

Urban Form and Wellbeing Benefits in the Global South

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Connective Cities Virtual Dialogue Event

City Health & Wellbeing SEI HQ



SEI York

SEI Tallinn



Udon thani,
Thailand



SEI Asia

SEI Africa



Nakuru,
Kenya



SEI US

World City Populations
1950-2030

Circle areas proportional to city populations in:

● 1950 ● 1990 ● 2015 ● 2030



Data: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects
2014. Minimum city population threshold: 300k.
Cartography: D. A. Smith, CASA UCL.



Urban environments in the Global South

Development related challenges, but also opportunities for supporting wellbeing



City Health & Wellbeing Initiative

“investigates how rapidly-growing cities are affecting the wellbeing of residents, and how this interacts with the overall health of city systems”

Ecosystem services –

what all nature provides us for free....

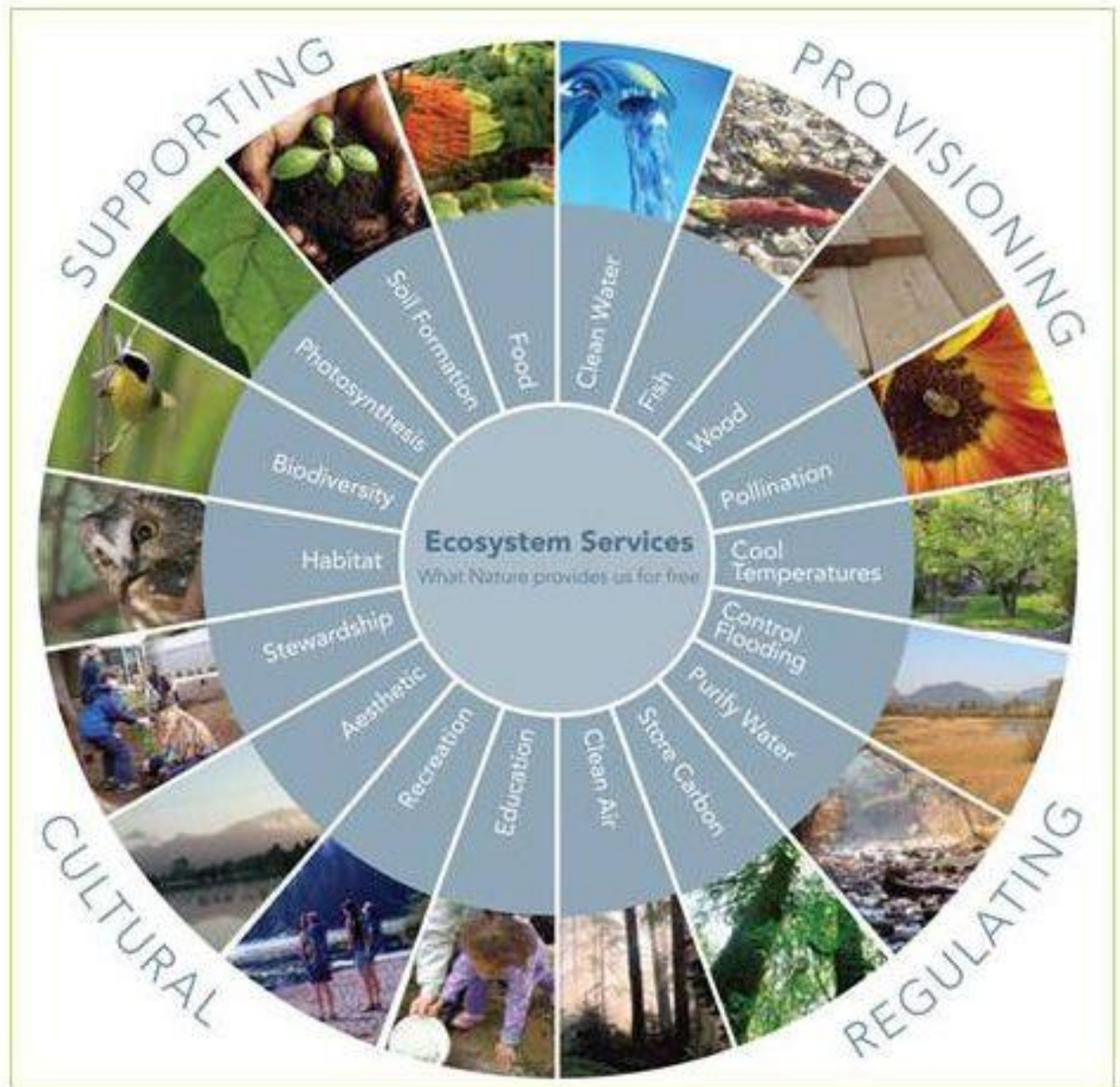
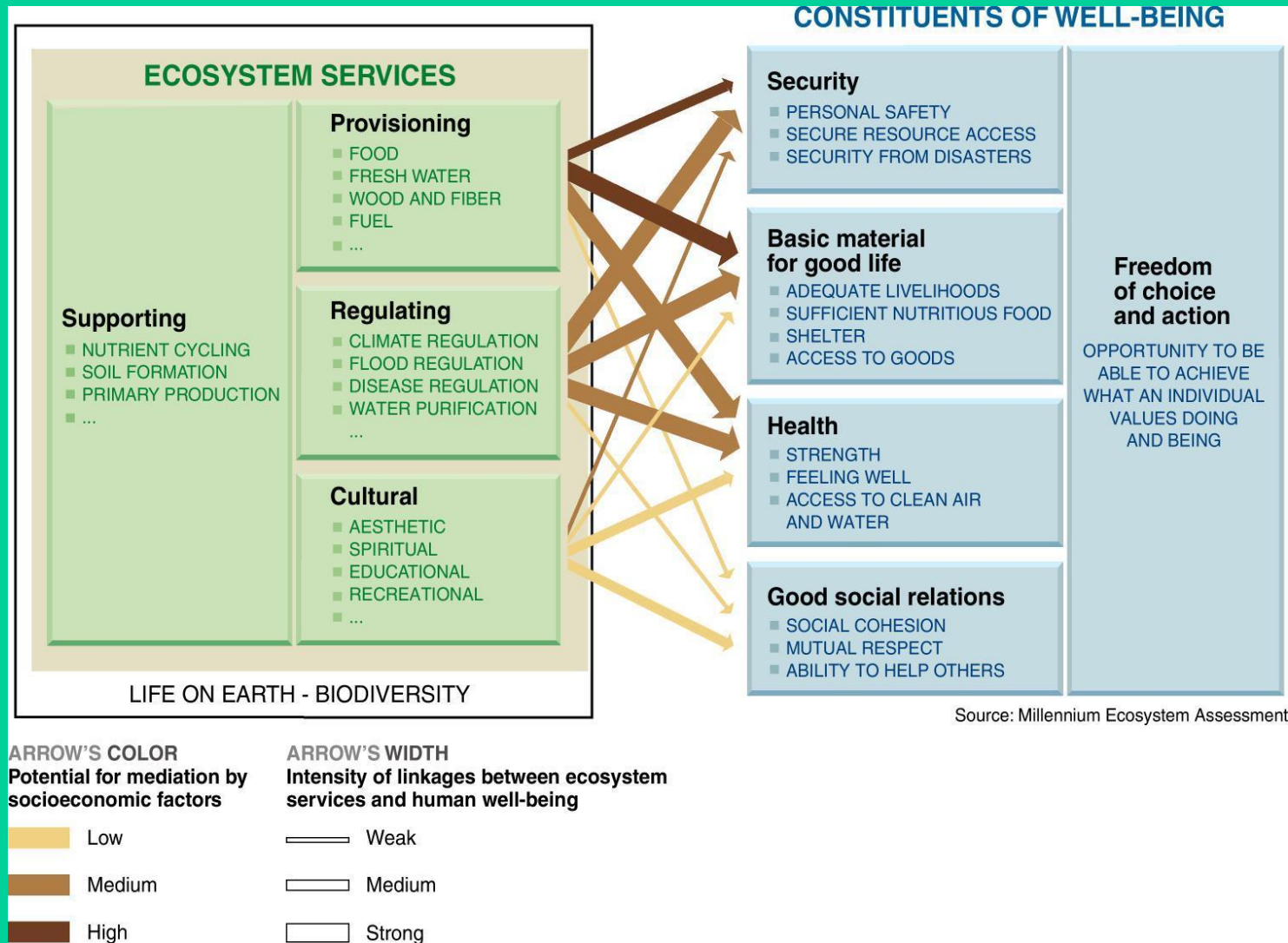
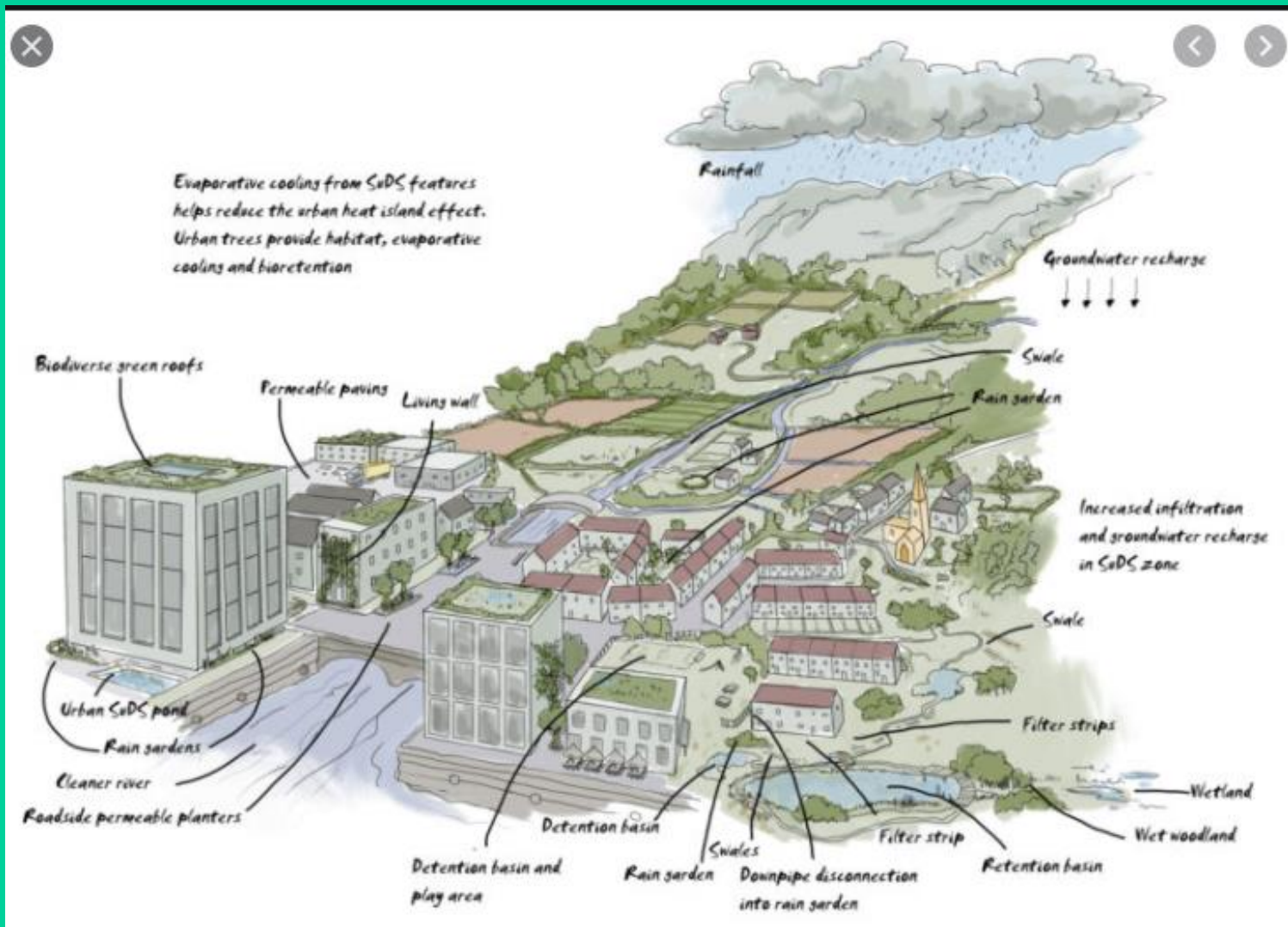


