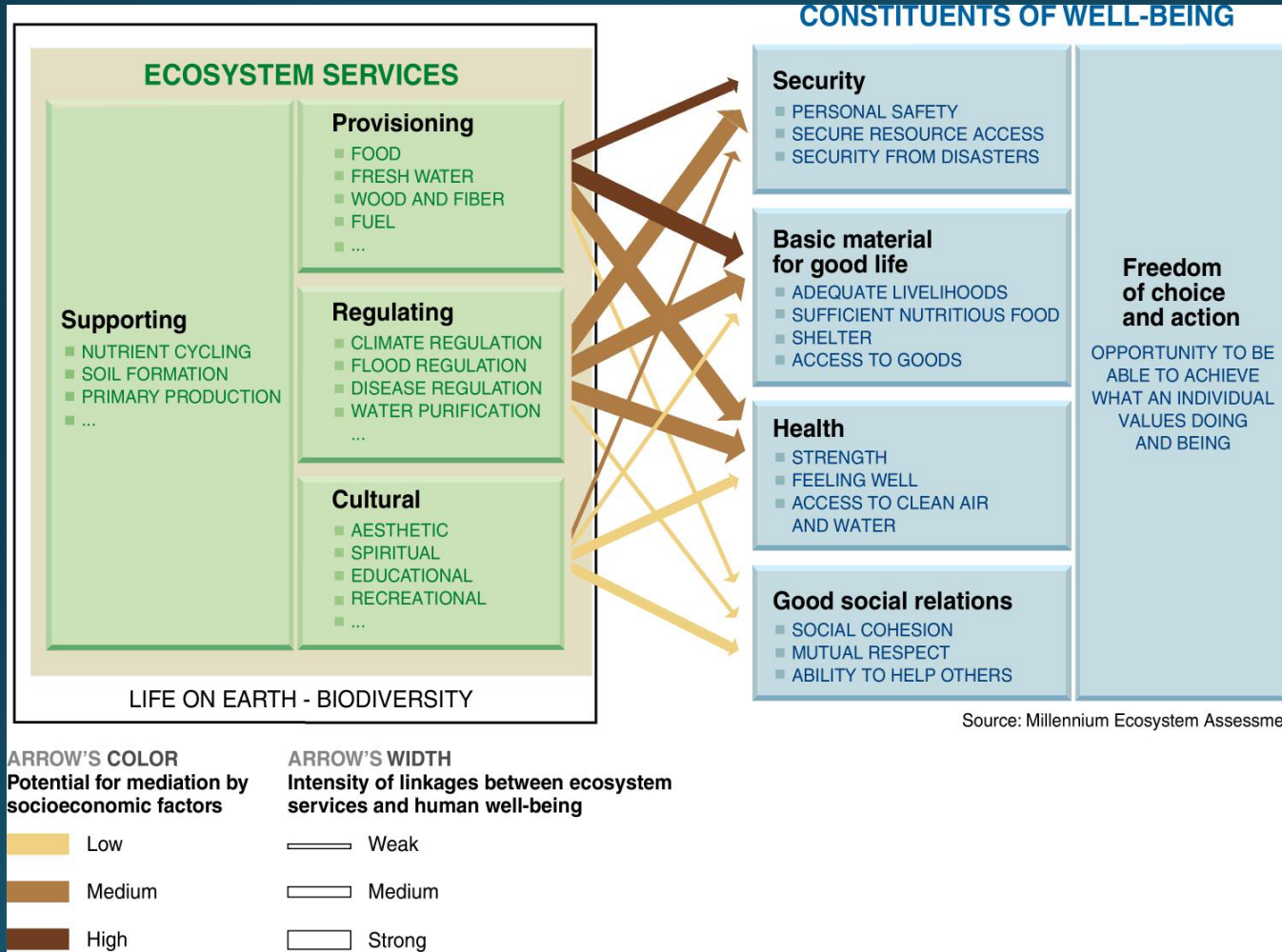Conor E Kretsch

Biocultural diversity & human well-being
