

## 2. International care for soil issues

1. Soil functions/services
2. Environmental conventions and facilities
3. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and Agricultural Assessment (IAASTD)

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### 1. Soil functions/services

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Production  
as a major  
output  
service



Ecological  
regulation  
function/  
service

Cultural  
heritage  
function/  
service

Habitat  
and living  
space func-  
tion/service

## 2. International care for soil issues

1. Soil functions/services
- 2. Environmental conventions and facilities**
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# Soils and Environmental Conventions and Facilities

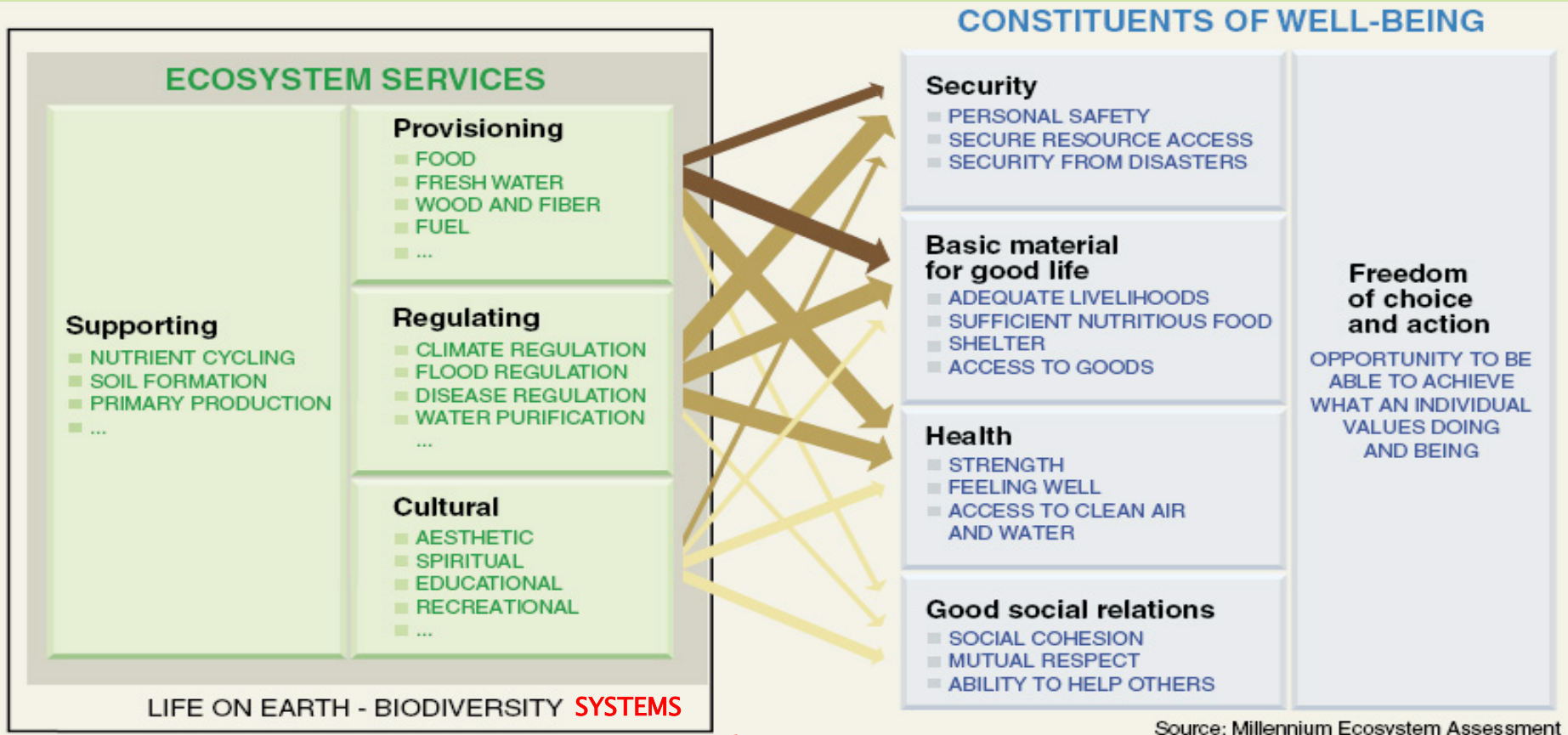
1. Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)
2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
3. Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
4. Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Where are soil issues seriously addressed and considered?

