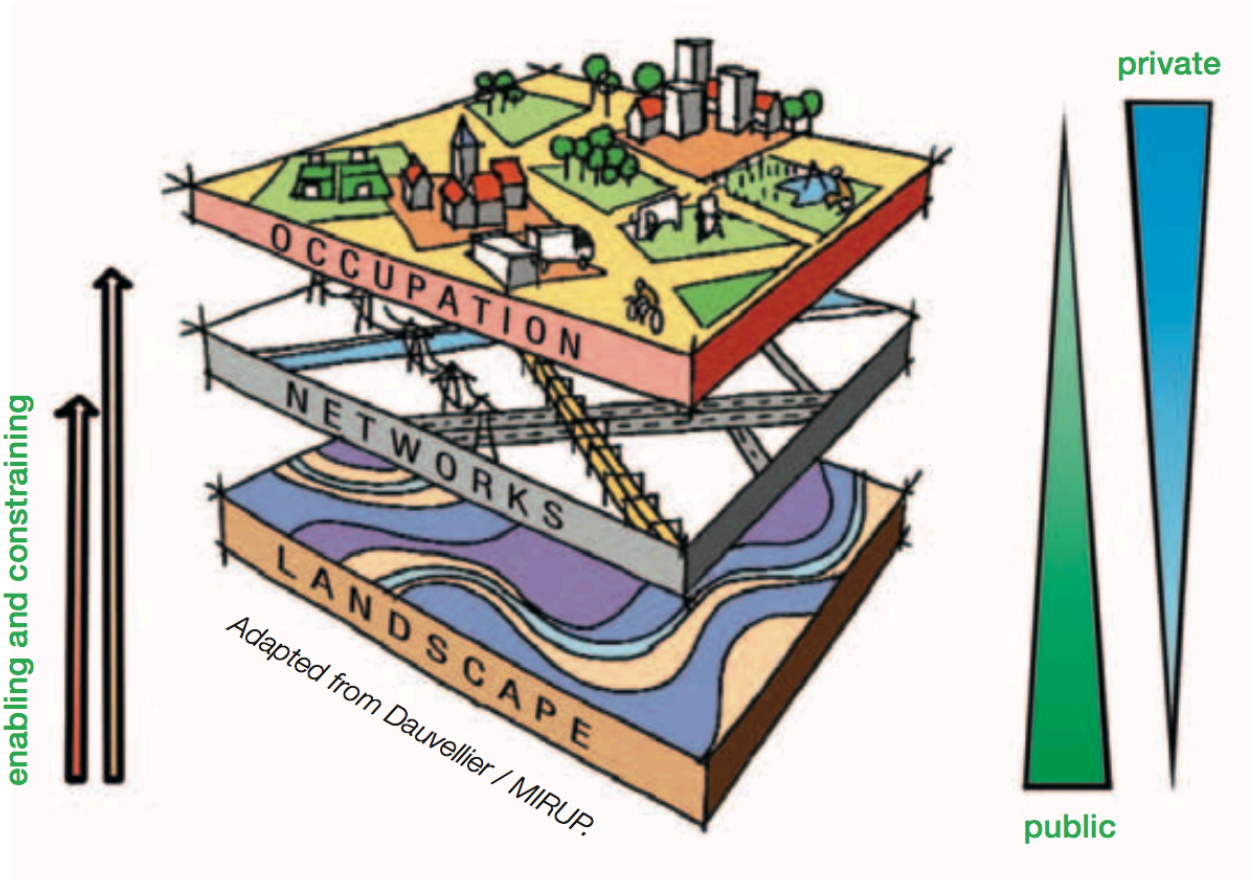
©UN (2015)

Scales: local and global issues

occupation
speed of change
10 - 25 years

networks
speed of change
25 - 100 years

landscape
speed of change
50 - 500 years



Key challenges

Technical

Social

Economical

Ethical

Q&As