IPBES
Goals. Challenges, Opportunities

And the Regional Assessments

What is it and why was it established?

- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Modeled on IPCC for similar science challenges
  - Questions fundamentally complex
  - Literature large but lack of consensus on many important points
  - Challenges are global, as are drivers
  - Policy options require large scale and small scale actions
- 129 States are now Parties, and growing
  - Nine new members between 2017 and 2018 Plenaries

What are the core science questions?

- Are we actually losing biodiversity on global and regional scales?
- If so, does it matter to human well-being (and in what ways)?
- What are the drivers of the changes?
- What are policy options to address the drivers?

Conceptual framework in papers by Diaz and coauthors

- Chapter structure of assessments reflects logic
  - Framing of the assessment,
  - Status and trend in Human well-being, Biodiversity, Drivers,
  - Scenarios, Policy options
  - SUMMARY for POLICY MAKERS

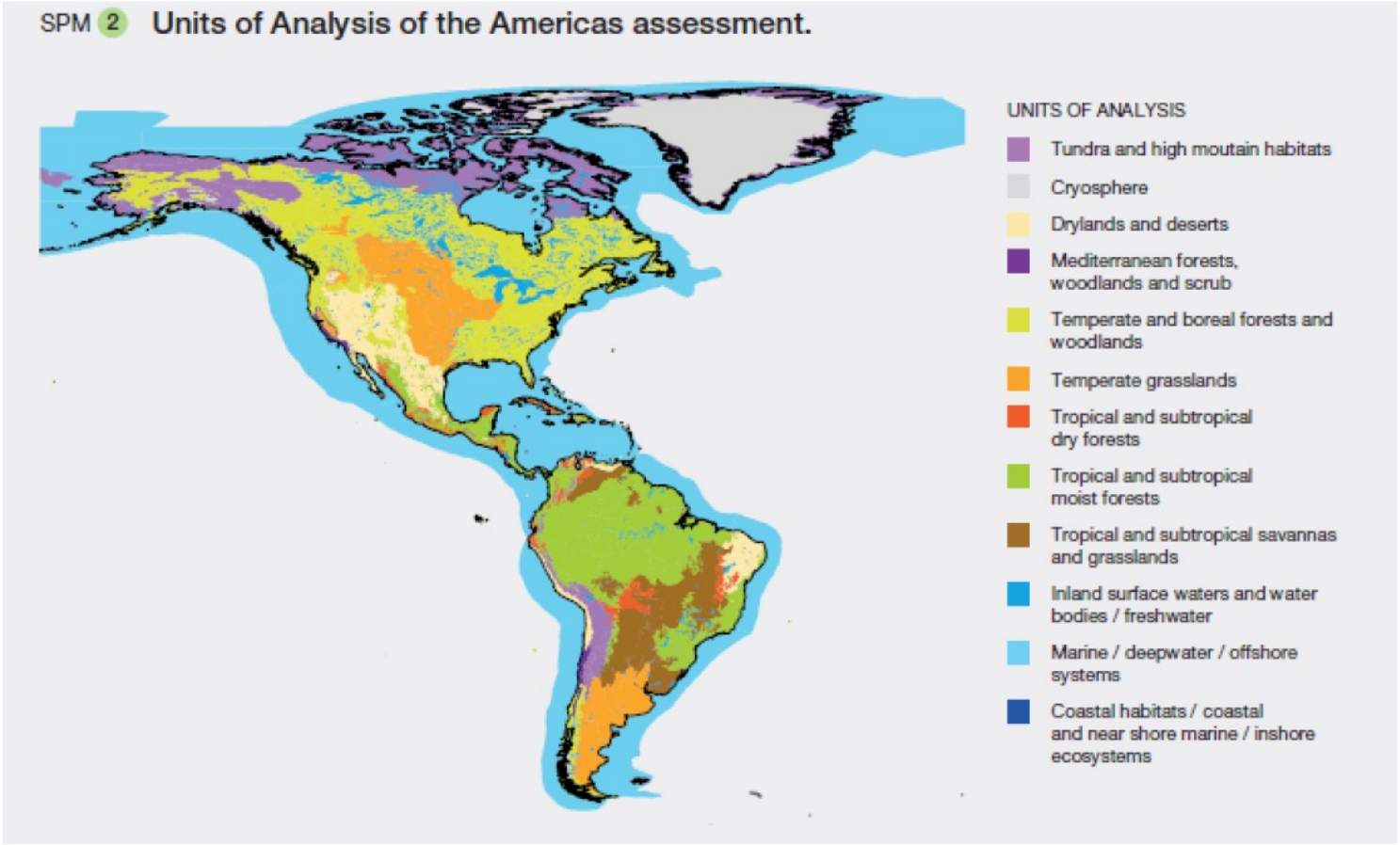
What makes IPBES assessments novel and challenging?

