

Challenges and opportunities for protected areas in climate and biodiversity policy



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Outline

1. The international policy arena – **climate and biodiversity policy**
2. Enabling PA objectives in **biodiversity and climate policy**
3. **Opportunities**



Tracing some origins: 5th World Parks Congress Durban

A revolutionary shift in understanding that protected areas are connected and embedded in regional landscape/seascape approaches to conservation, that this demands mainstreaming in social and economic development, new forms of interaction, new forms of governance, new policies and enablers

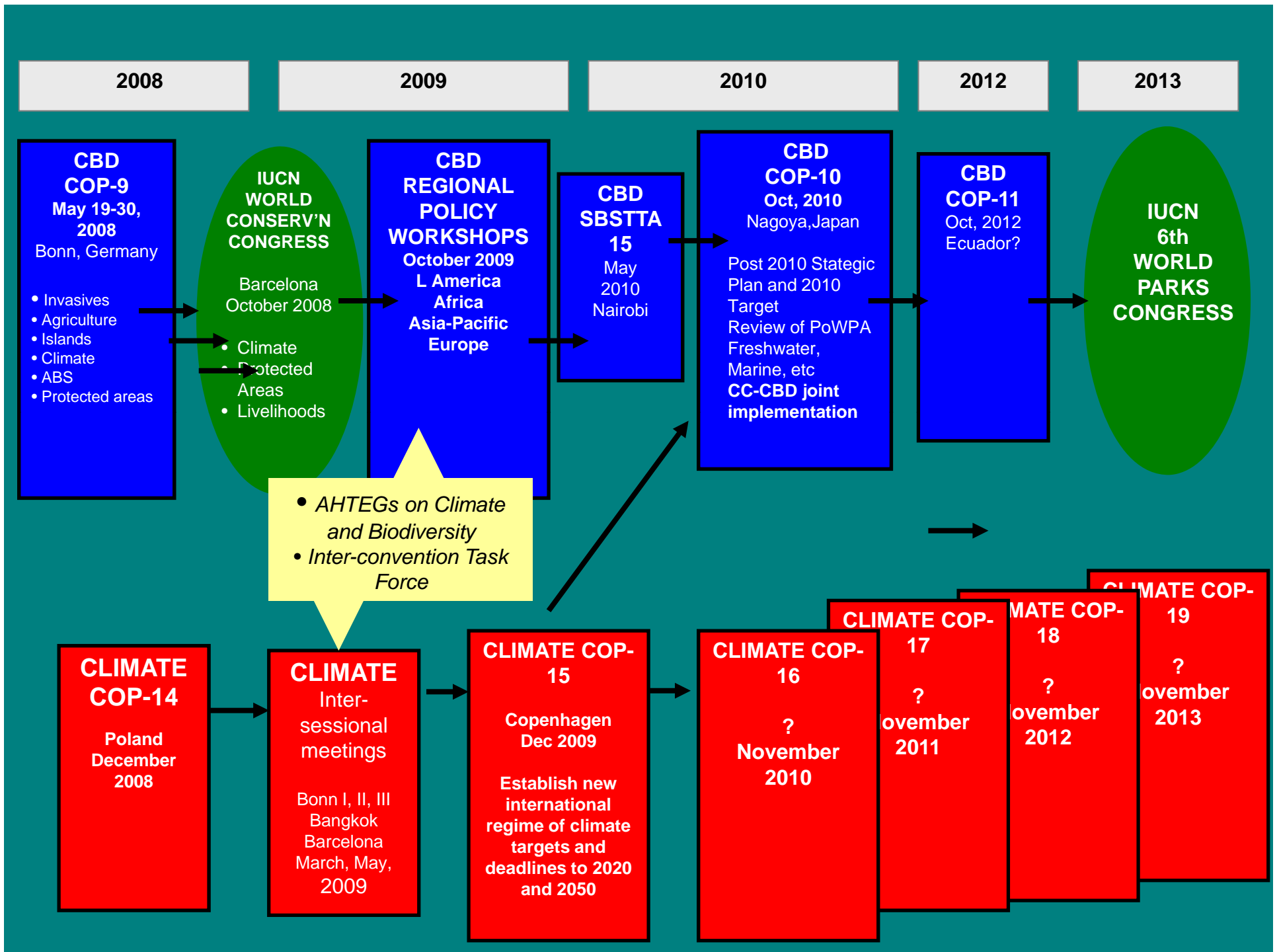


Adoption of the Programme on Protected Areas (CBD COP 7 Kuala Lumpur)



