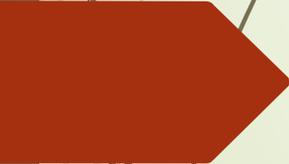


# Local Commons for Global Benefits

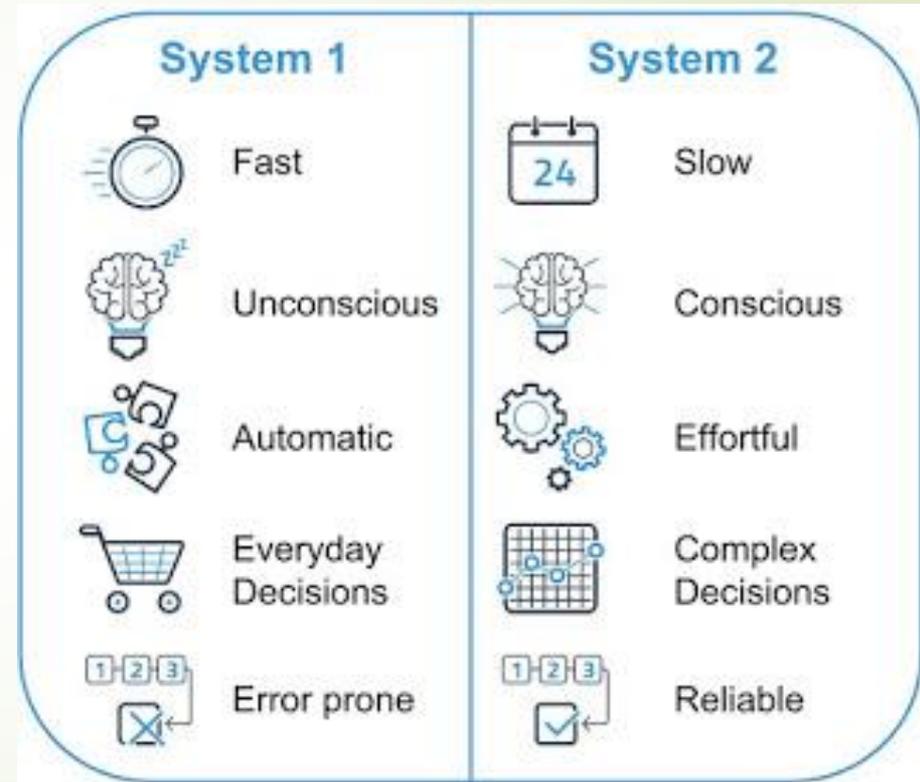
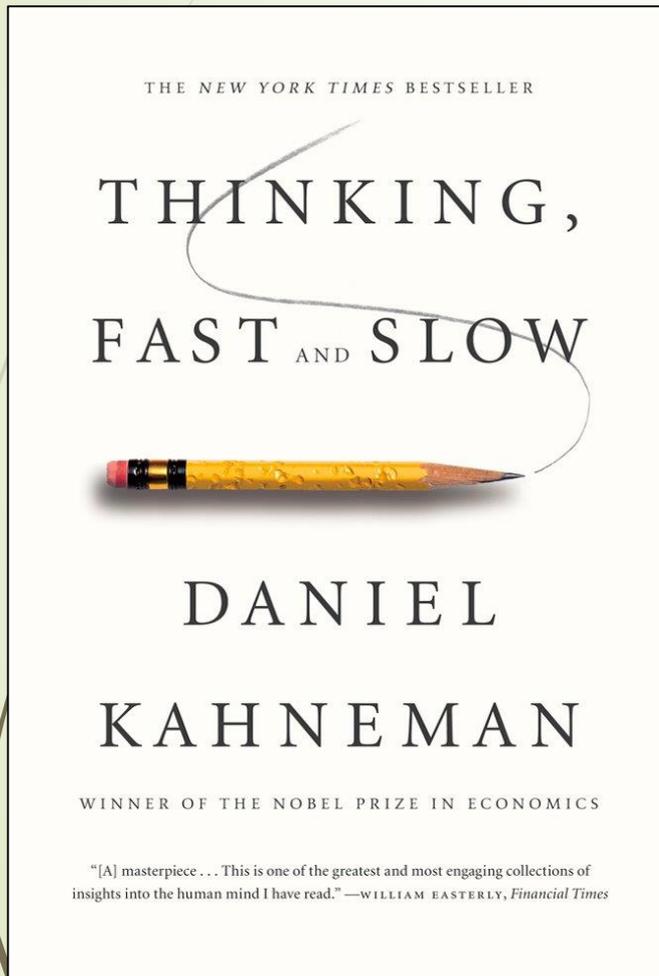