- Commitment to make extensive use of Indigenous and Local Knowledge as complete and equally legitimate knowledge systems – and then actually DOING IT.
- Commitment to reflect plurality of worldviews in interpretation of findings AND DOING IT.
- What's been achieved
  - Thematic assessment on Pollinators (Feb 2016)
  - Four Regional Assessments (March 2017)
  - Thematic Assessment on Land Degradation "

Americas regional assessment

- Who?
  - Co-chairs : Jake Rice, Cristiana Seixas, Maria Elena Zaccagnini
  - CLAs and LAs - 115 experts with around 75 truly active,
  - TSU and Central Secretariat
  - Management Committee from MEP & Bureau
- 30 Months of effort
  - First Order Draft – expert review with ~750 comments
  - SOD ~ 6300 comments (individual responses)
  - Final Version + SPM (9-12 drafts for final version+negotiation)
- From Arctic to Patagonia, including Caribbean
  - 140 deg of latitude. Coast to 2nd highest mountain chain, Huge cultural and economic diversity

Figure SPM.2
Units of analysis of the Americas assessment

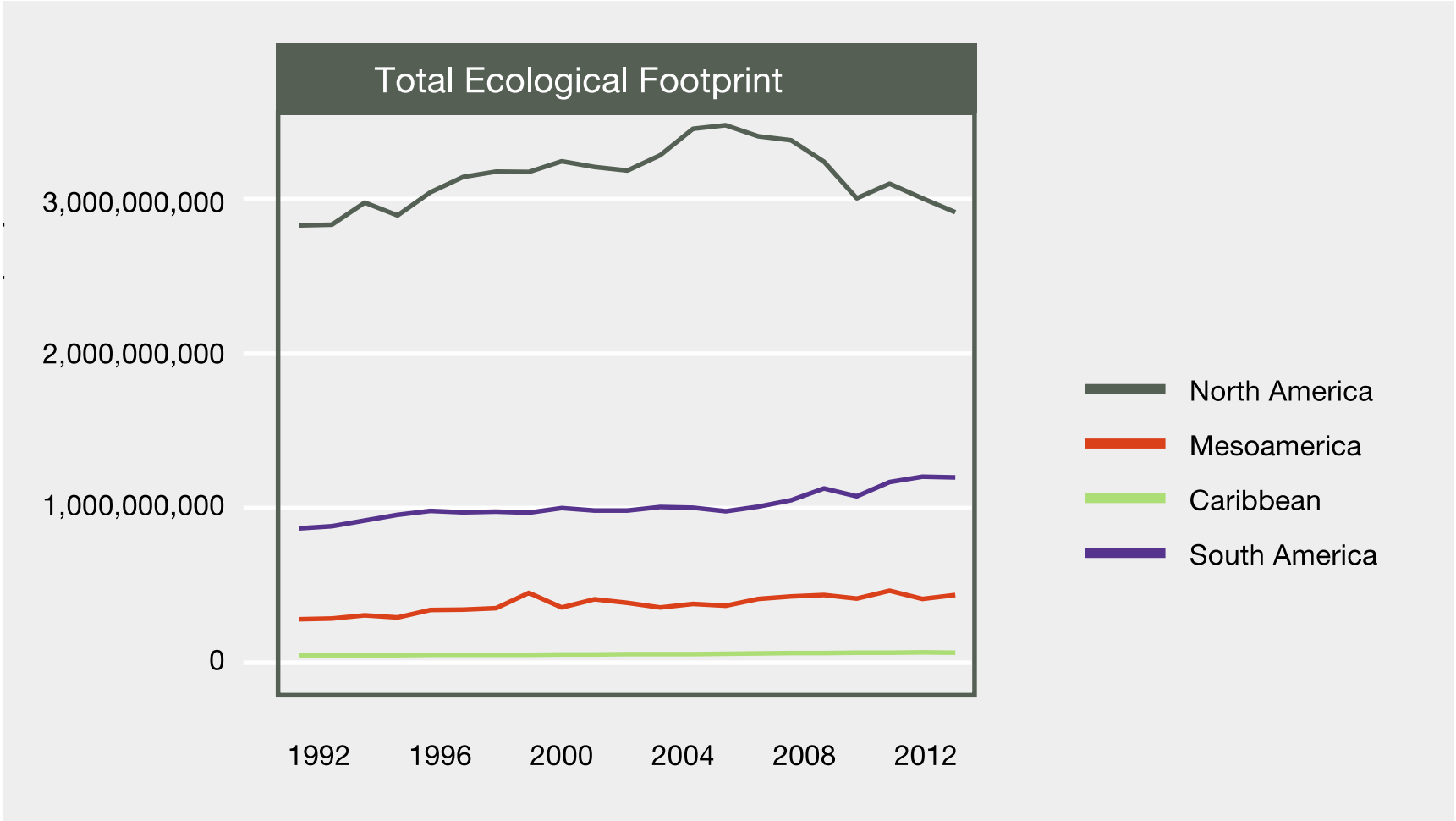


Americas Findings: Challenges

- 40% 0f Global Bio-capacity, with 13 % of the global human population produces 22.8% of the global ecological footprint of humankind. (65% in NA)
- Rate of use places Nature-based securities under pressure: Food: Water:, Energy: Health: Culture:
- Causes
  - Unsustainable rates of consumption
  - Decoupling of lifestyles from local habitats and direct degradation of the environment erode sense of place, language and local ecological knowledge, compromising cultural continuity.
- Tipping points are being approached.

Ecological footprints DO grow and the footprints CAN change

Total ecological footprint per subregion in the Americas between 1992 to 2012.



