



*The European Union's
Thematic Strategy on the
Sustainable Use of Natural Resources*

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Natural resources



RAW MATERIALS
Minerals-fuels
Biomass



LAND (USE)

FLOWS
Solar
Wind
Tidal



MEDIA
Air
Soil
Water

What is the Issue ?

Extraction:
16 tons

Growing technosphere

**10 tons material to physical stock;
Large areas to urbanisation,
infrastructure, farming ...**

Disposal:
6 tons

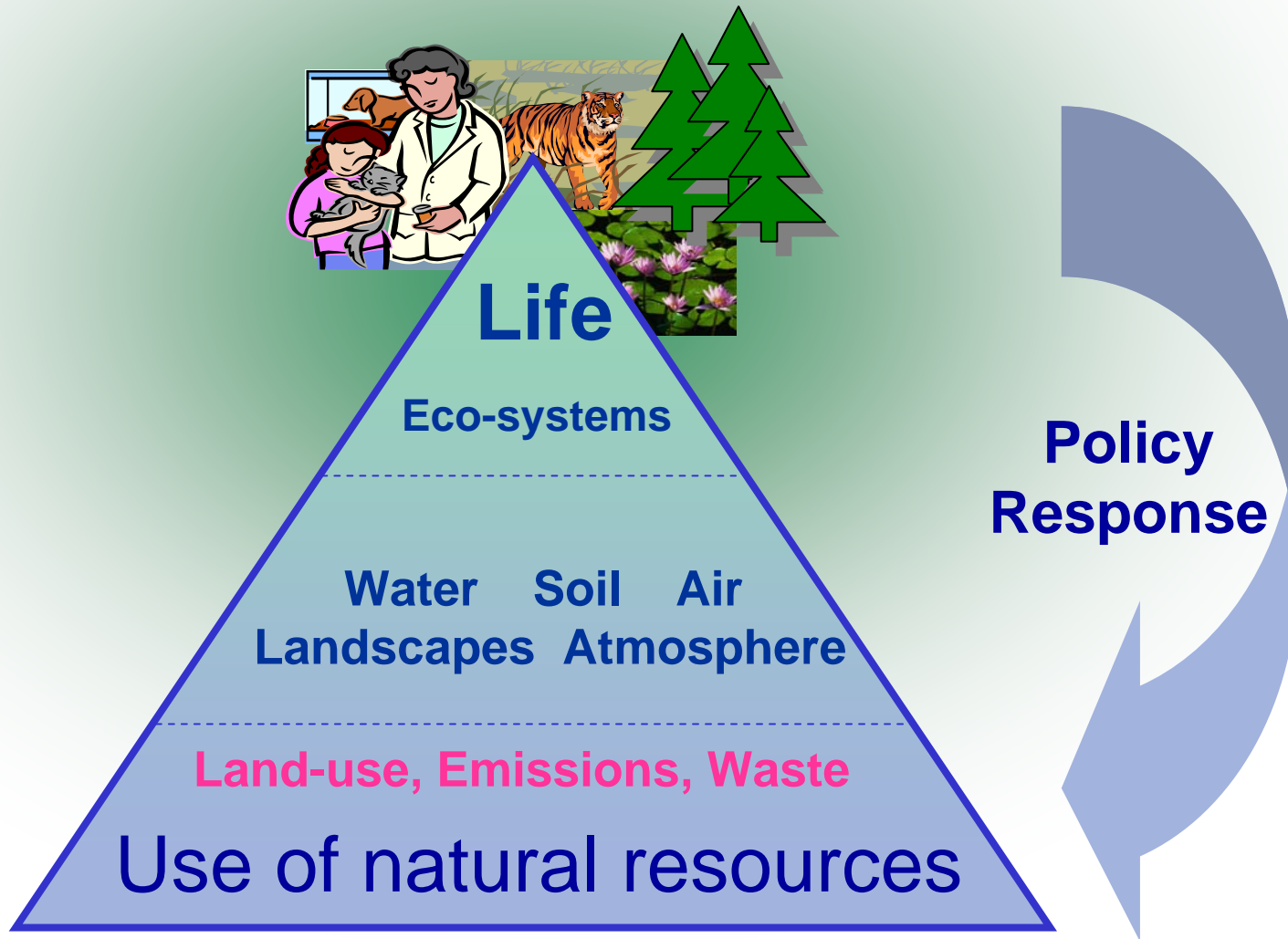
Source

Sink



Threats to ecosystem services !