Brian Child

GEF STAP

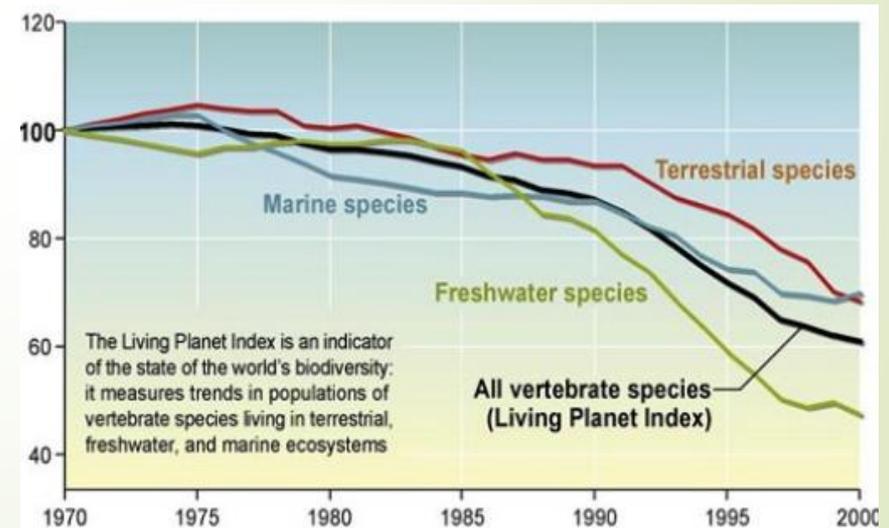
GEF Assembly

# Solving complex problems in a world of quick-fixes and quackery



# What is the issue?

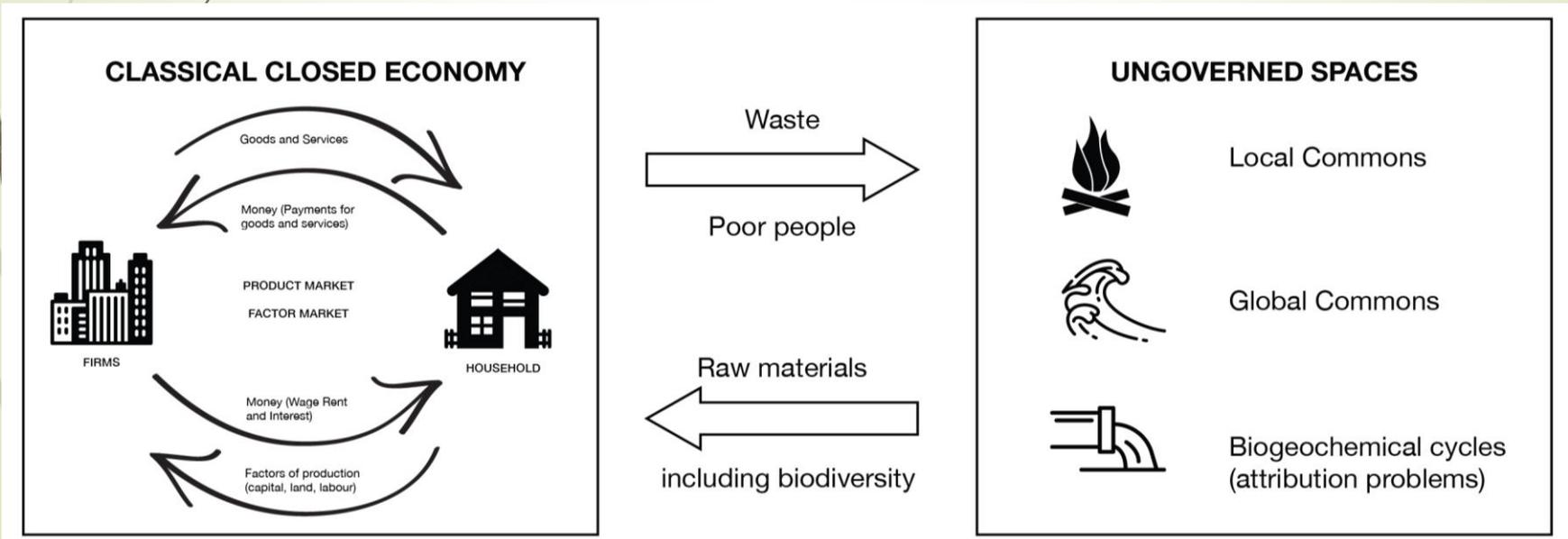
- Overlap between
  - Poverty x Environmental Degradation
  - Protected areas
  - Biodiversity
  - Poor people
  - Weak institutions



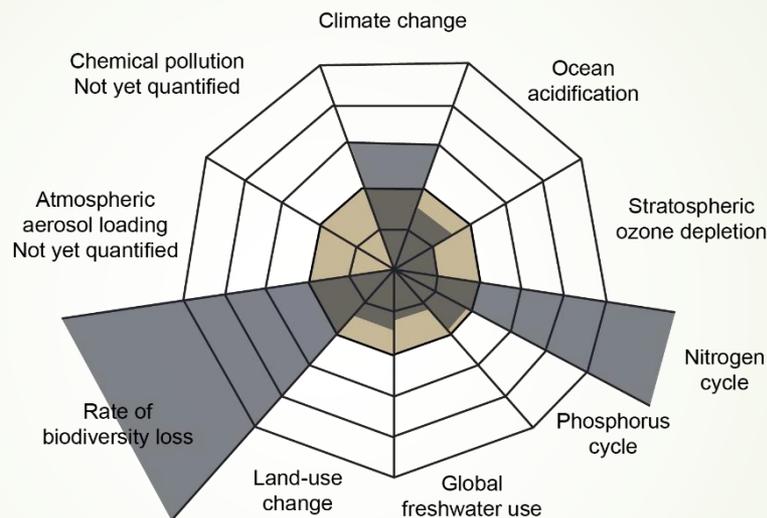
Source: WWF UNEP-WCMC

# What does the science say?

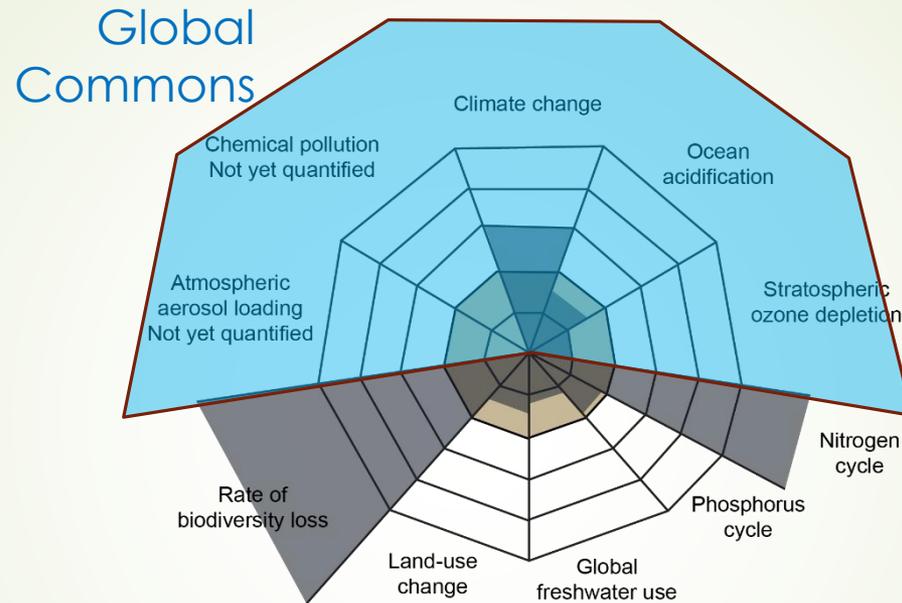
- Economic systems are externalizing
    - waste
    - degradation (over-use)
    - poverty
- into ungoverned spaces



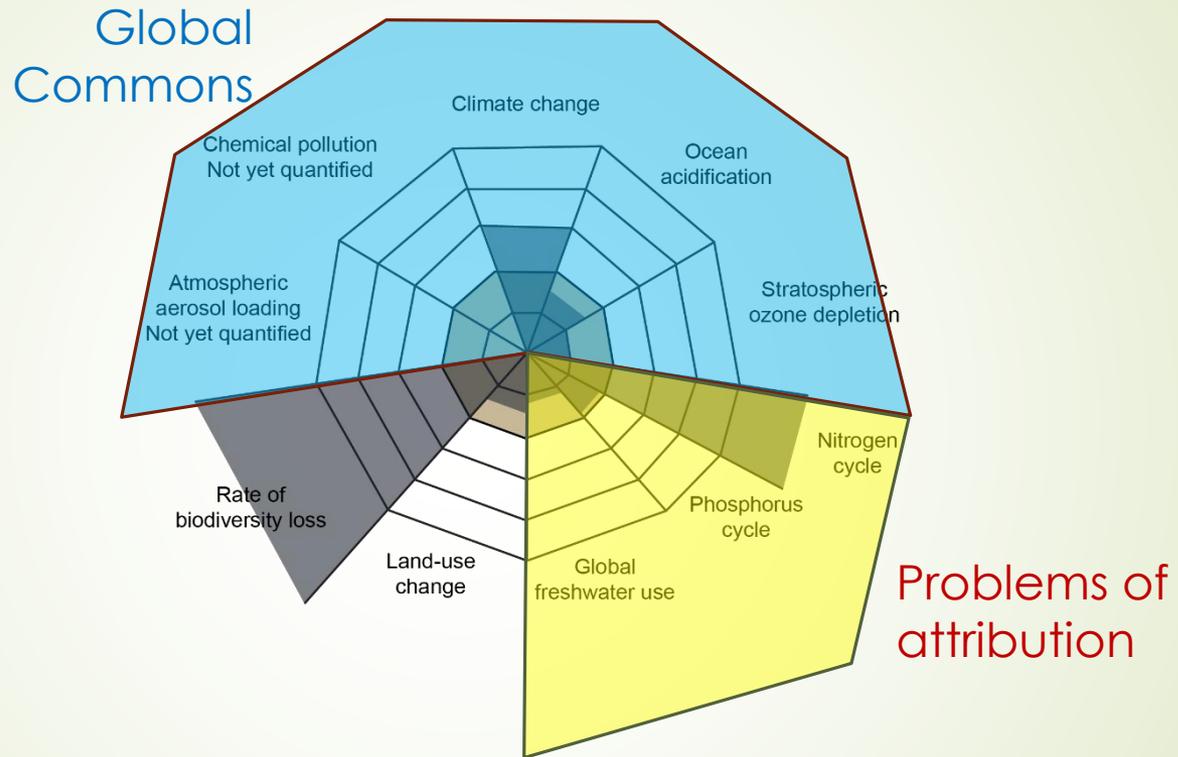
# Where and why are we exceeding the "safe operating space for humanity?"



