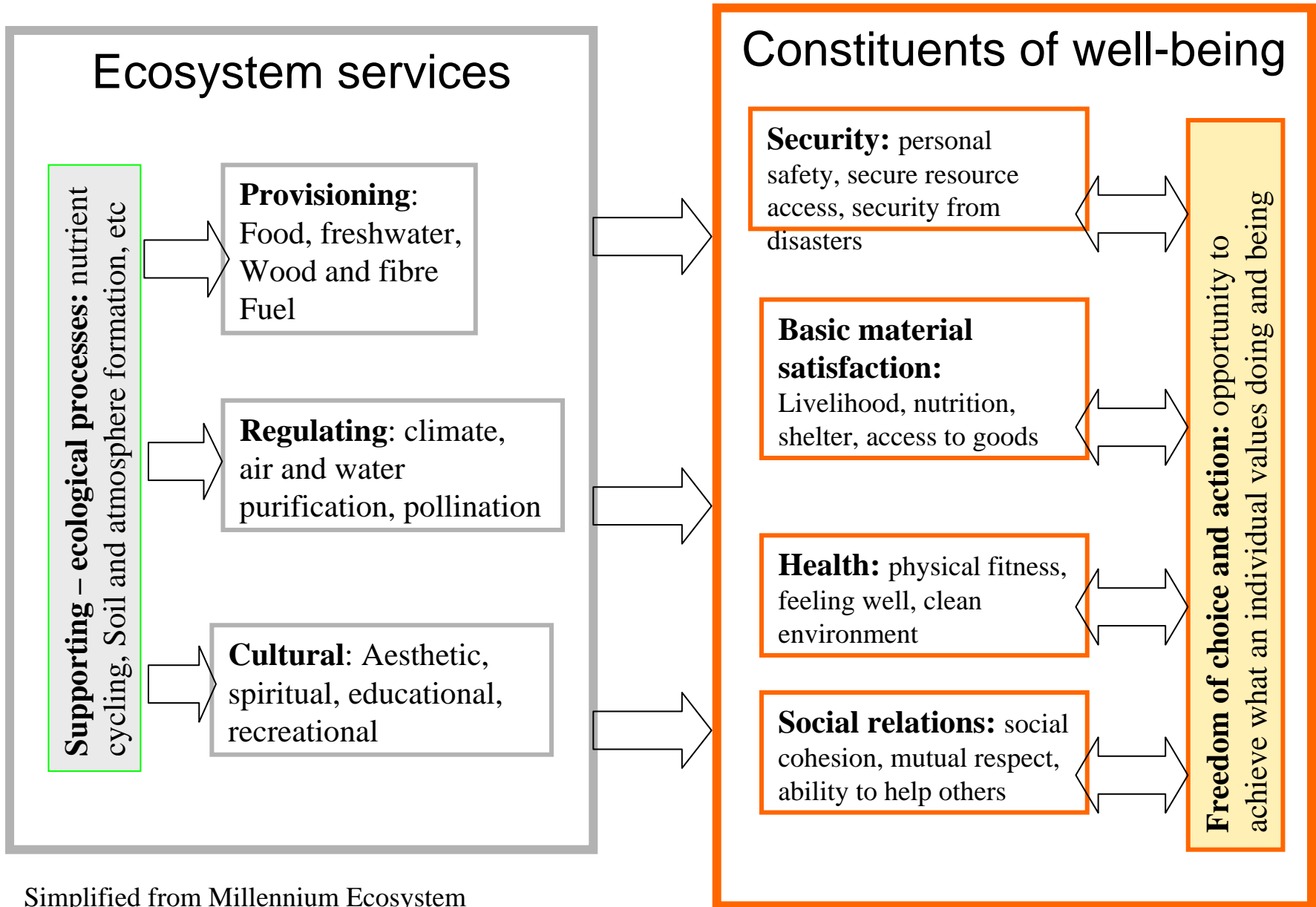




## **Ecosystem services and human culture**

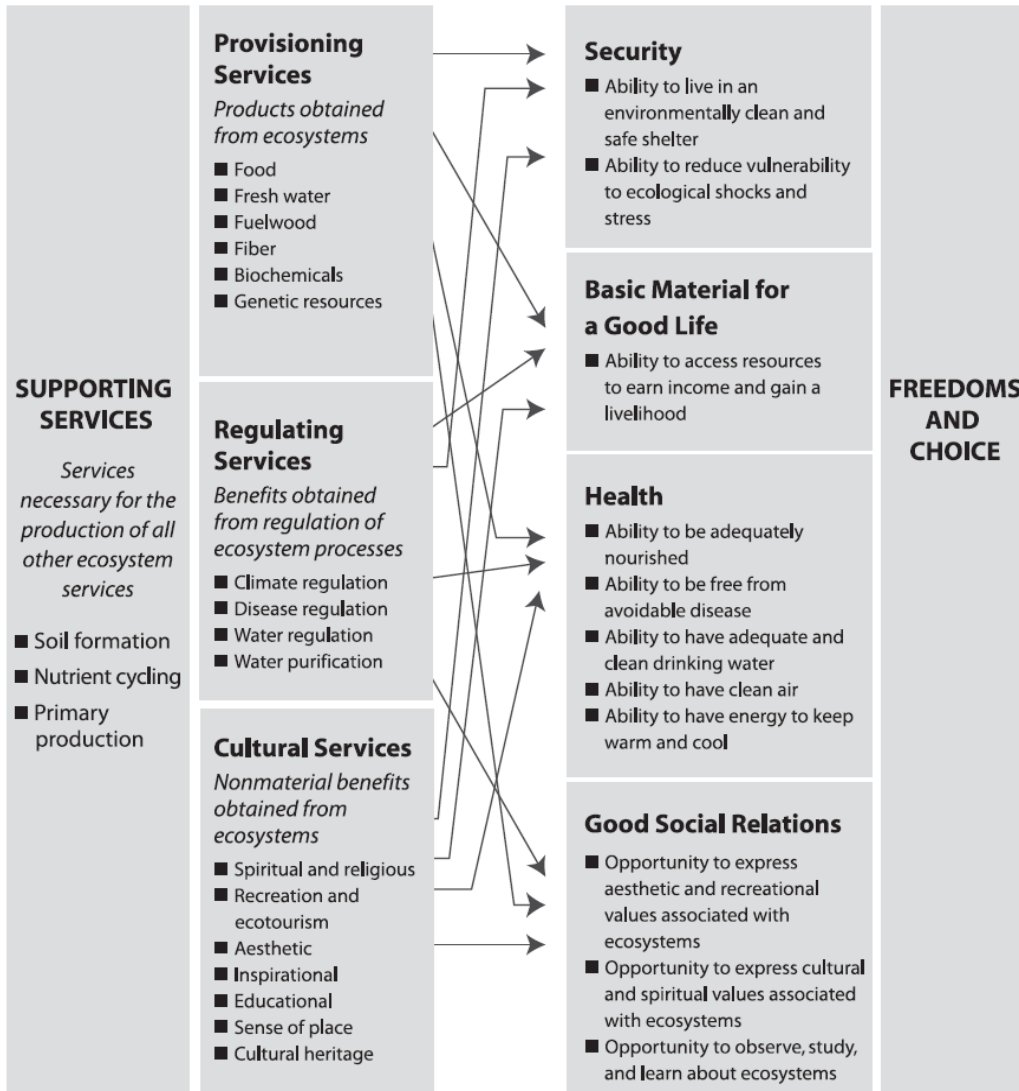
Judith Hanna  
(Social science principal specialist)  
[Judith.hanna@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Judith.hanna@naturalengland.org.uk)



