



Federal Agency for
Nature Conservation

Facilitator or recipient?

The role of nature conservation in Transformative Change

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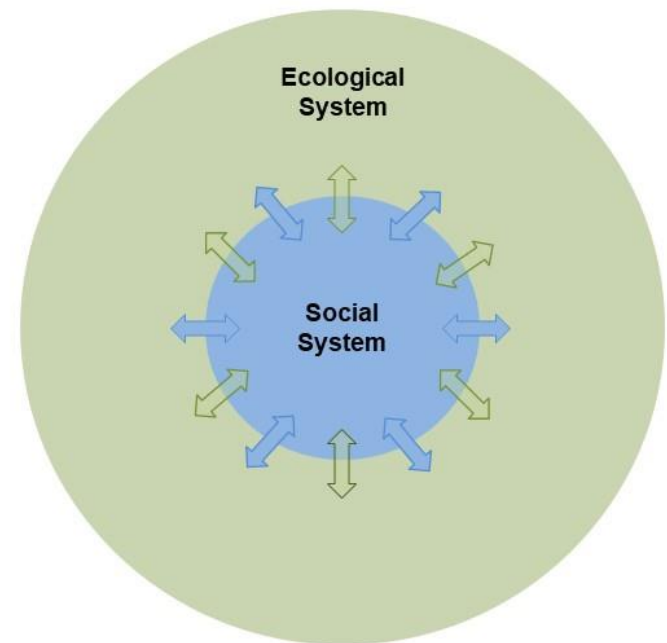
A systemic perspective on Nature Conservation



Transformative Change can be defined as as a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values. (IPBES 2019)

Nature conservation is a social consent based on research and discourses and focuses on the interactions of social and ecological systems.

Conserving nature is a fundamental contribution to human well-being.



 = Interaction shaped by characteristics of ecological systems: complexity, dynamics & emergence etc.

 = Interaction shaped by characteristics of social systems: complexity, dynamics & emergence etc.

Social Issues

- **Justice**
 - access to material and immaterial resources
 - opportunities for social participation
- **Cohesion**
 - e.g. integration into social relationships, voluntary commitment and the spread of attitudes of solidarity and tolerance
(Griessler, Littig 2005)

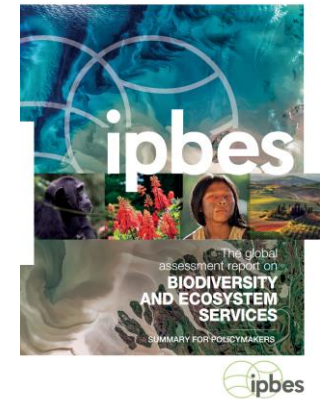
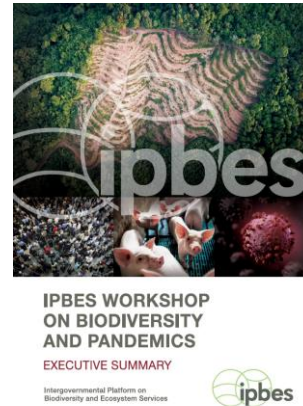
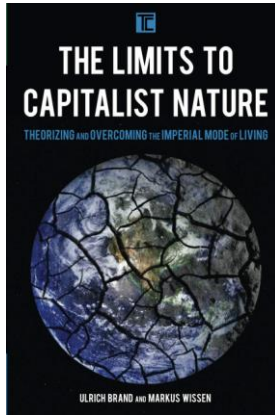
Human Health

- **Physical**
 - moderating climate
 - reducing environmental risks
- **Mental**
 - restorative effects and support to regain attention
 - staying in nature and looking out of the window at a natural environment

“One Health” as a holistic approach



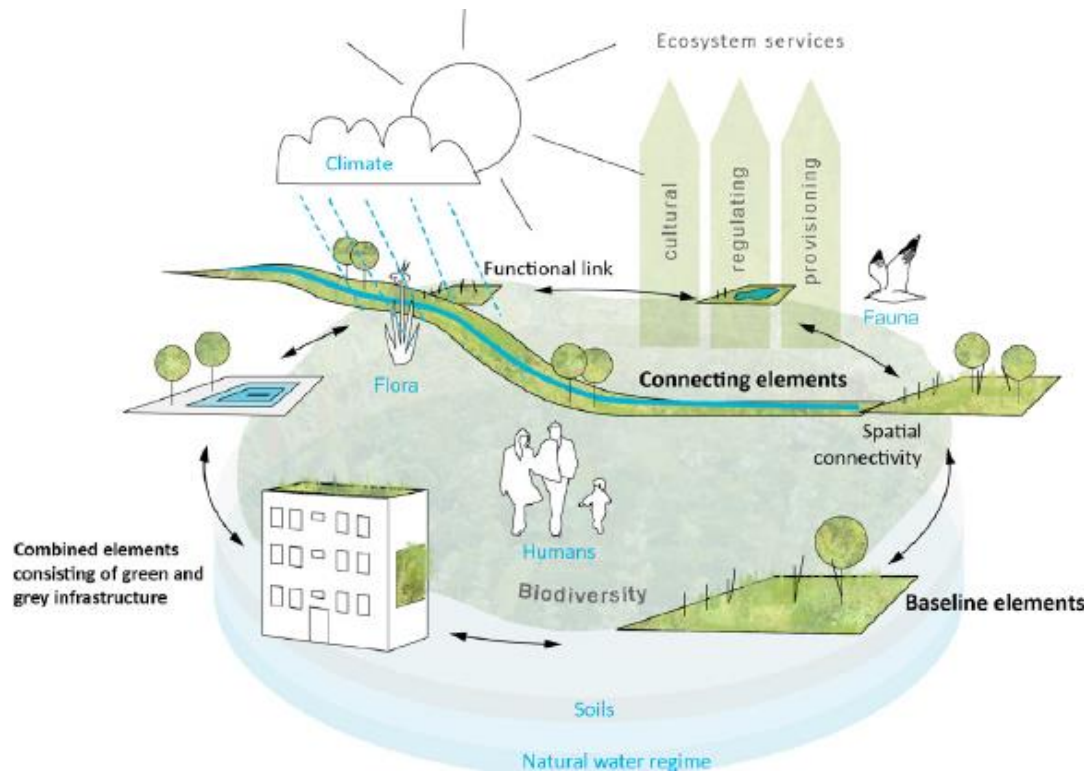
- current discourses on multiple crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss or the pandemic



- critique of societal nature relations (Brand and Wissen 2018), drivers of the emerging of disease events and global declines in nature such as land/sea use change, direct exploitation or pollution (IPBES 2019,2020)
- “One Health” is an integrated approach that optimizes the health of people, animals and ecosystems.



The case of urban greenspace interventions



Find out more:

<https://www.bfn.de/en/publications/leaflet/urban-green-infrastructure-basis-attractive-and-sustainable-cities-notes>

- R+D-project:
"Green Infrastructure in Urban Areas: Basic Principles, Planning and Implementation in Integrated Urban Development."
- urban green as essential infrastructure to a good quality of urban life
- integration of 'Social issues', 'Human health' and ...
- concrete example how nature conservation measures contribute to a "reorganization of urban planning including paradigms, goals and values" (cf. IPBES 2019)

The role of nature conservation in transformative change



Nature conservation as a social consent
contributes to the ultimate
challenge of **transformative change**.

At the same time, all ambitions in nature conservation heavily depend on a fundamental change of our **societal nature relations**, which means that we have to change the way we produce and consume and the way we understand human well-being.

Thank you!

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