## 2. International care for soil issues

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# Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)



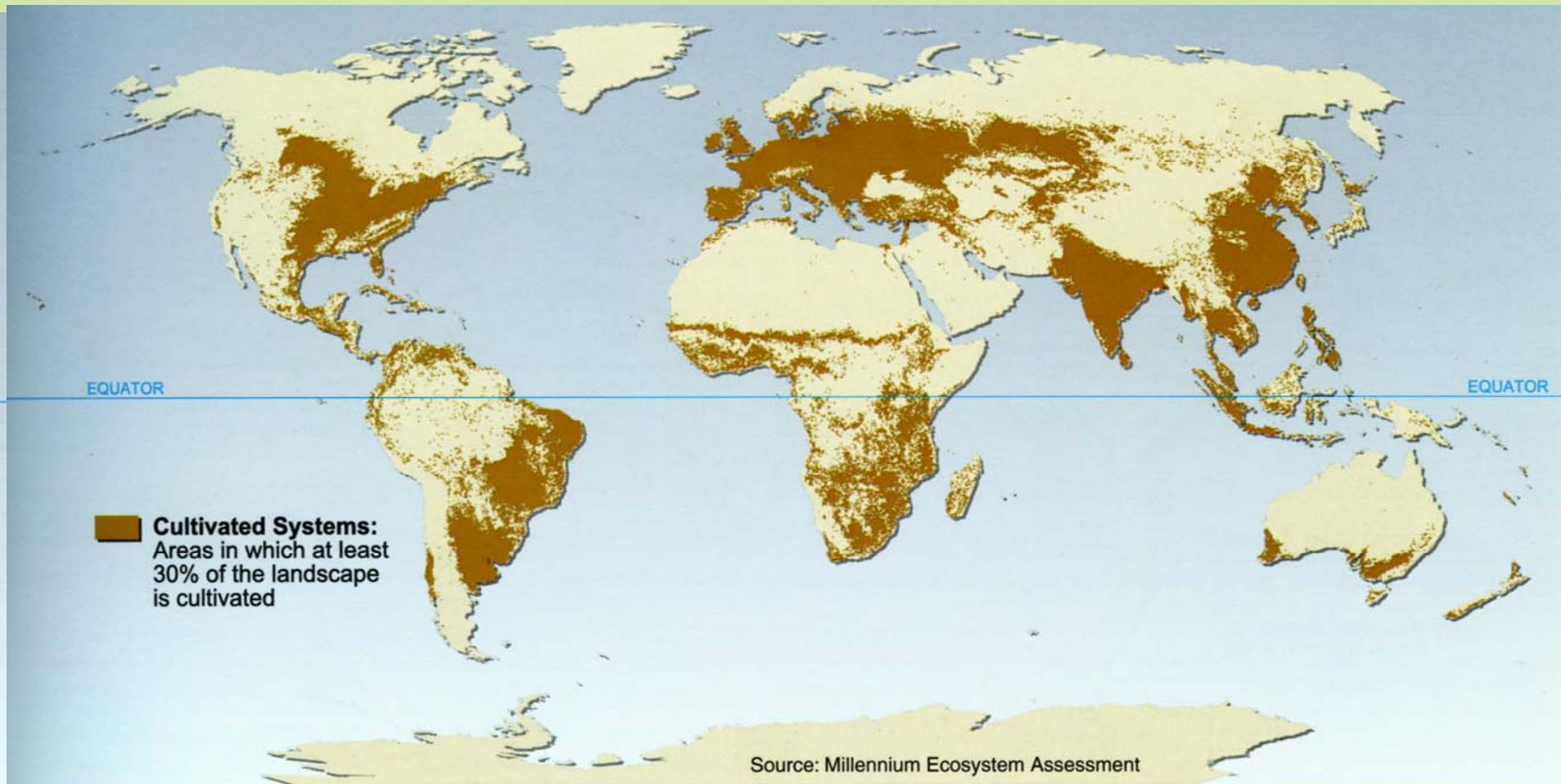
**ARROW'S COLOR**  
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

**ARROW'S WIDTH**  
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong







# Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)