Simplified from Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2003

## Ecosystem Services

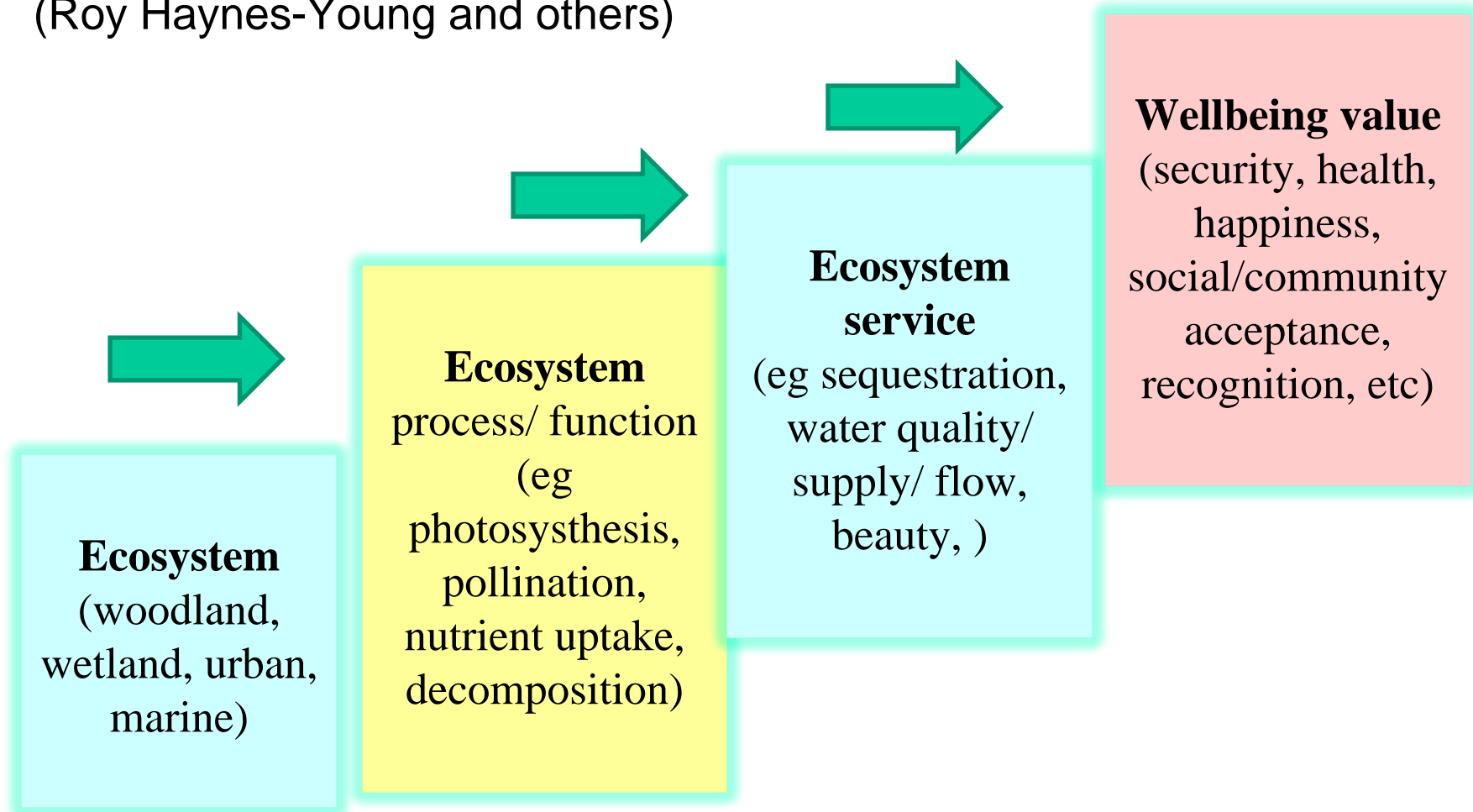
## Determinants and Constituents of Well-being



Source: MEA (2003)