Suggested activities of the Parties

- **1.4.5 Integrate climate change adaptation measures in protected area planning, management strategies, and in the design of protected area systems.**





Bonn, Germany, May 2008

COP9 Decision IX/18: invites parties, GEF, donors to:

- Explore **funding opportunities** for protected area design, establishment and effective management in the context of efforts to address climate change
- Support **projects** that demonstrate the role that protected areas play in addressing climate change
- Enhance **research and awareness** of the role that protected areas and the connectivity of networks of protected areas play in addressing climate change Explore funding opportunities

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CONNECTING BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION:

Report of the Second Ad Hoc
Technical Expert Group on
Biodiversity and Climate
Change



Who makes the decisions?

**UNFCCC
Conference of Parties**

**SBSTA
(science)**

**SBI
(implement)**

**AWG-LCA
(cooperative
Action)**

**AWG-KP
(Kyoto
Protocol)**

**enhanced
action:
adaptation**

**enhanced
action:
mitigation**

Objective of the UNFCCC

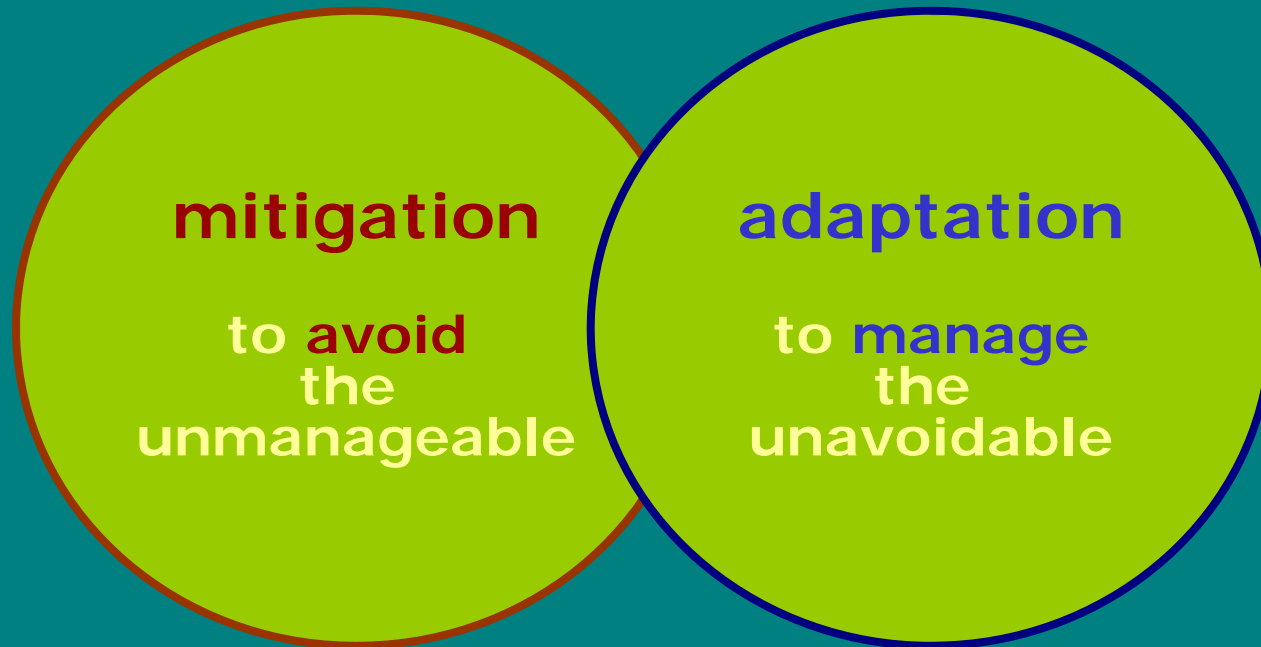


Article 1.....