Source: Global Footprint Network, 2017

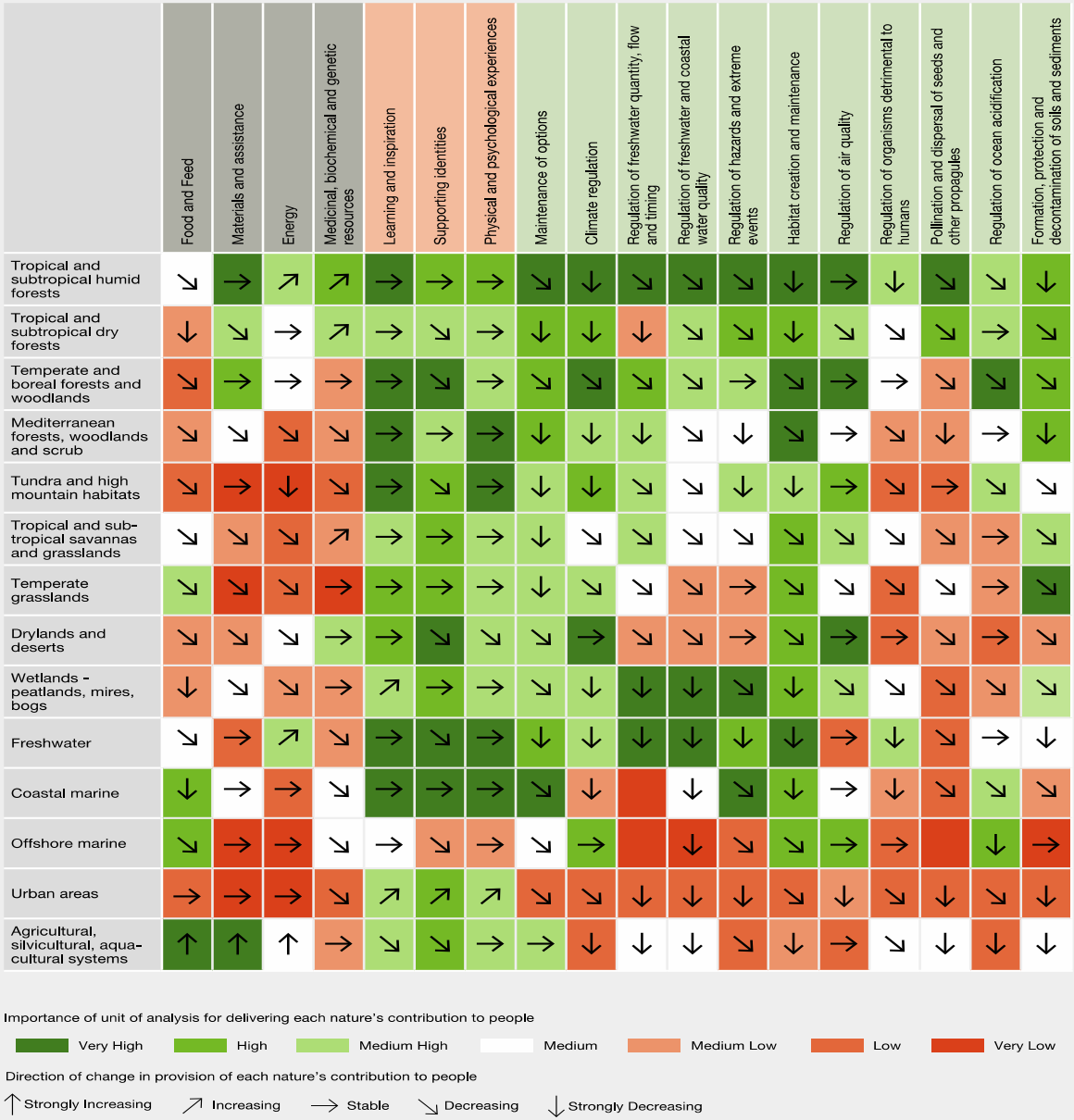
Findings: Trends of concern in biodiversity

- 65 % of NCP in all units of analysis are declining, with 21% declining strongly.
- Compared to pre-European settlement, reductions of
  - 95 % of tall-grass prairie in NA;
  - 72 % and 66 % of tropical dry forest in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, respectively;
  - 88 % of the South American Atlantic tropical forest,
  - 70 % of the Rio de la Plata grasslands,
  - 50 % of the tropical savanna
  - 50 % of the Mediterranean forest,
  - 34 % of the Dry Chaco
  - 17 % of the Amazon forest

  Have all been transformed to human-dominated landscapes

- And these increasing pressures are having impacts on ability of all Units of Analysis to provide NCP;

- Particularly material NCP people use directly and some regulating NCP we depend on indirectly.