## Major deficiencies of the synthesis report (MA, 2005):

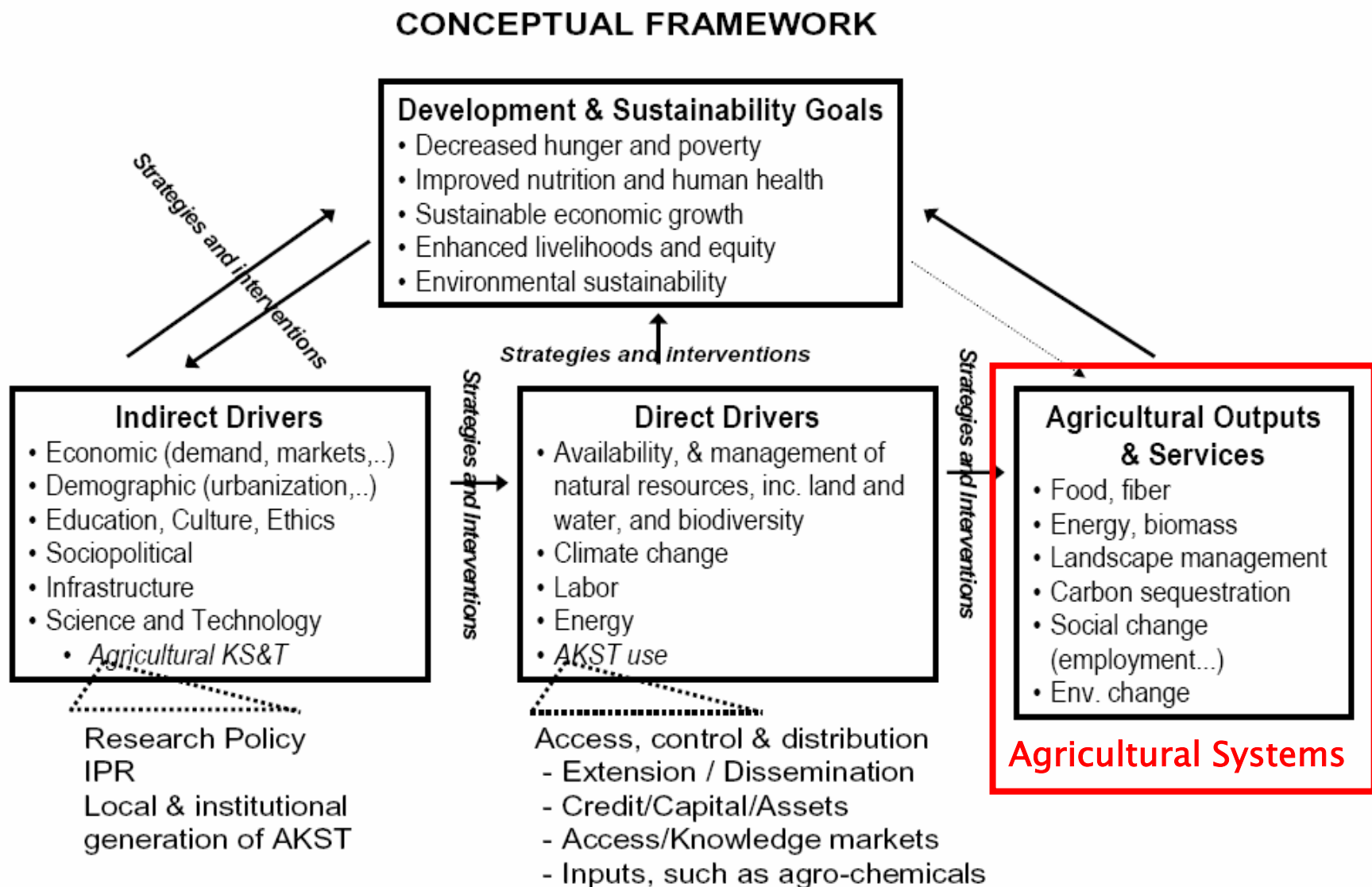
1. The MA is predominantly focusing on economic gains from ecosystems; i.e. the intrinsic values and supporting functions are much less addressed.
2. Ecosystems are not comprehensively analysed; i.e. soil and water issues are largely missing, while forest and biodiversity services are overly treated.
3. Protected areas, which cover approximately 13% of the earth's terrestrial systems (more than cultivated land!), are not addressed, i.e. their qualities have not been assessed, probably because of political reasons.