- **stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.**
- **achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.**

Climate change policy

An effective response to climate change must combine both:



(World Bank 2008: Draft Strategic Framework on Climate Change and Development)

Climate policy – Bali Action Plan

The **AWG-LCA** adopted the Bali Action Plan including four pillars:

- **Mitigation**, including developed country commitments for emissions reductions and developing country actions towards low-carbon development pathways
- **Adaptation**, reducing the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable countries
- **Technology development and transfer** to support action on mitigation and adaptation
- **Provision of financial resources and investment** to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation

What is expected from a new international agreement on climate change

- **Decisions on further commitments by developed country parties on emissions reductions in the second commitment period post-2012**
- **Significantly increased funding for mitigation and adaptation action for developing countries**

What would constitute success for the conservation sector?

- Reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (forest conservation, sustainable forest mgmt, enhancement of forest carbon stocks)
- Ecosystem-based adaptation forming part of national adaptation strategies and action plans
- Significantly enhanced flows of funding and eligibility of ecosystems (and protected area systems) as priorities for mitigation and adaptation funding

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)

- Focus on sustainable forest management
- Issues of baselines, measurement, additionality, leakage, permanence, markets
- Piloting and testing of REDD in progress
- Rights of indigenous peoples and local communities
- REDD+ conservation of tropical forests
- Eligibility and role of protected area systems in REDD
- Other carbon rich habitats

Where are we currently with REDD?

- revised text on means of implementation, safeguards and monitoring, reporting and verification.
- Parties continued to discuss financing; indigenous peoples' safeguards; safeguards on conversion of natural forest; and whether REDD-plus is a NAMA.
- Many parties said the text could be used as the basis for negotiations in Copenhagen.

Ecosystem-based adaptation

“Ecosystem-based adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Ecosystem-based adaptation uses the range of opportunities for the sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that enable people to adapt to the impacts of climate change.”

Report of the CBD’s Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on
Biodiversity and Climate Change

Promote resilient ecosystems

Maintain ecosystem services

Support sectoral adaptation

Reduce risks and disasters

Complement infrastructure

Avoid maladaptation



Apply ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation

Where are we with ecosystem-based adaptation?

Adaptation is a challenge shared by all countries....encompasses action to reduce vulnerability, minimize loss and damage and build the resilience of ecological and social systems and economic sectors to present and future adverse effects of climate change (Clause 1)

All parties [shall][should][may] undertake

- **Building resilience of ecological and social systems and economic sectors....integrating adaptation actions in sectoral and national planning....and the protection and sustainable management of natural resources and the goods and services they provide**

In the provision of support:

- Priority should be given to particularly vulnerable sectors, people, groups, communities and ecosystems

But the argument is all about numbers and commitments

- **Emissions reductions by developed countries**
- **Amounts and sources of finance for developing countries**
- **Nature of the legal agreement (two tracks)**



Opportunity is to show what can be done

- **REDD pilots**
- **Adaptation pilots**
- **Guidance and tools**
- **National commitments**