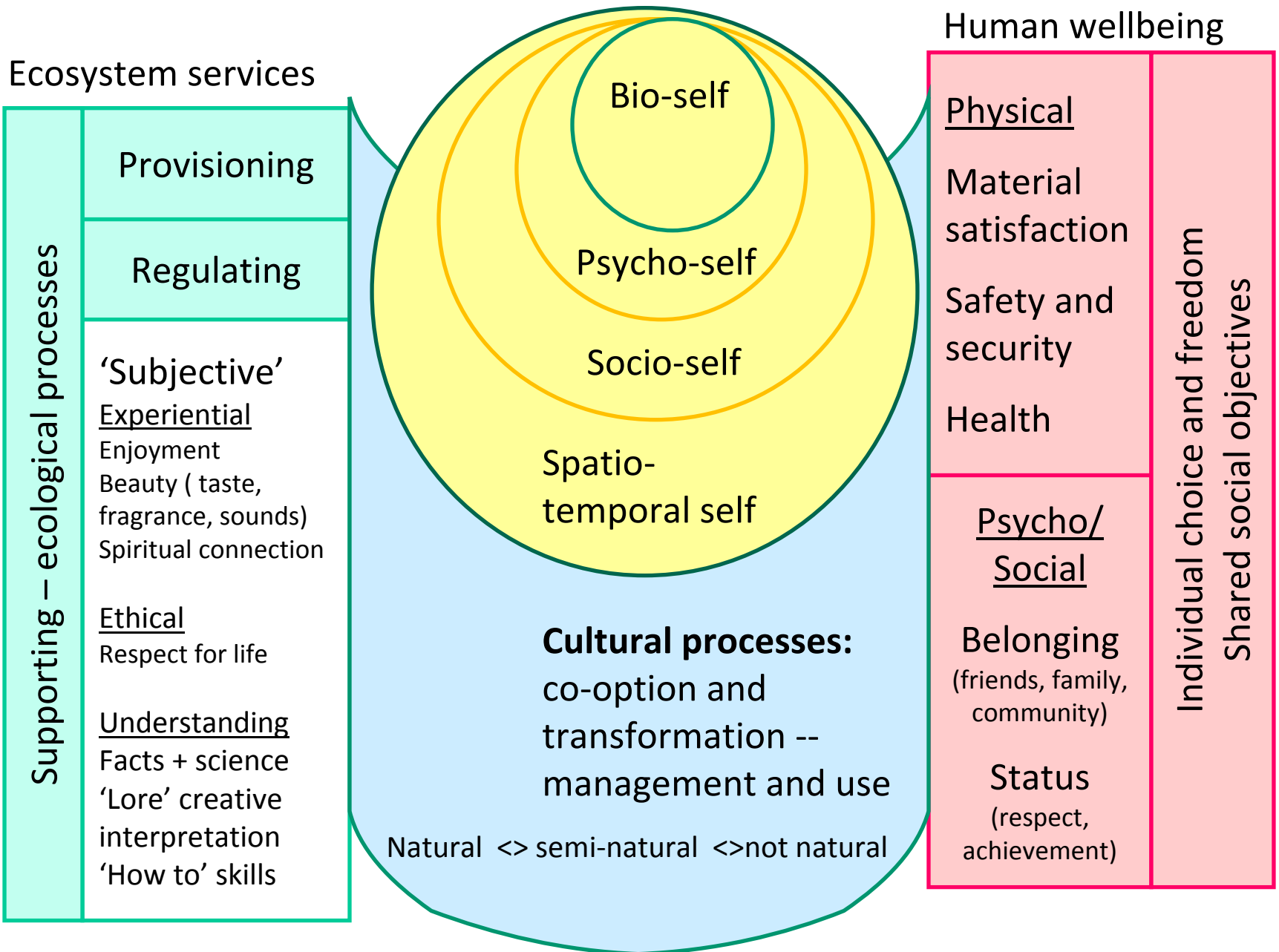
# Ecosystems => services => value cascade

(Roy Haynes-Young and others)



# Some problems:

- \*\*\***What is 'culture'?** 'Systems of learned behaviours, norms, knowledge, technologies, etc shared by members of a social group' – how human societies differentiate ourselves from 'raw nature'
- **What is 'value'?** Economic 'value' derives from individual subjective preferences (which makes the underlying 'qualia' invisible)
- \*\*\***Where does individual 'self', 'identity'** (and thus diversity of people and their circumstances) **fit into the model?**
- **How should the boundary between 'nature' and 'culture' be drawn?** At what stage of human interference (or cultivation) does an 'ecosystem service' stop being nature and become culture?
- Are the 'cultural' ecosystem services a coherent set?
- How do the 'cultural' ecosystem services relate to the other types of ecosystem service?