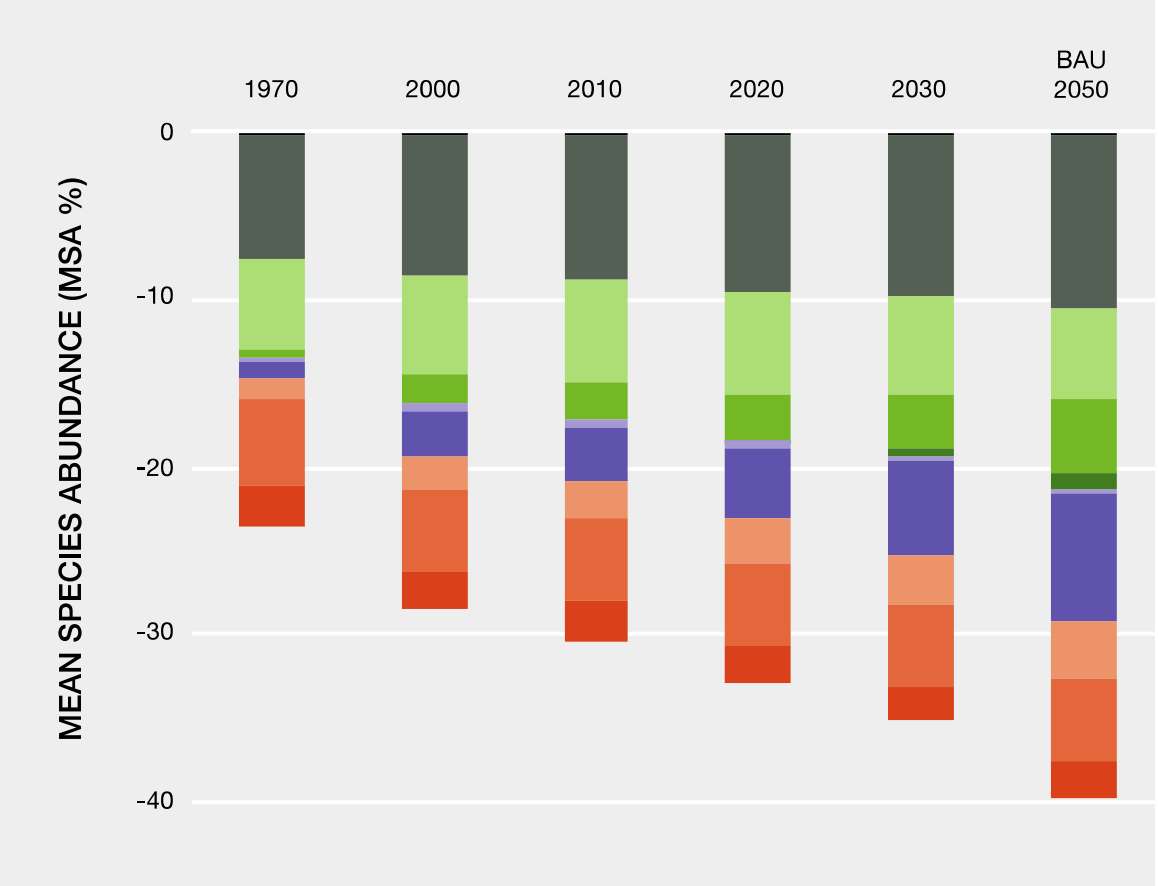
What are the Drivers of Loss

- Main INDIRECT Drivers of losses
  - Unsustainable patterns of economic growth
  - Weaknesses in the governance systems
  - Population and demographic trends
  - Inequity
- Main DIRECT Drivers of loss
  - Habitat degradation and fragmentation: ***
    - Land conversion, agricultural intensification, urbanization and other new infrastructure;
  - Overexploitation/overharvesting
  - Climate Change
- Includes consequences of each driver

Findings: Where will the status quo take us (projections circa 2050)?

- Population increase by 20 % to 1.2 billion and the GDP increase nearly 2X.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices and climate change to be major drivers of degradation.
- Multiple drivers will interact, often in synergistic ways.
- Consequence - Further increase in biodiversity loss, reduction in ecosystems' resilience and the provision of present levels of NCP.

Pressures driving biodiversity loss in the Americas.



Source: PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, 2012 and 2014.

Findings: What are alternative pathways and outcomes?

- Large-scale technologically-optimal solutions
- Decentralized governance solutions
- Consumption change solutions
  - All feature pathways to climate change mitigation, the expansion of protected areas and the recovery of abandoned lands