Image: TEEB
Europe

Ecosystem services – how they support wellbeing



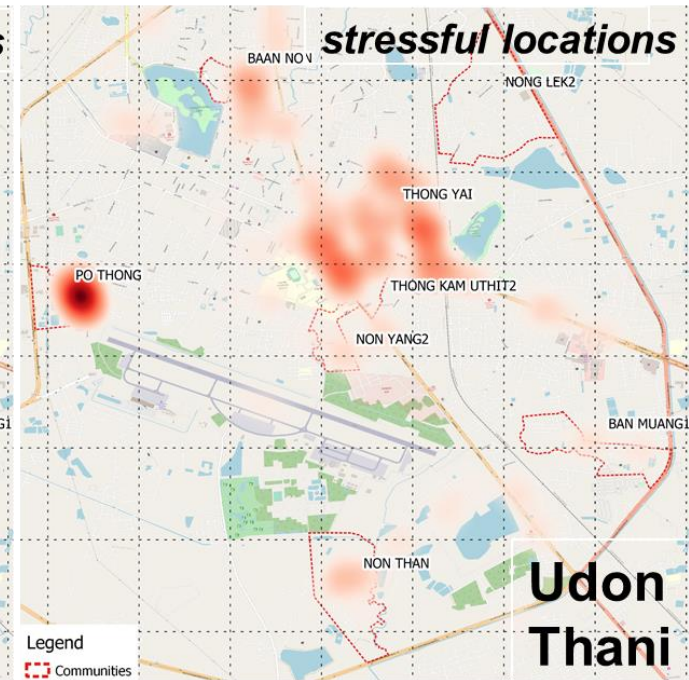
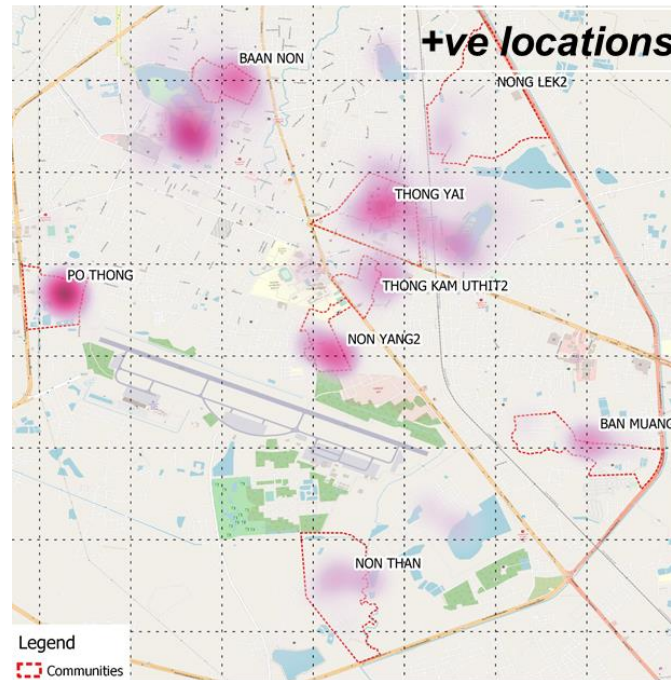
Urban Nature Based Solutions / Green infrastructure



Participatory mapping – where, what and why?



Nakuru, Kenya 2019



*Cultural Ecosystem Services refer to the non-material benefits people obtain from nature.