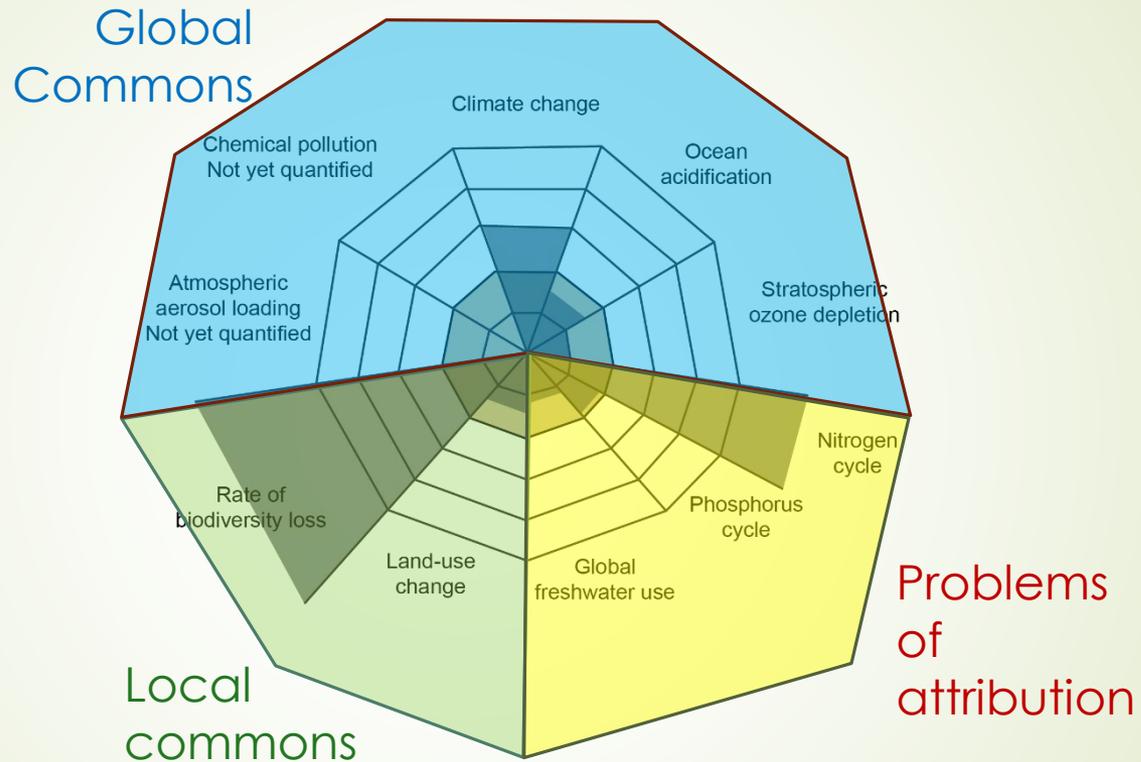
# Failure to internalize costs and benefits



# Failure to internalize costs and benefits

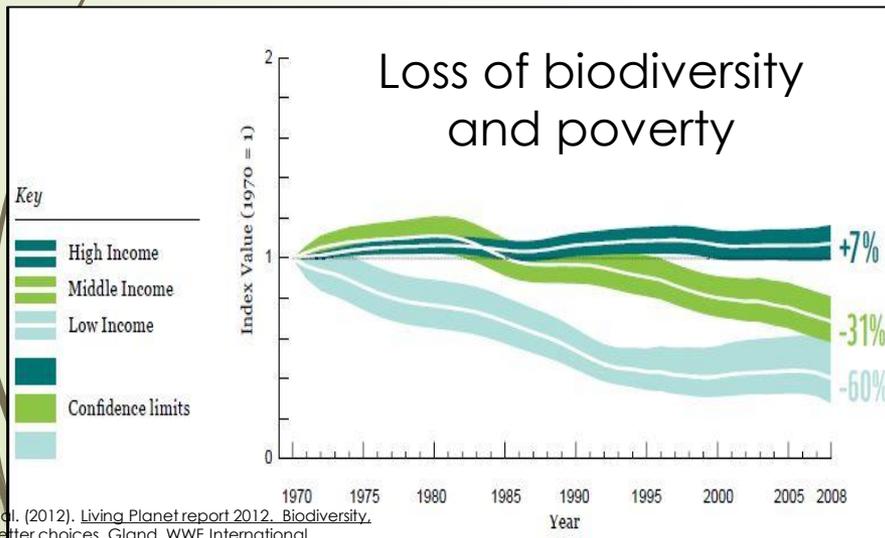
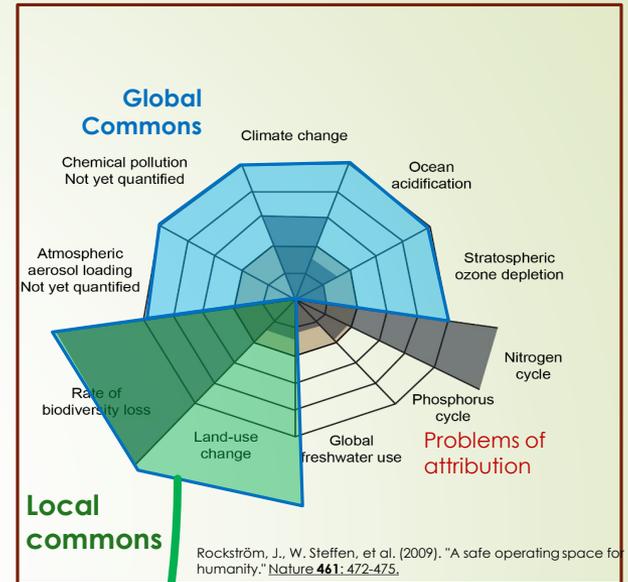