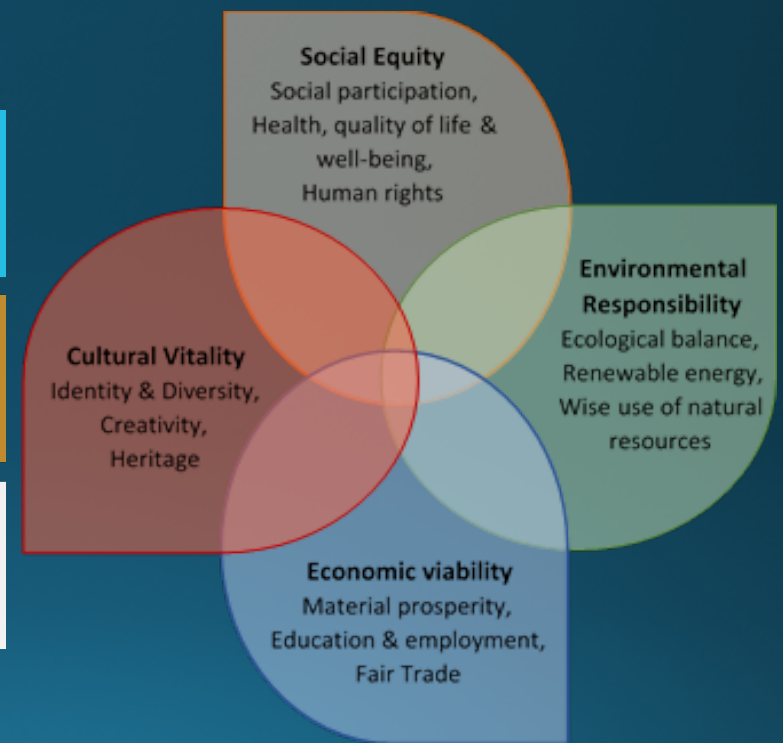
Linking nature & culture with social & psychological dimensions of health