Udon Thani, Thailand

Nakuru, Kenya

Stressful

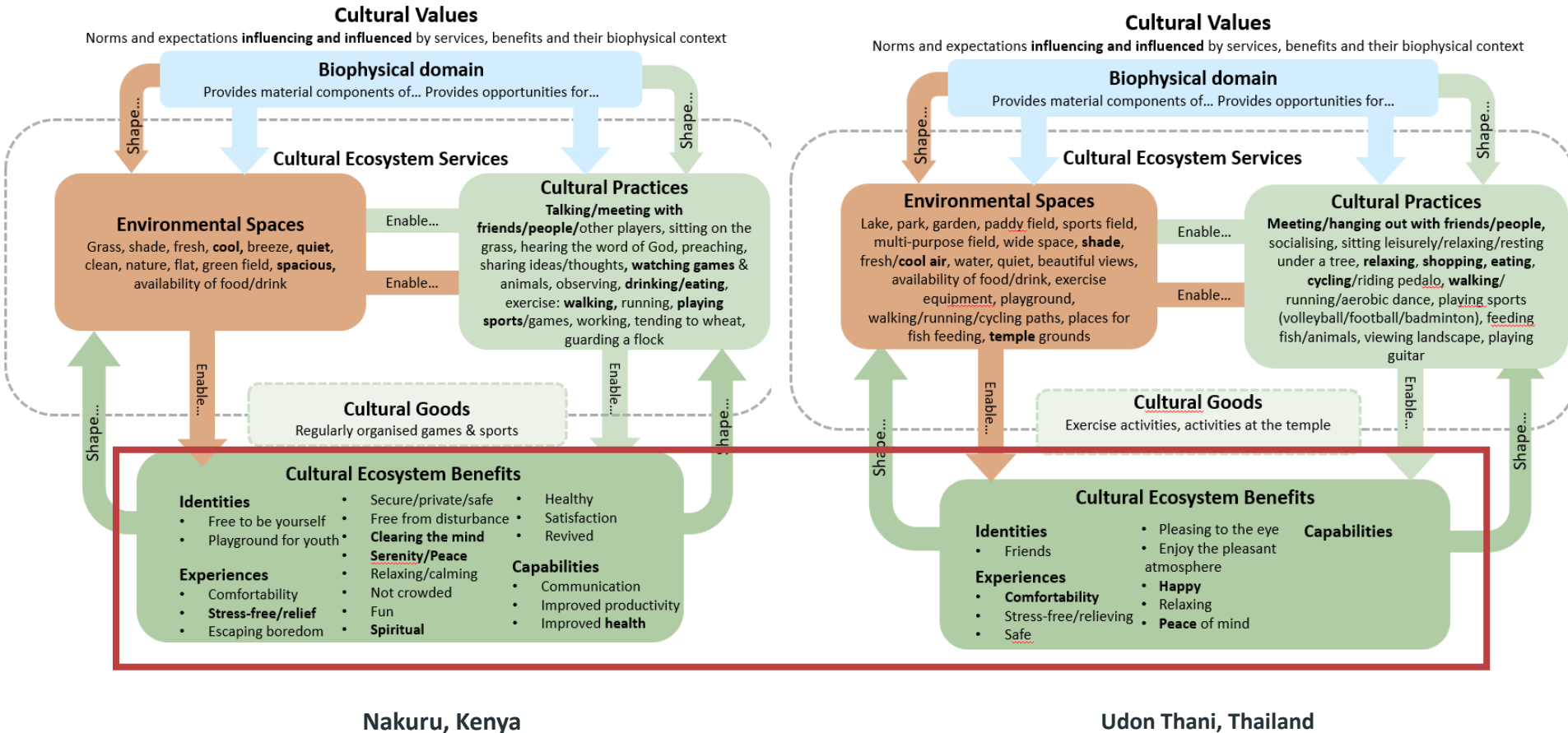


Photo credits: Steve Cinderby

Relaxing, Socialising, Exercising

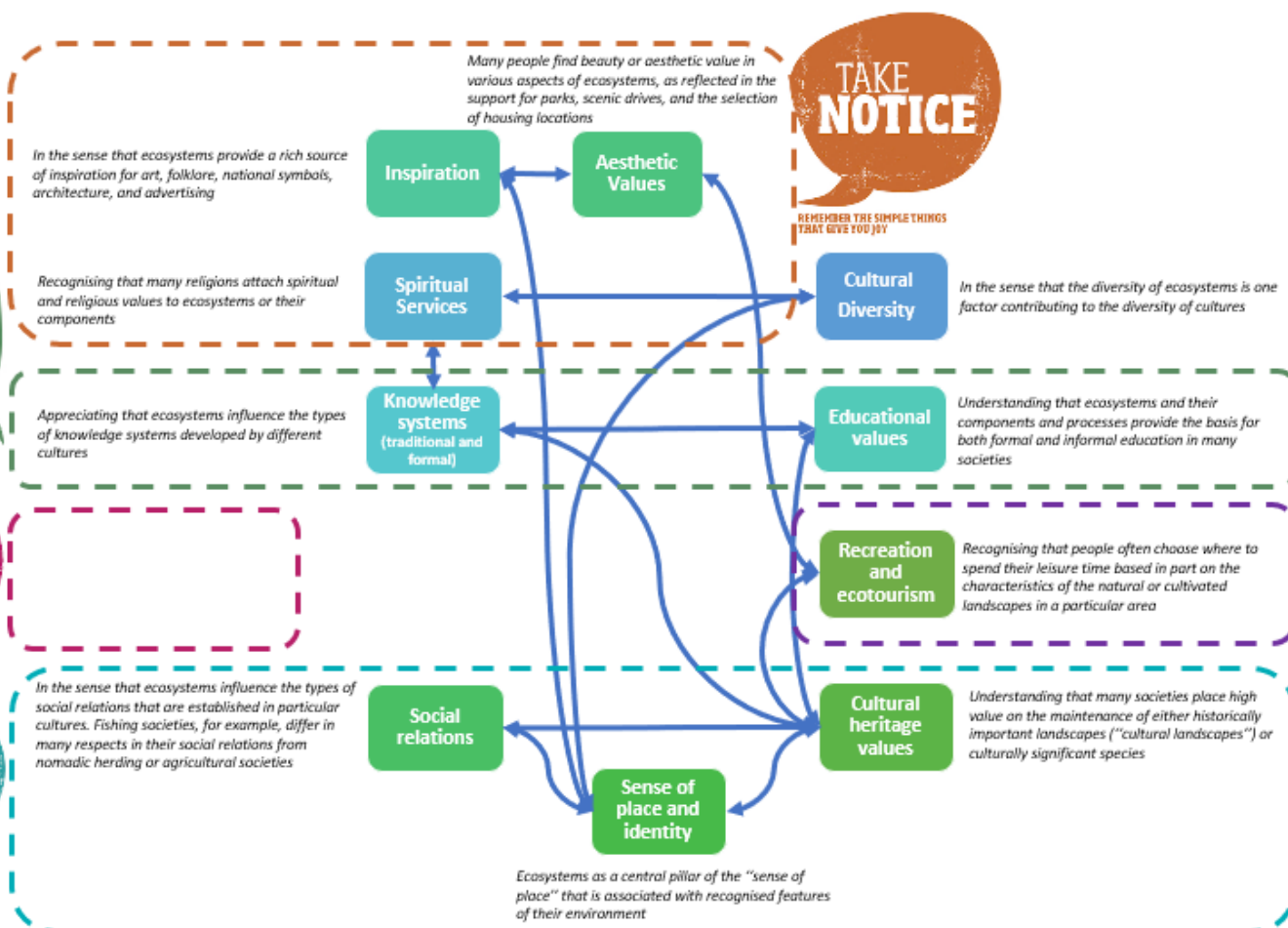
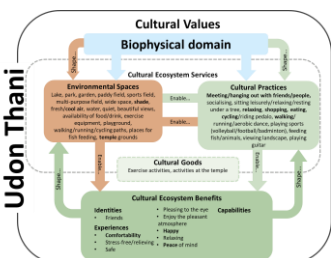
Google earth screenshots from selected locations

Cultural Ecosystem Services – natural spaces



***Bolded Cultural Ecosystem benefits** are ones which were also found in the built spaces

Udon Thani



Key takeaways

- Within the context of future climatic change, ignoring the benefits of public realm spaces on societal wellbeing risks locking cities into compromised ecosystems and undermine residents health.
- Built and natural environments have distinct, complementary roles in cultural activities.
- Participatory mapping highlighted opportunities related to improving the benefits of key urban infrastructure, such as green infrastructure, road networks, and water bodies.
- Planners should balance the development of flagship greenspaces (parks, etc.) with dispersed accessible (marginal spaces?) urban greening to ensure equitable delivery of benefits to build sustainable resilient neighbourhoods
- Urban natural spaces can promote wellbeing to balance the stress associated with busy, challenging built infrastructure. What about mixed spaces?



Thanks for Listening...

Any questions?



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