Promote resilient eco-systems

Maintain eco-system services

Support sectoral adaptation

Reduce risks and disasters

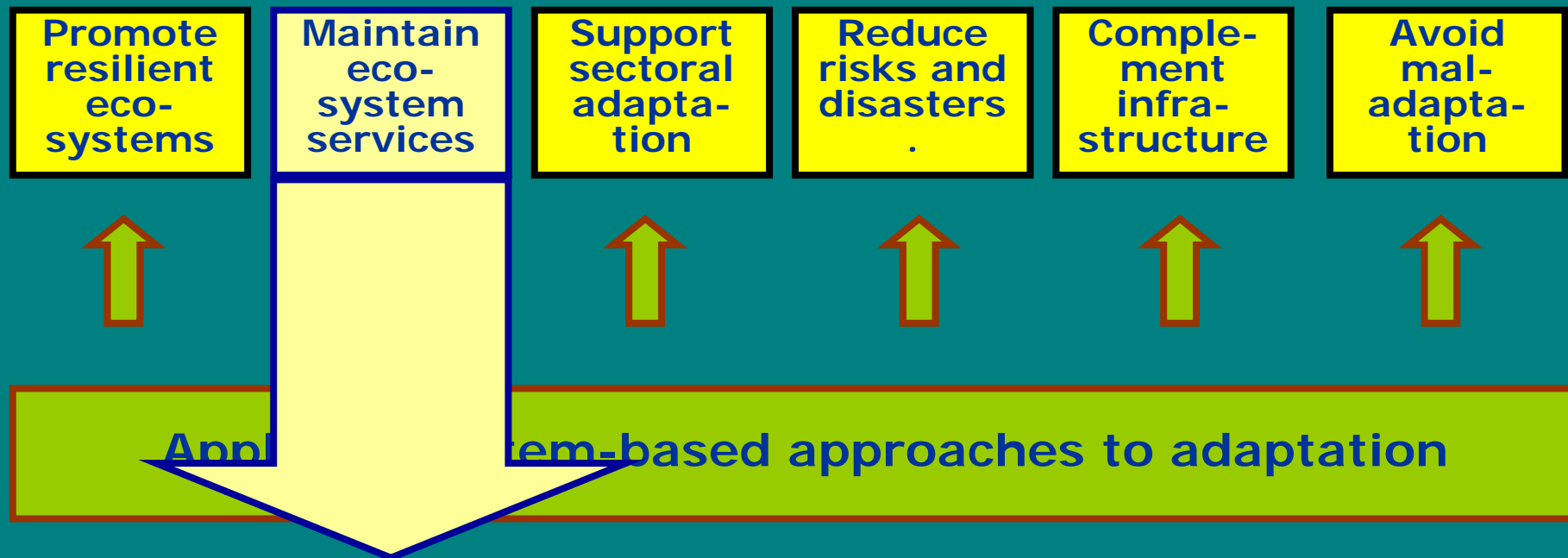
Complement infrastructure

Avoid mal-adaptation

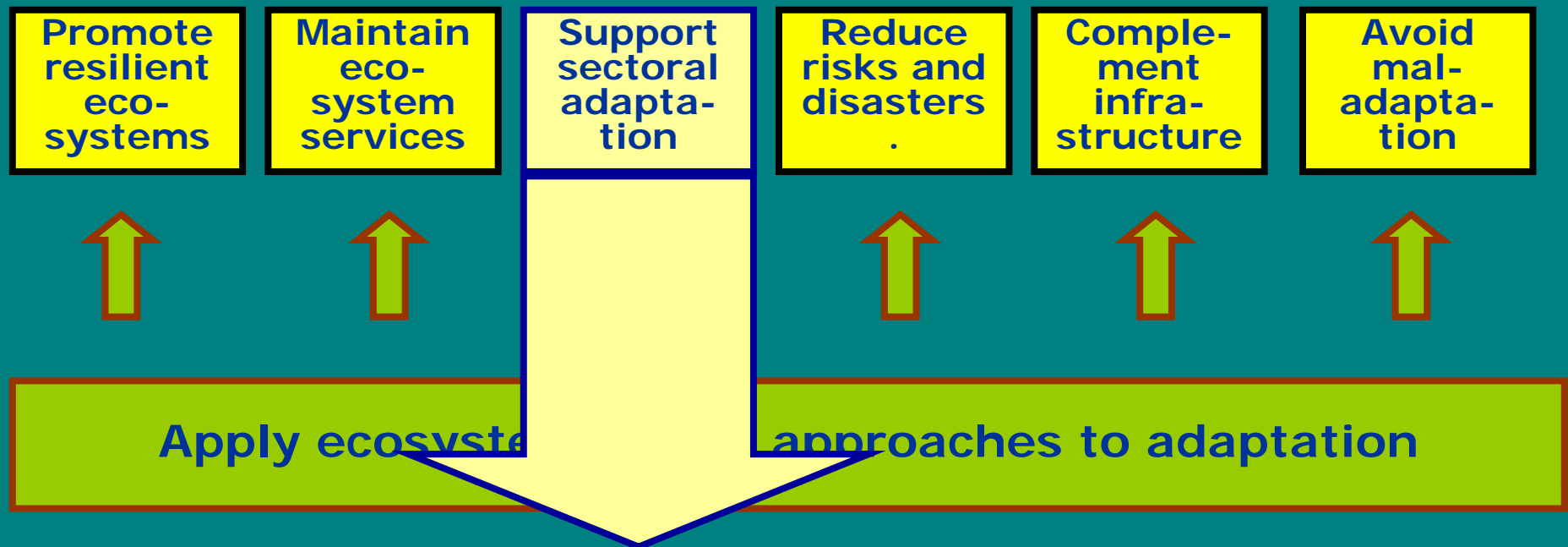


Apply ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation

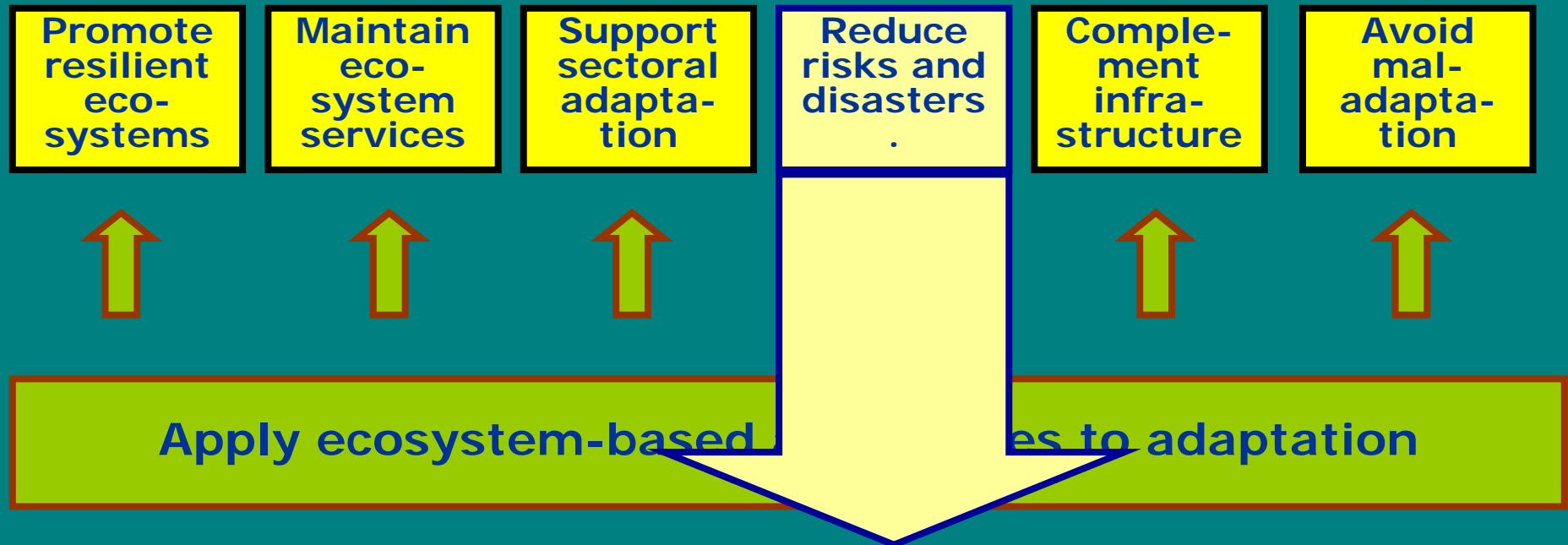
- Modeling of projected climate change
- Revised systematic conservation plans
- Revision of projected area system design
- Use of all PA governance types
- Involvement of local communities in restoration and management in PAs, buffer zones
- Adjusted management plans and programs