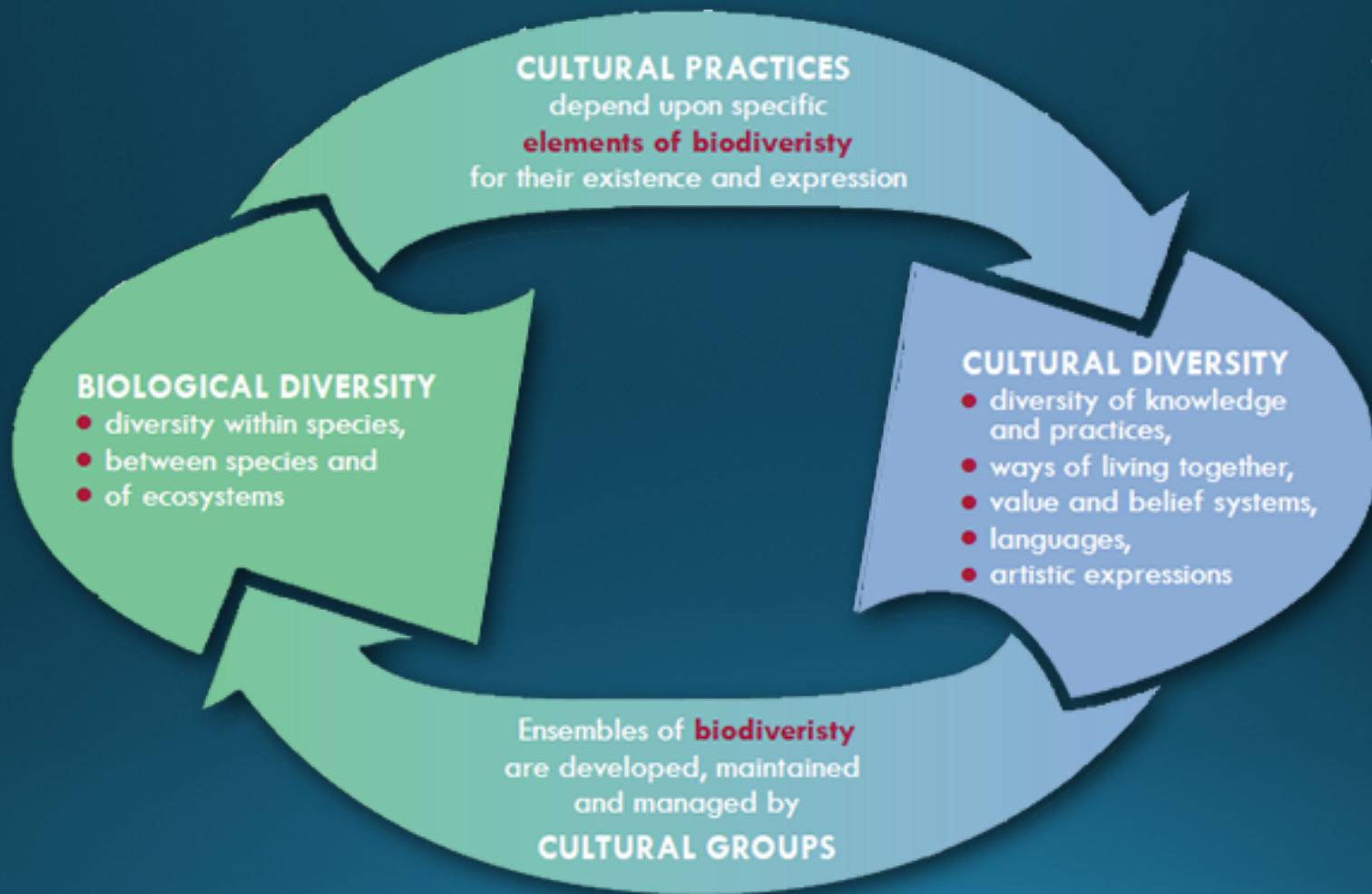CBD-WHO workshop, Helsinki, 22nd Oct 2017

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING

Provisioning
- FOOD
- FRESH WATER
- WOOD AND FIBER
- FUEL
- ...

Supporting
- NUTRIENT CYCLING
- SOIL FORMATION
- PRIMARY PRODUCTION
- ...

Regulating
- CLIMATE REGULATION
- FLOOD REGULATION
- DISEASE REGULATION
- WATER PURIFICATION
- ...

Cultural
- AESTHETIC
- SPIRITUAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- RECREATIONAL
- ...

LIFE ON EARTH - BIODIVERSITY

Security
- PERSONAL SAFETY
- SECURE RESOURCE ACCESS
- SECURITY FROM DISASTERS

Basic material for good life
- ADEQUATE LIVELIHOODS
- SUFFICIENT NUTRITIOUS FOOD
- SHELTER
- ACCESS TO GOODS

Health
- STRENGTH
- FEELING WELL
- ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER

Good social relations
- SOCIAL COHESION
- MUTUAL RESPECT
- ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS

Freedom of choice and action
OPPORTUNITY TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL VALUES DOING AND BEING

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors
- Low
- Medium
- High

ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being
- Weak
- Medium
- Strong

Cultural as the fourth pillar

(Bio)cultural Diversity

- Languages / linguistic diversity
- Material culture
- Local, traditional & indigenous knowledge, technology & innovation
- Modes of subsistence
- Social & economic relations
- Belief systems
- Values

CULTURAL PRACTICES
depend upon specific
elements of biodiveristy
for their existence and expression

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
● diversity within species,
● between species and
● of ecosystems

CULTURAL DIVERSITY
● diversity of knowledge and practices,
● ways of living together,
● value and belief systems,
● languages,
● artistic expressions