# Failure to internalize costs and benefits

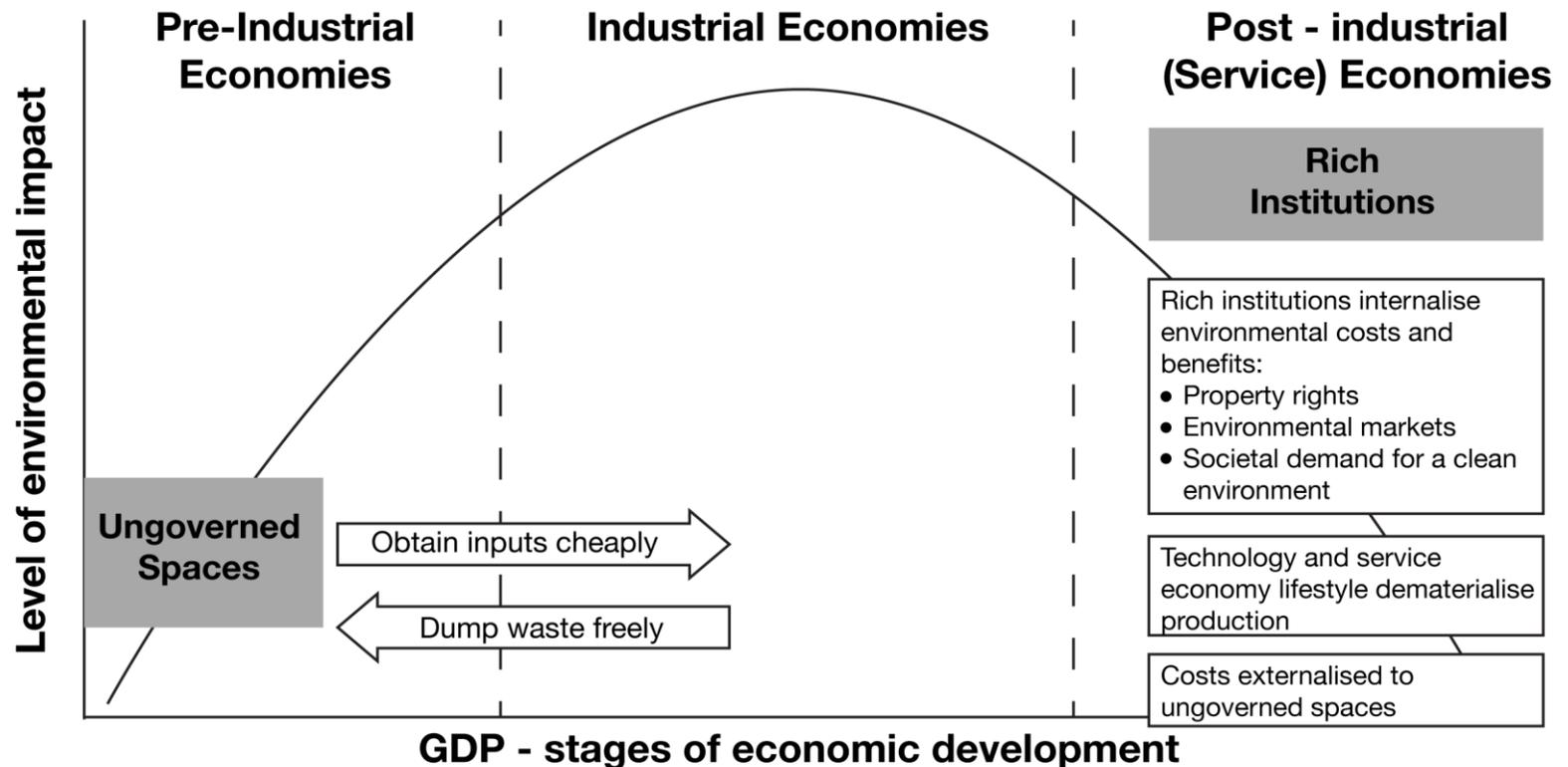
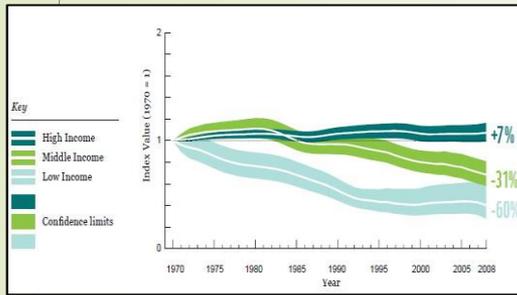


## Overlap

- Decline of biodiversity
  - Land degradation
  - Poverty
- ## Common challenge
- Local commons
  - “ungoverned spaces”



# Kuznet's recovery – slight recovery based on 'rich institutions?'



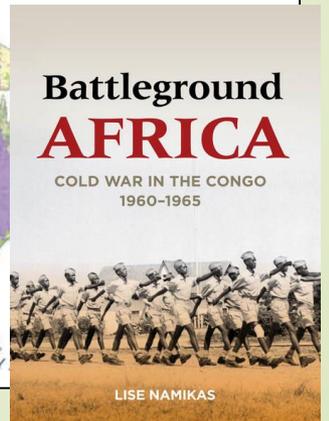
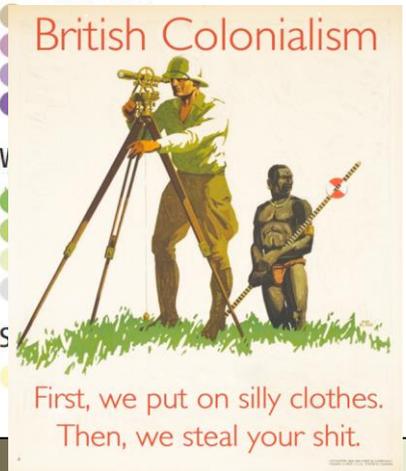
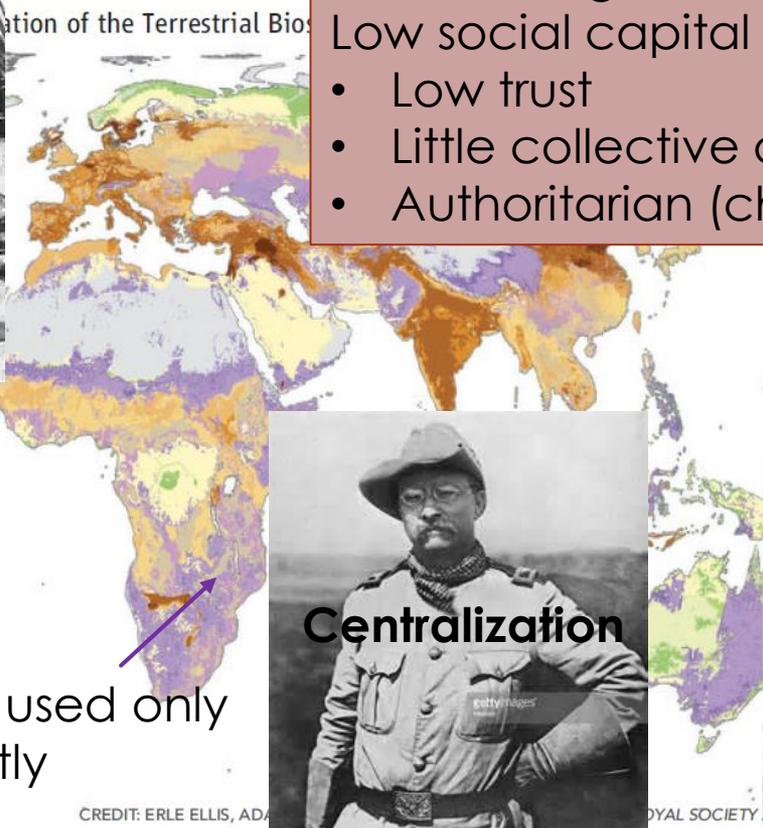
# Loss of institutions (de-institutionalization)



**Effect on communities**

Traumatized  
Weak/no rights  
Low social capital

- Low trust
- Little collective action
- Authoritarian (chief, church)



CREDIT: ERLE ELLIS, ADA

ROYAL SOCIETY

# Turning wild resources into public goods

e.g. wildlife, Theodore Roosevelt, and the Colonial Powers (London Conventions of 1900 and 1933)



- National parks
- Banned commercial use of wildlife
- Public ownership and management of wildlife