# Self/identity in context

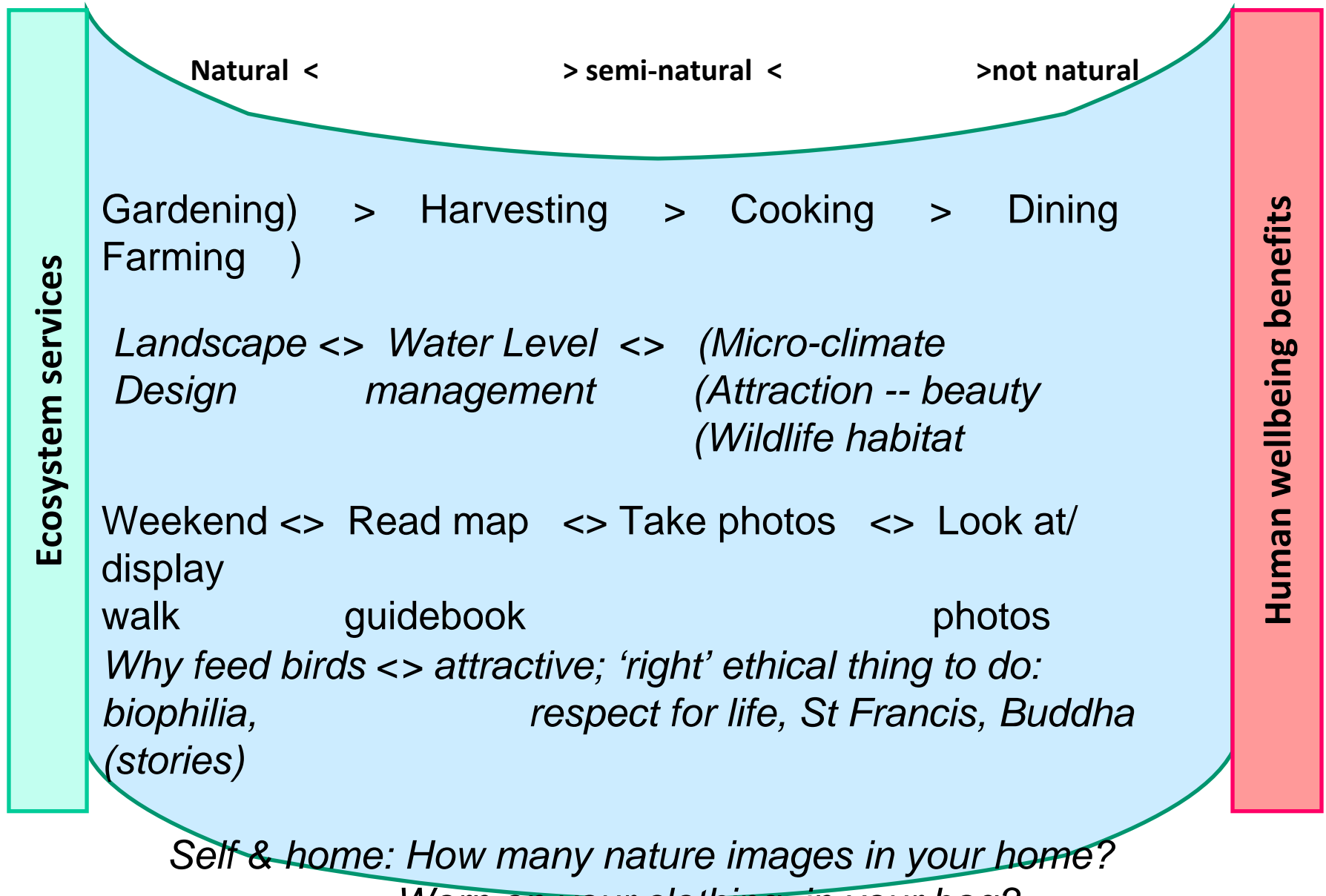
**Bio-self:** senses, hunger, thirst, heat/cold, illness, reproduction, genetic inheritance, etc. Age, gender...