Ensembles of **biodiveristy**
are developed, maintained
and managed by
CULTURAL GROUPS

Courtesy Ana Persic UNESCO / John Scott SCBD

Cultural context of healthcare

- "re-engaging public health with the full complexity of subjective, lived experience and opening the door to a more systematic engagement with the cultural contexts of health and well-being"

- a more "people-centred, whole-of-society" approach to health policy, research and practice

- Necessarily requires consideration of biocultural connections

Cultural Contexts of Health and Well-being

Policy brief, No. 1

Principal author and editor
A. David Napier

Co-authors
Michael Depledge, Michael Knipper,
Rebecca Lovell, Eduard Ponarin,
Emilia Sanabria, Felicity Thomas

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Culture matters:
using a cultural contexts of health approach to enhance policy-making

Cultural Competence in Health Care

- Understanding the importance of cultural influences on patients' health beliefs and behaviours

- Considering how these factors interact at multiple levels of the health care delivery system

- Devising interventions that take these issues into account to ensure "health for all" – meeting needs of diverse patient populations

Increasing Socio-cultural diversity

- Ageing populations
- Increasing childlessness
- Increasing inward migration, Growing refugee populations
- Growing awareness and representation for minorities and marginalised groups
- Growing diversity of voiced opinion
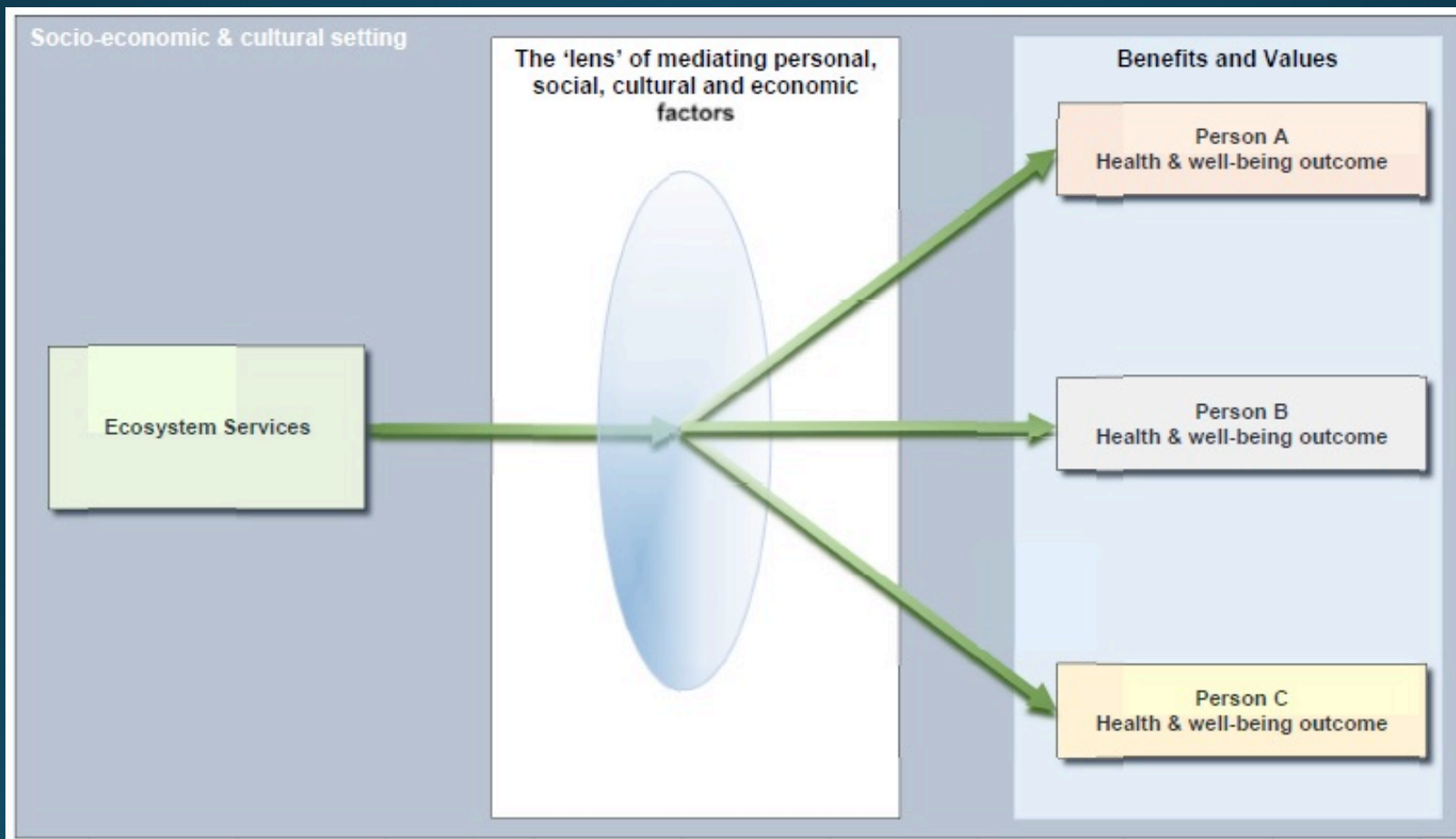- Growing biocultural diversity
- Hetero / Homogeneity in future….?