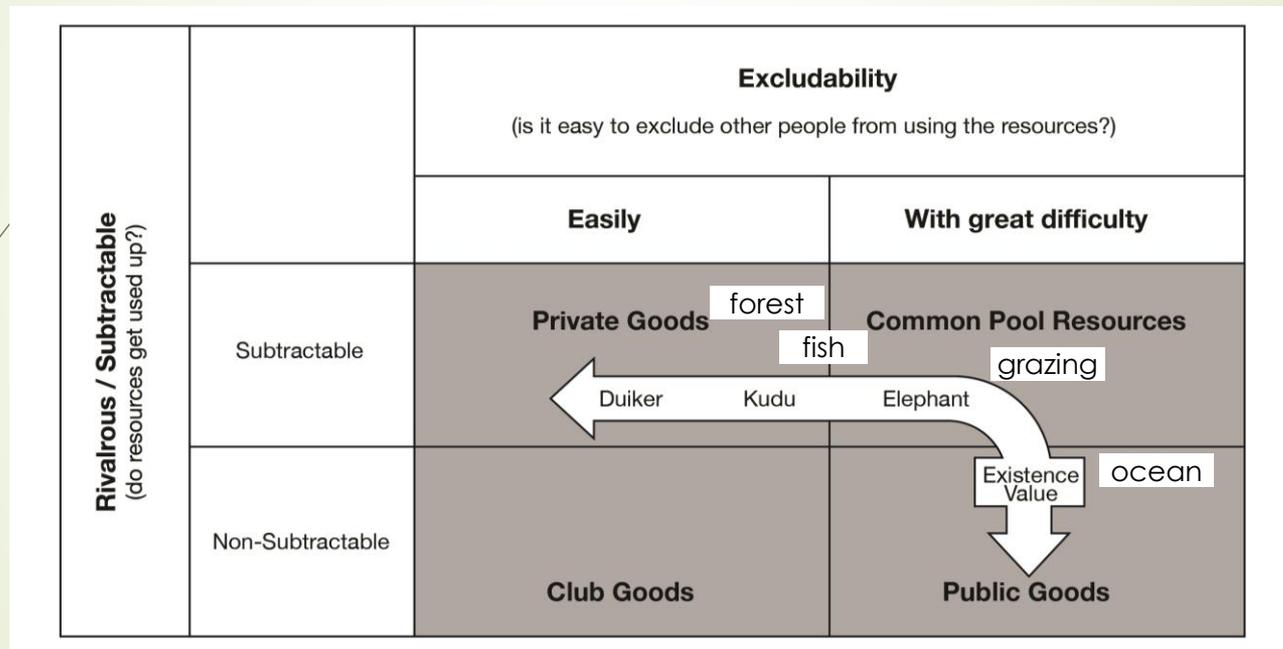
		Excludability (is it easy to exclude other people from using the resources?)	
		Easily	With great difficulty
Rivalrous / Subtractable (do resources get used up?)	Subtractable	<b>Private Goods</b> (cars, houses, phones, etc.)	<b>Common Pool Resources</b> (forest, fish, etc.)
	Non-Subtractable	<b>Club Goods</b> (golf club, private neighbourhood etc.)	<b>Public Goods</b> (legal systems, air, views etc.)

Wild resources

- Wildlife
- Forests
- Fisheries
- etc

# But wild resources are not public goods:

- Increasingly rival (get used up)
- Increasingly excludable (technology, value)



Result – mismatch between nature of wild resources and its governance

- Private/common goods
- Public management

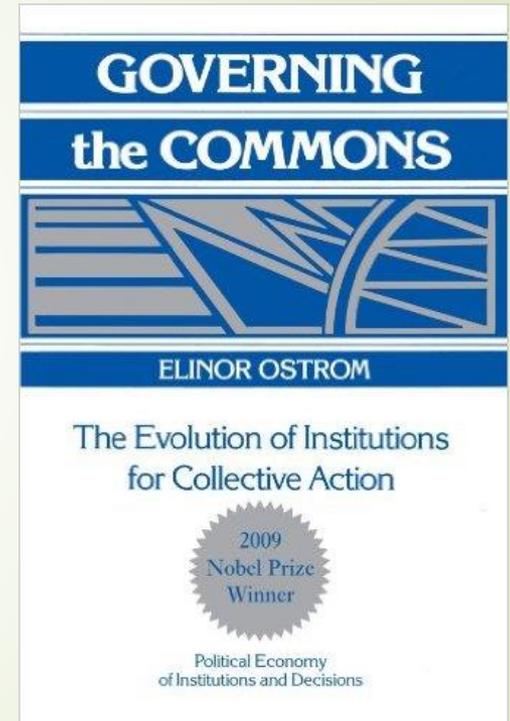
# Beyond state and market



There is no reason to believe that bureaucrats and politicians, no matter how well meaning, are better at solving problems than the people on the spot, who have the strongest incentive to get the solution right.

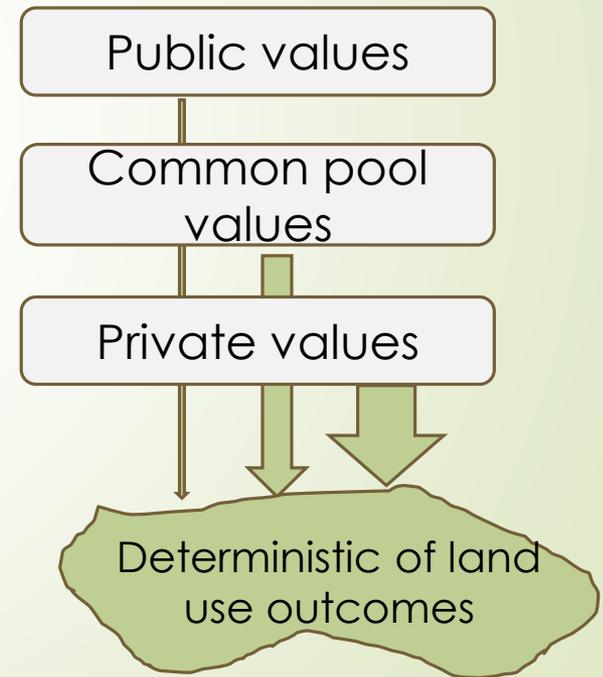
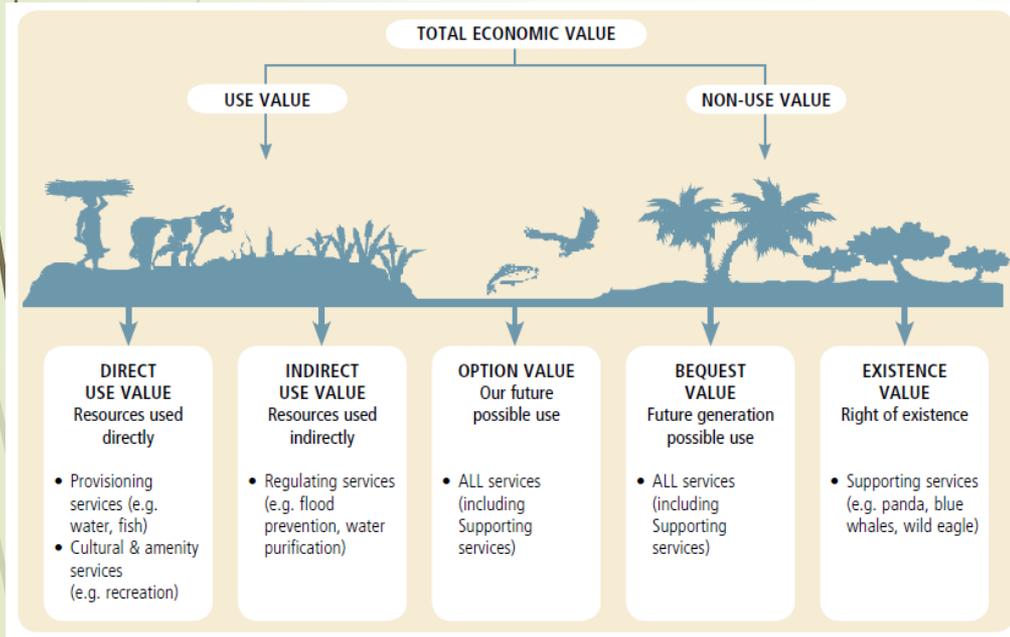
— *Elinor Ostrom* —