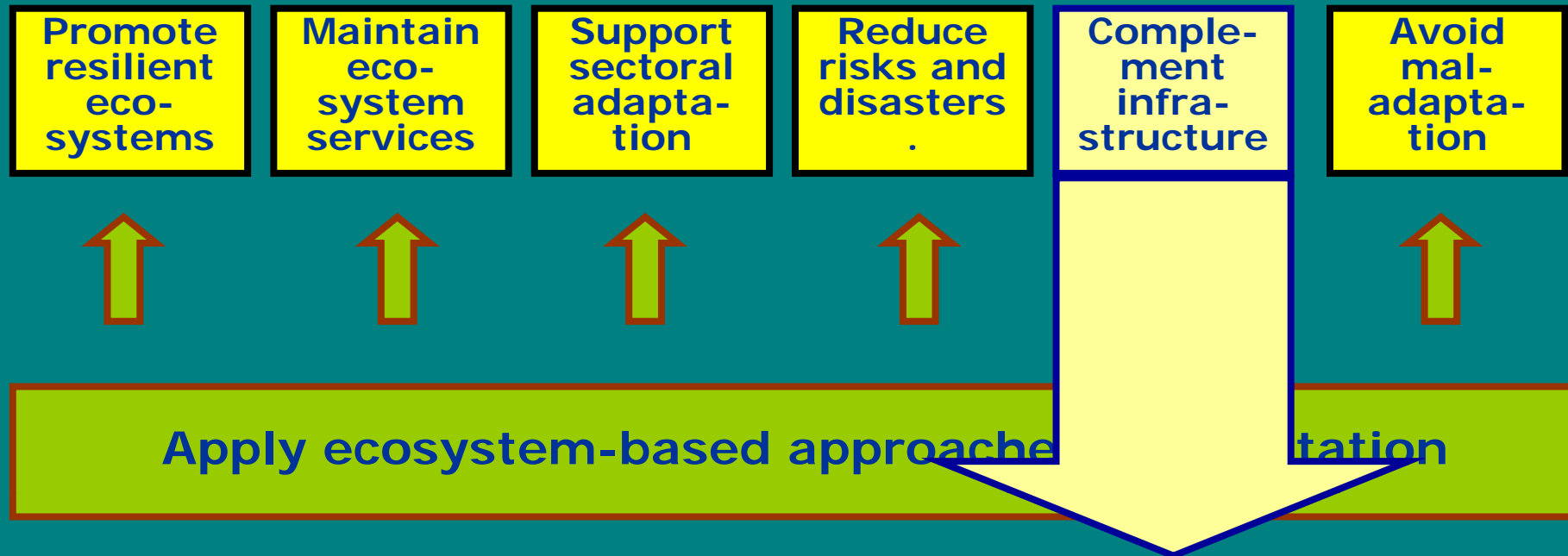
- Valuation of ecosystem services
- Assess impact of CC on ecosystem services
- Understand how users are affected
- Involve user communities in adaptation action involving ecosystem services



- Inclusion of ecosystem-based approaches in national adaptation plans;
- Incorporation of biodiversity into land-use management frameworks
- Influence sectoral development plans e.g. for agriculture or water production/adaptation
- Ensure adequacy of coastal zone management



- Restore key habitats that reduce vulnerability e.g. coastal wetlands, mangroves, forests on steep slopes
- Identify vulnerable communities and involve them in restoration efforts



- Maintain ecological flows in rivers – dam re-engineering
- Restoration of flood plains in for flood attenuation in addition to levees and berms;

Promote resilient ecosystems

Maintain ecosystem services

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Apply ecosystem-based approaches to adapt

- Improve impact assessment to deal with impacts of adaptation activities on the natural environment
- Avoid inadvertent impacts on natural ecosystems, communities