Clinical Cultural Barriers

- Occur when socio-cultural differences between patient and provider are not fully accepted, explored or understood

- Patients may have diverse socio-culturally-based health beliefs

- Diverse approaches to medical practice – home remedies, varying trust of medical professionals

- Diverse views on health risks or benefits of natural environment

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
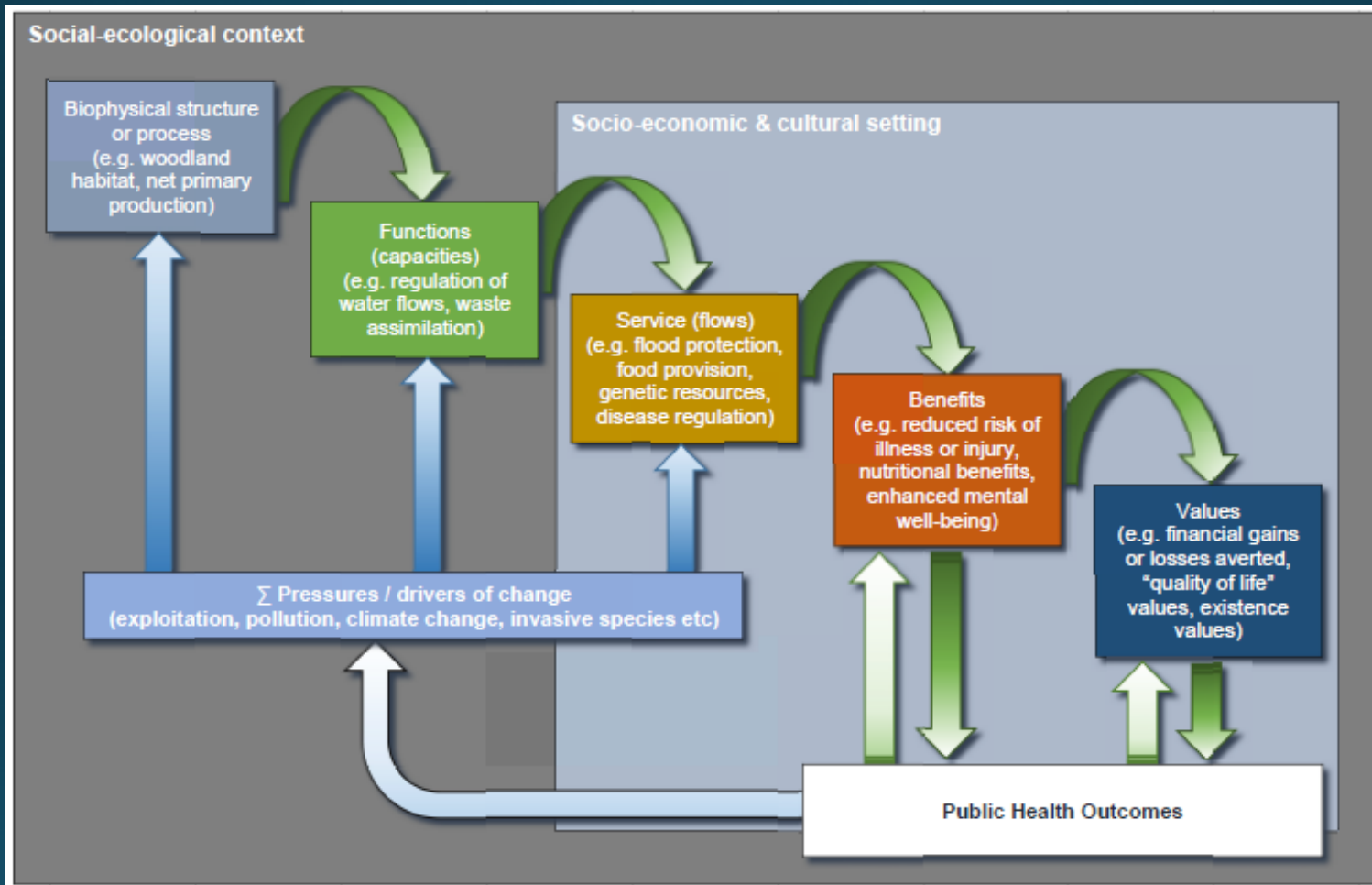
Kretsch et al, 2018 (in rev), after Potschin & Haines-Young, 2010