AZ QUOTES



Multiple value of intact environments often exceeds converted habitats (MEA, 2005)

But we need to convert them into land use incentives

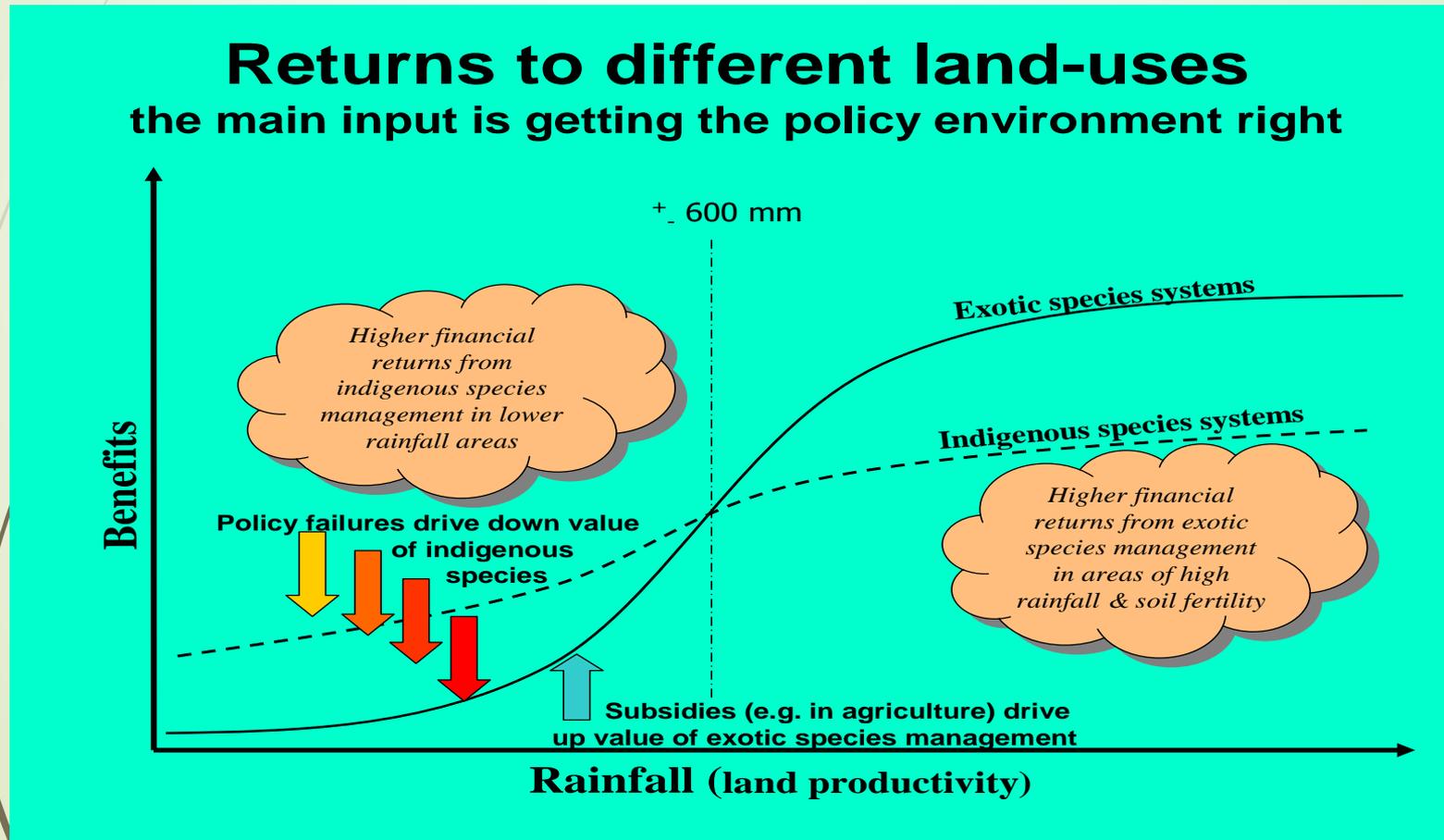


KRUTILLA, J. V. 1967. Conservation Reconsidered. *The American Economic Review*, 57, 777-786.

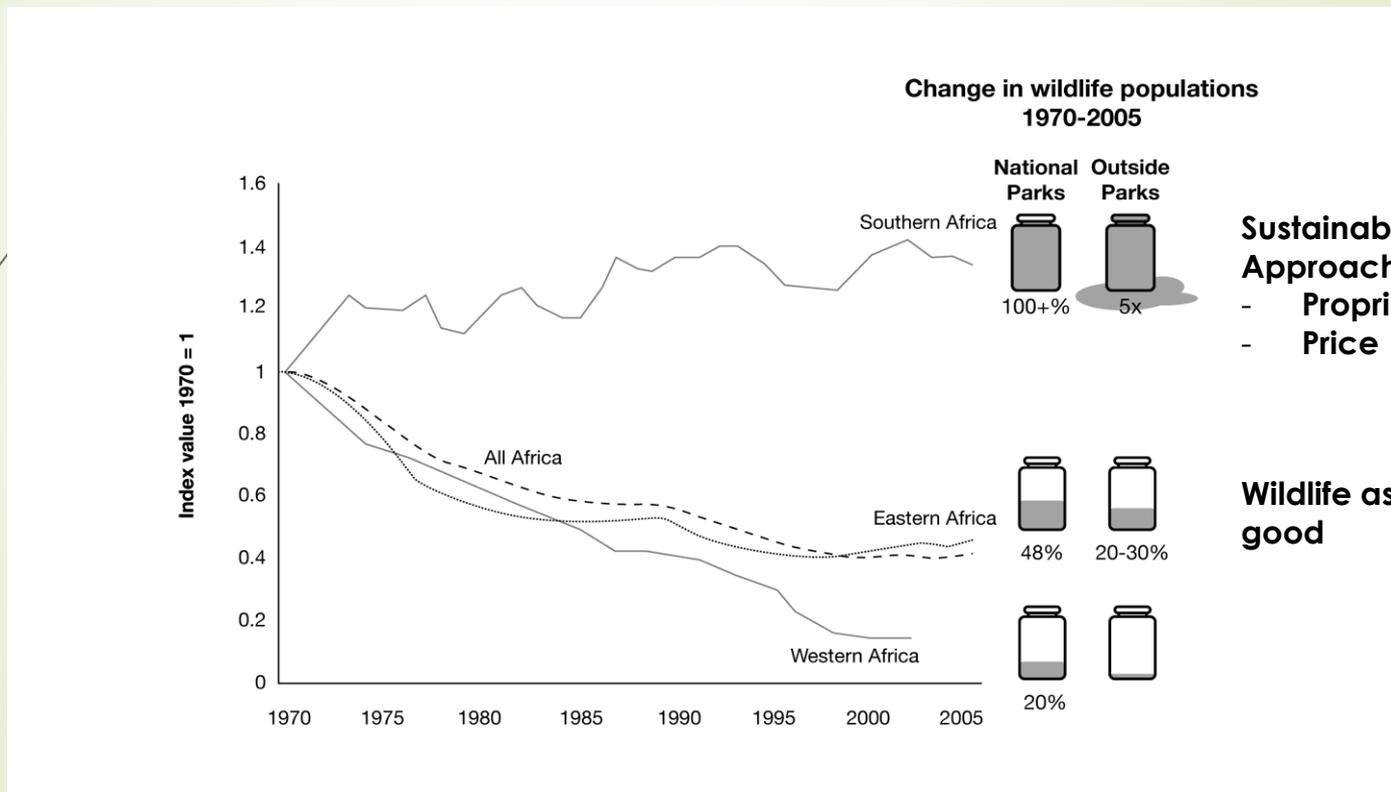
# Sustainable Governance Approach

Maximize value to landholders

- Proprietorship (local rights)
- Price (maximize value to people living with resources)