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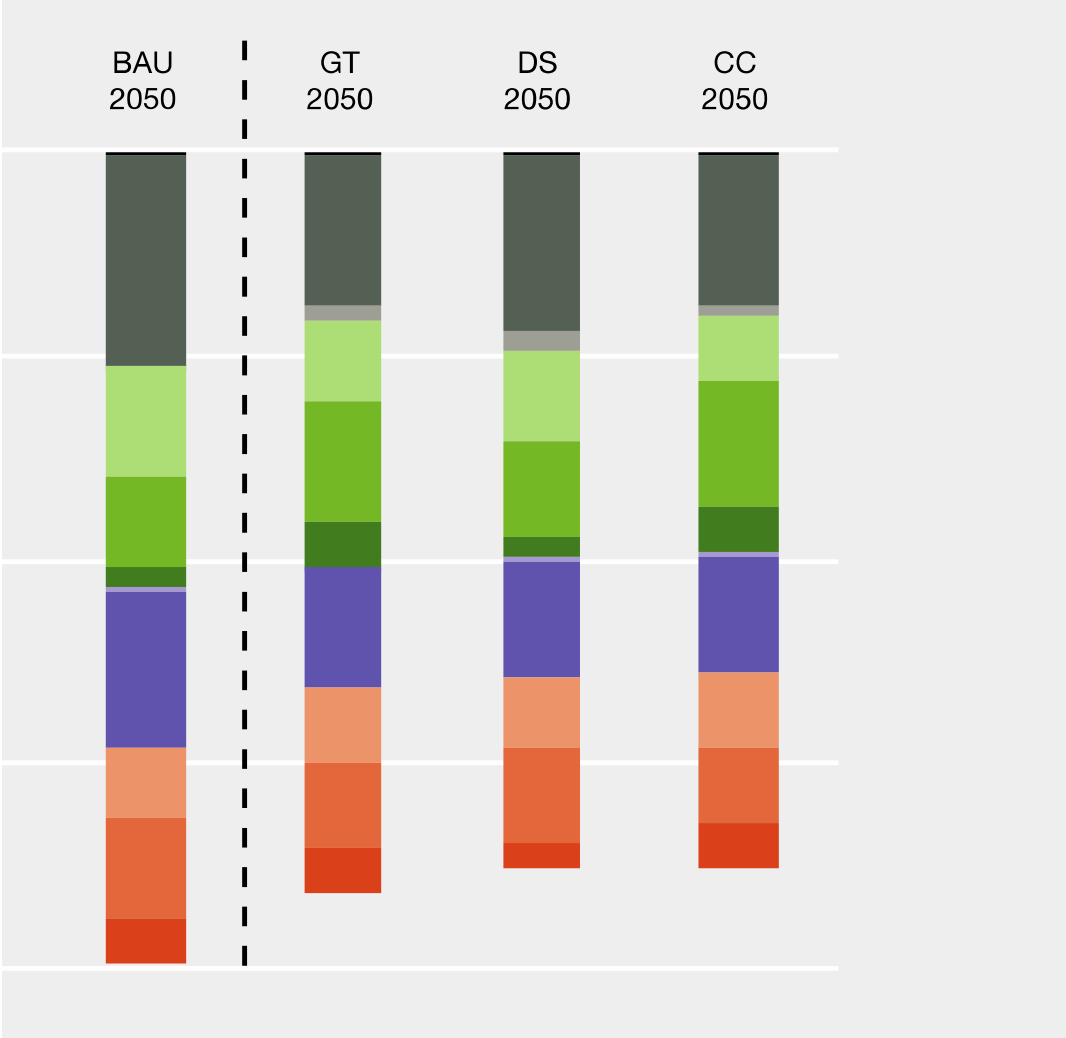

Source: PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, 2012 and 2014.

Findings and Conclusions : The Future

- What initiatives are making a difference currently?
  - An increase in protected areas
  - Ecological restoration projects
  - Strategies for making human-dominated landscapes (supportive of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people are essential
- What options are available for progress
  - take into account short and long-term trade-offs, telecoupling and leakage and spillover effects on many scales.
  - Mainstreaming the environment effectively into economic and social development sectors.
  - No single governance approach including mixed governance systems
  - Behavioural change, individual – corporate – community – State
  - TABULATION of instruments and performance

The oceans and coastal coverage was VERY WEAK

- Where was the marine expert community?
  - Nomination of experts by national focal points
- WHY IT MATTERS TO GET ENGAGED
  - Global synthesis is covering high seas
  - Sustainable use of natural resources (start 2019)
- HOW TO ENGAGE
  - Make yourself and interest known to national focal points,
  - Get your marine and coastal Ministries aware