Kretsch et al, 2018 (in rev)

Biocultural diversity & health

- Biocultural diversity underpins practices and beliefs for many communities
- May be particularly important for communities with specific social dependence on living resources
- Biodiversity-culture relationships can be harnessed to address some social and psychological disorders
- Endemism - environmental values – sense of place – attitudes and behaviour
- "Biocultural dislocation" can have profound negative social and psychological impacts

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23 January 2011 Last updated at 11:00

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Celebrities voice opposition to forests privatisation

Several public figures, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Dame Judi Dench, have urged the government not to sell off England's forests.

Nearly 90 signed a Save England's Forests letter claiming such a sale would be "misjudged and short-sighted".

It said a bill being debated by MPs would allow the sale of the entire public forest estate.

The government said its plans "will not compromise the protection of our most valuable and biodiverse forests".

A public consultation begins later this week and a bill to enable the sale is due to go before the House of Lords.

The state currently owns 18% of forests and woodland in England;

The state currently owns 18% of forests and woodland in England

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Do we pity the environment?

Forests privatisation 'opposed'
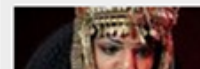
Biocultural dislocation

- Forced migration and displacement
- Loss of access to local community networks
- Separation from sense of place and identity associated with local landscape and biodiversity
- Loss of access to agrobiodiversity resources and separation from associated culinary and social traditions
- Separation from traditional approaches to health care

Living resource use by immigrants

- Pre- and post transit
- Tied with sense of agency, self-determination
- Use of food and medicinal plants sourced from home countries / regions
- Possibility of replacement with local varieties?
- Substitution of new ecosystems / ecosystem services for home landscape features?
- Impacts on social cohesion; Routes for social integration?

No "nature-based solution" ?

- Access to greenspace does not alone deliver health benefits
- Perceptions of safety, belonging, distance – correlate with socio-economic status and cultural background
- Use of greenspace limited for marginalised and disenfranchised groups, communities in deprivation
- Social dislocation impacts on nature-culture relationships

Thank you!

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