# International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)

## Potential pitfalls for the IAASTD:

1. IAASTD is a blueprint of both, the IPCC reports and the MA, which implies that the three systems can be similarly assessed.
2. The global climate system, however, is largely different from a predominantly naturally driven ecosystem, which again is largely different from a mainly human-driven agricultural system.
3. Within the agricultural systems, the dichotomy between industrial farming and small-scale farming has to be carefully considered.

Figure 1: IAASTD Conceptual Framework





# Industrial farming





# Small-scale farming



# 3. The role of IUSS and ISRIC in soils policy

1. World Soils Agenda 2002
2. Why do we do so little?
3. Need for a World Soils Policy Council

# 3. The role of IUSS and ISRIC in soils policy

## 1. World Soils Agenda 2002

2. Why do we do so little?

3. Need for a World Soils Policy Council



The **IASUS Working Group** was established at the 16th World Congress of Soil Science held in Montpellier, France, in 1998. IASUS means ‘International Actions for the Sustainable Use of Soils’.

For the 17th World Congress of Soil Science held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2002, IASUS developed and published a World Soils Agenda.

The nine–point Agenda addresses the principal issues facing the World’s soils for which immediate action should be taken, especially under the objective of sustainable use of soils.

- Agenda 1: Assessing the status and trends of **soil degradation** at the global scale
- Agenda 2: Defining **impact indicators** and tools for monitoring and evaluation
- Agenda 3: Developing principles, technologies, approaches and **enabling frameworks** for sustainable land management
- Agenda 4: Identifying an international, multi-disciplinary **network** for soil issues
- Agenda 5: Establishing an intergovernmental **panel on soils**
- Agenda 6: Providing **guidance** to develop and implement national soil policies
- Agenda 7: Promoting **initiatives** for sustainable land management
- Agenda 8: Ensuring inclusion of soil-related issues in **development** programmes
- Agenda 9: Providing **guidance** for national and local action

On 20 August 2002, the **World Soils Agenda** was adopted by the IUSS General Assembly at the 17th World Congress of Soil Science held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Out of this agenda, what has been taken up by individuals, national societies and the IUSS body since 2002?

## Tasks for science, monitoring and evaluation

Theme	No.	Agenda	Target institutions	Source bodies
Science, monitoring and evaluation	1 +	Status and trends of soil degradation	Policy makers, UN agencies, national agencies, NGOs	ISRIC, IWMI-IBSRAM
	2 +	Impact indicators and tools for monitoring	National and international research and observation agencies	IUSS, ISCU, IHDP, IGBP
	3 + +	Principles, technologies and approaches to sustainable land management	Implementing ministries and agencies, decision-support networks, research institutes	IASUS; WASWC-WOCAT; UNDP; UNCCD

## Tasks for policy guidance

Theme	No.	Agenda	Target institutions	Source bodies
Policy guidance	4 0	International, multi-disciplinary network	Policy makers, UN agencies, national agencies, NGOs	IUSS, ICSU, ISCO
	5 -	Intergovernmental panel on soils	Implementing ministries and agencies, decision-support networks, research institutes	UNCCD, UNEP, WBGU
	6 +	Guidance for national soil policies	National and international research and observation agencies	IUCN-ELC

## Tasks for support of implementation

Theme	No.	Agenda	Target institutions	Source bodies
<b>Implementation support</b>	7 +	Programmes to support sustainable land management	Development cooperation agencies	OECD-DAC
	8 —	Inclusion of soil-related issues in development	Development cooperation agencies	IUSS, WASWC, ISCO
	9 — —	Guidance for national and local action	National ministries, soil associations	UNCCD, UNEP, NRI

# IUSS Policy Briefs 2006

1. Soils and climate change
2. Soils and food production
3. Soils and human health
4. Soils and water
5. Soils and poverty alleviation
6. Soils and land use planning



# 3. The role of IUSS and ISRIC in soils policy

1. World Soils Agenda 2002

**2. Why do we do so little?**

3. Need for a World Soils Policy Council

# Why do we do so little?

- Psychology of soil scientists
- Perceptions by international stakeholders
- Perceptions by public at large

# 3. The role of IUSS and ISRIC in soils policy

1. World Soils Agenda 2002

2. Why do we do so little?

**3. Need for a World Soils Policy Council**

# An Agenda for a World Soils Policy Council

- Putting soils higher on the international agenda
- Developing international mechanisms for SLM
- Priority setting for policy action