**Psycho-self:** individual interests, moods, internalised norms and sense of self

**Socio-self:** portfolio of identities, affiliations, allegiances and associated norms, values, attitudes and styles. Family, friends, communities. Ethnic/cultural heritage. Status/competition, co-operation

**Spatio-temporal self:** sense of place, sense of heritage, biophilia

# Cultural processes: co-option and transformation -- management and use





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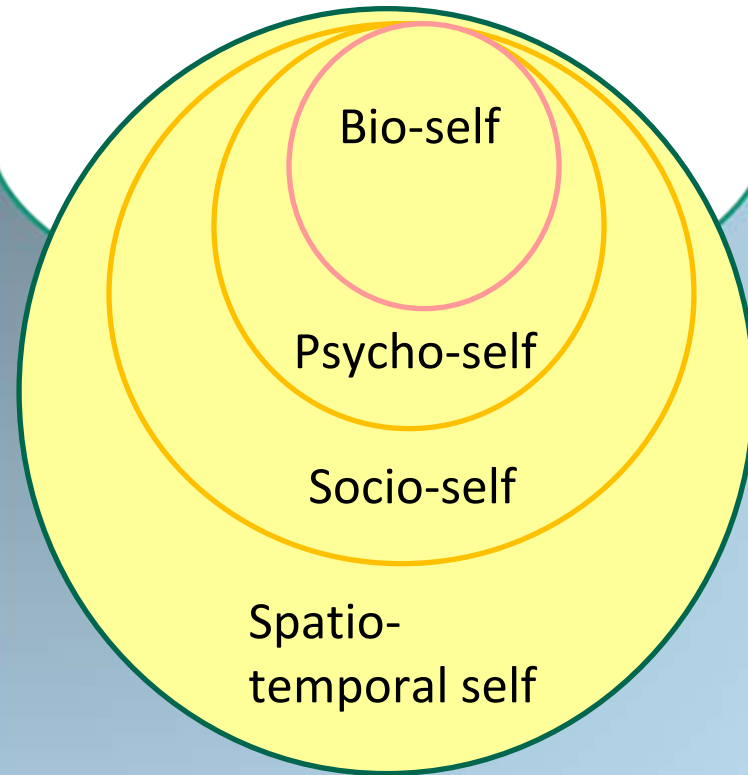


wellcome trust



## Ecosystem services

Supporting – ecological processes	Provisioning
	Regulating
	<b><u>'Subjective'</u></b> <u>Experiential</u> Enjoyment Beauty ( taste, fragrance, sounds) Spiritual connection
	<u>Ethical</u> Respect for life  <u>Understanding</u> Facts + science 'Lore' creative interpretation 'How to' skills



**Cultural processes:**  
co-option and transformation --  
management and use

Natural <> semi-natural <> not natural

## Human wellbeing

<u>Physical</u> Material satisfaction Safety and security Health	Individual choice and freedom Shared social objectives
<u>Psycho/Social</u> Belonging (friends, family, community) Status (respect, achievement)	

# Why bother – how does this help?

- **Clarifying what social evidence or data we can look for**, what sort of ‘value(s)’ it might represent, and how those services or value relate to wellbeing and policy objectives
- **How we can best structure the case we argue** for why ‘subjective’ – experiential and cognitive – relationships with nature matter for human well-being, as the basis of social policy objective
- **Clarifying how and why** different forms of engagement or relationship with nature and ecosystems work for ‘human well-being’ value
- **Helping our ecologist and economist colleagues** understand and work with the ‘human’ values our species derives from nature