# Recovery of wildlife in southern Africa (compared to counterfactual; retention of colonial public approach)



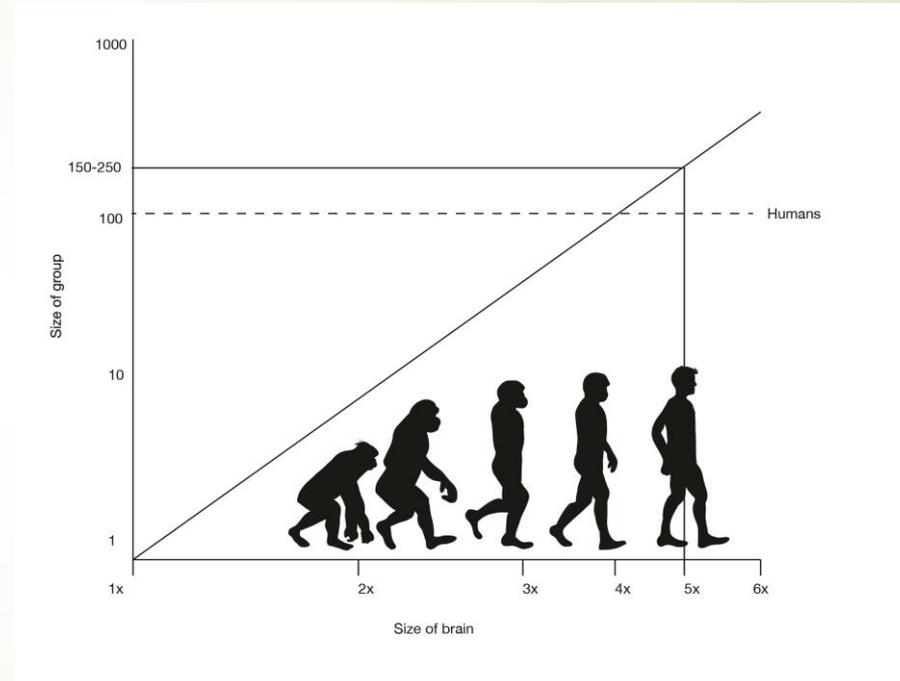
# Community Based Natural Resource Management



- Mostly fails, but works when applied PROPERLY
- Don't follow principles
  - Proprietorship
  - Price
  - **All people affected by decisions participate in making them (project don't navigate scale effectively)**
  - Adaptive social development of social, institutional and technical capital

# Scale and Dunbar's number

- ▶ Checks and balances in small communities
- ▶ Large societies become hierarchical and unequal
- ▶ Little growth until large societies where changed by the Glorious Revolution
- ▶ Inclusive economic and political institutions (i.e. John Locke's 'Lives, Liberties, and Estates')

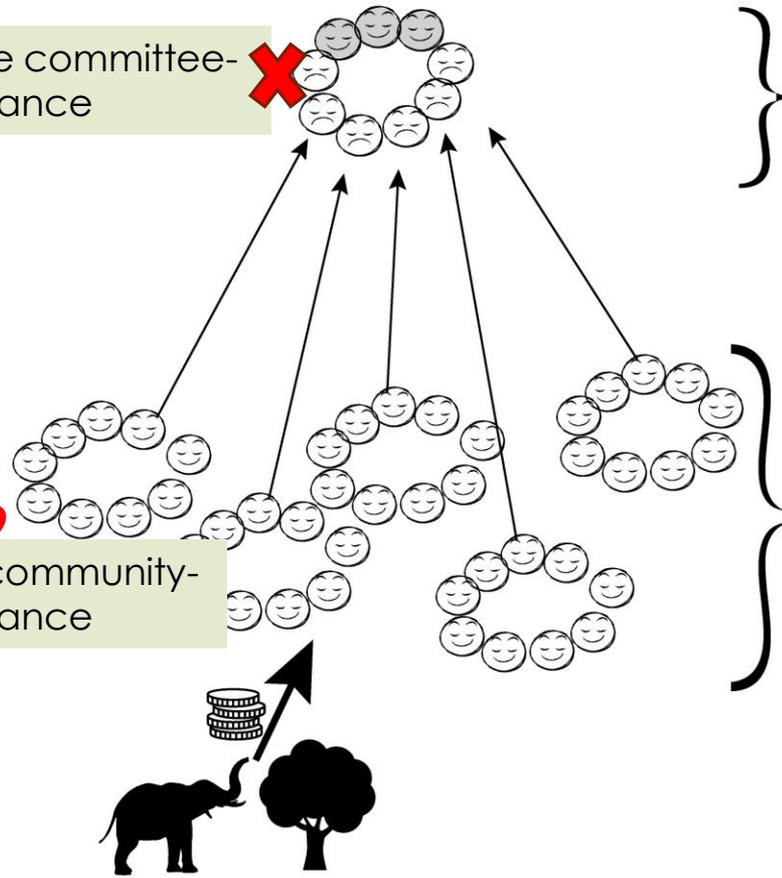




Representative committee-based governance



Participatory community-based governance



PUBLIC GOODS

ROLES, RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES

ECONOMIES OF SCALE

ECOLOGIES OF SCALE

**Representational Governance  
(Multi Village coordination level)**

**Roles:**

- Coordination of multi-village activities
- Accountable to constituent villages

↑ Upward Delegation (if appropriate) ↑

INFORMED PARTICIPATION

EQUITABLE BENEFIT SHARING

**Participatory Governance  
Face-to-Face in Single Villages  
(Doing level)**

**Rights:**

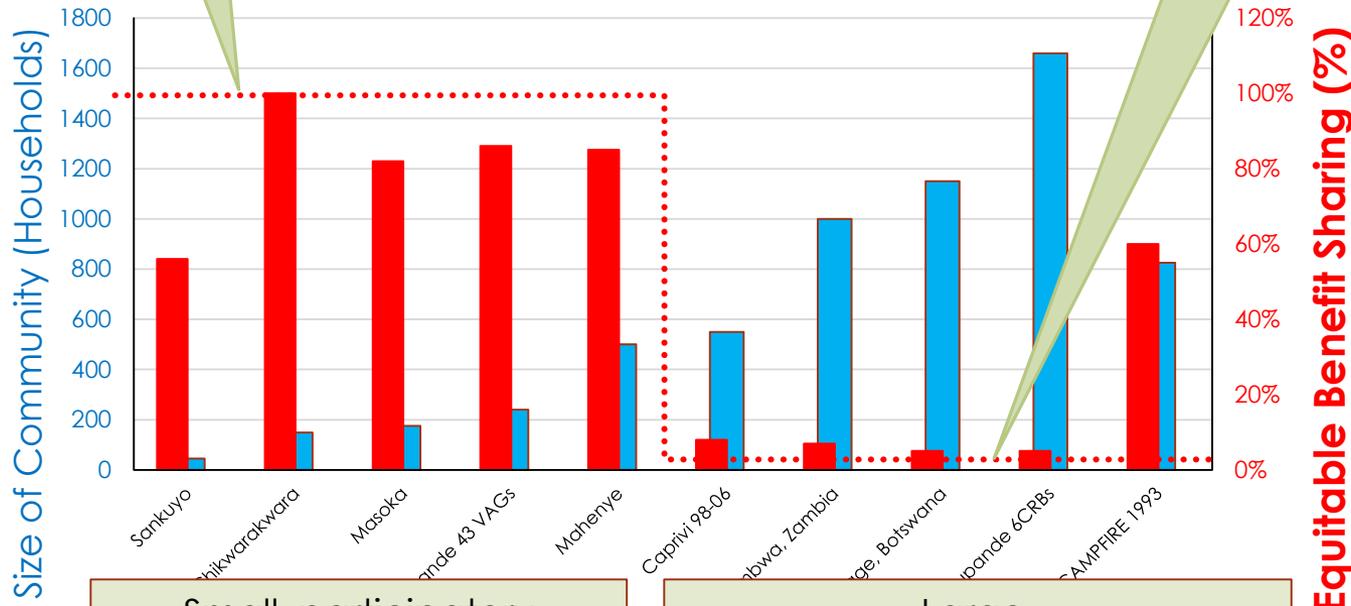
- All income belongs equally to all members (equivalent to private income from crops and livestock)
- All members make decisions, including over cash
- Members should be given full information to allow informed decision-making.
- All finances and decisions accountable to community as a whole.
- Members elect and instruct leaders
- Role of leaders is to bring people together to get information and make decisions

# CBNRM scale thresholds and the provision of public goods

Rare Successes  
Individual benefit  
Community-based management

Multiple Disappointments  
Public benefit  
Committee-based management

Equitable Benefit Sharing and Size of Community



Small, participatory governance

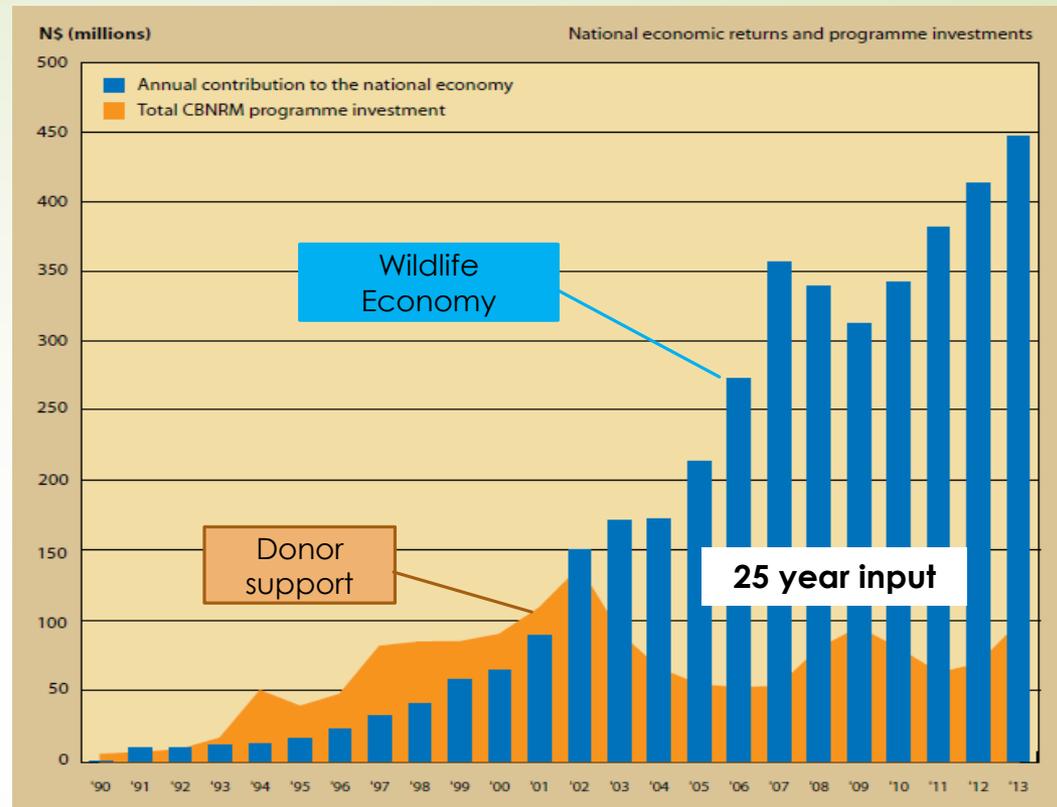
Large, representational governance

The rich get richer and the poor get ... committees (Jon Anderson)

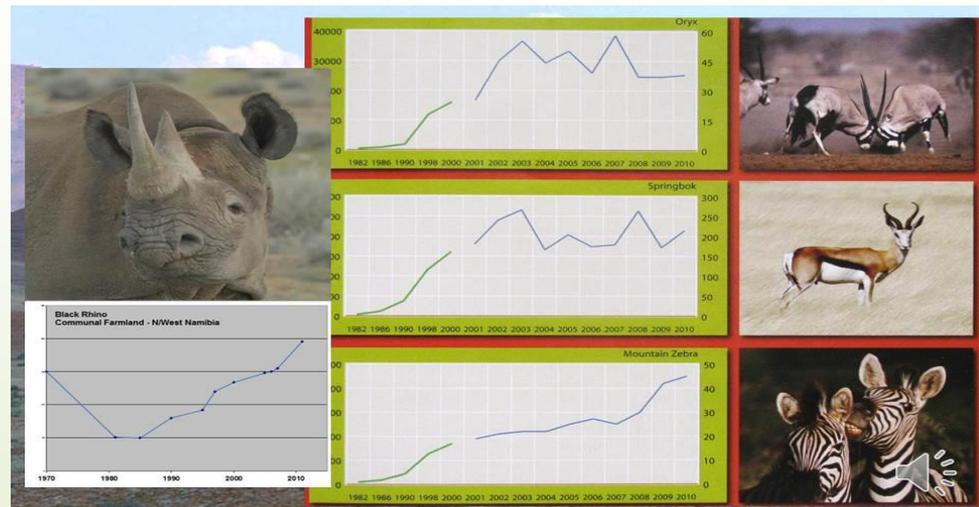
# CBNRM Namibia

## Growth

- ✓ Business: <10 to over 100
- ✓ N\$72,2m for communities.
- ✓ 6,472 jobs (increasing fast)
- ✓ 500,000 kg of meat for local communities - 2 million high protein meals.
- ✓ Rapidly growing national economic impact



## Achieved: Wildlife Increases in North-West Namibia





# Why is this important to the GEF?

- Considerable overlap between
  - Forests, drylands, etc.
  - Biodiversity, land degradation, climate adaptability
  - Poor people and communities
- Weakness in top-down approaches are emphasising the importance of bottom-up, rights-based, participatory approaches (but these are rare)



# How can the GEF respond?

- ▶ Focus on local commons for global benefit
  - ▶ Local commons (private-community ownership)
    - ▶ Devolution of rights
    - ▶ Development of benefits (markets, policies, etc.)
    - ▶ Effective micro-governance and cross-scale governance
    - ▶ Recapitalization of communities: social, institutional, technical, environmental
  - ▶ Need to develop knowledge and practice of how to do this
  - ▶ Convene workshops to discuss these issues in more detail?
- 

# How long can we wait?