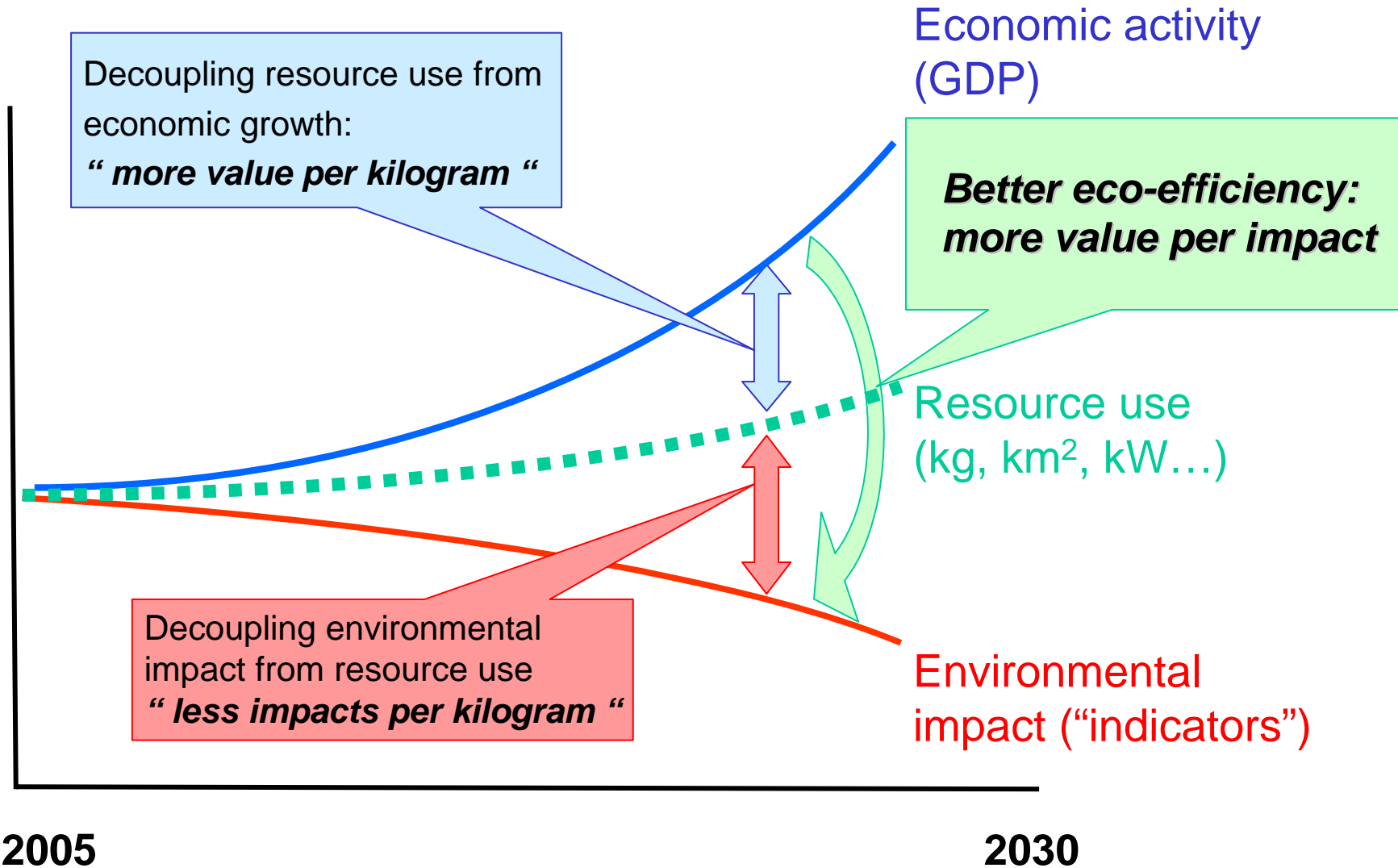
Resource Use - D P S I R





Objective:

Decouple Impact from Growth

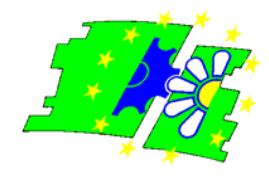




Strategic Tools for Policy Development

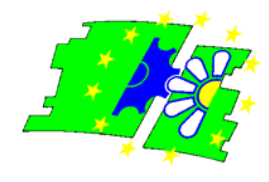


1. Global dimension: **International Panel**
2. Member States: **High Level Forum**
3. Economic Sectors: **Sector Initiatives**
4. Knowledge-Base: **Data Centre**
5. Progress Monitoring: **Impact Indicator(s)**



Global dimension: International Expert Panel

- Goals:
 - Provide independent advice
 - Contribute to knowledge base
 - Provide capacity building in developing countries
- UNEP (Trust Fund from COM, others)
- Calendar: Set up in 2006



MS involvement: High Level Forum

- Goals:
 - National measures and programmes
 - National monitoring mechanisms
 - National targets where possible
- Facilitator: High Level Forum
- Calendar: Set up in 2006/2007



Building the knowledge base: Data Centre

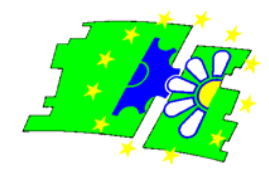
- Goals:
 - To bring together available information
 - To monitor and analyse it
 - To provide policy-makers relevant information
- EUROSTAT (with DG ENV, JRC, EEA)
- Calendar: Established at ESTAT in 2006



Measuring progress: Indicator development



- Goals:
 - Measuring progress
 - Help identifying priorities
 - Inform target setting
- EUROSTAT (with DG ENV, JRC, EEA)
- Calendar: launched 2006, results 2008



MS involvement: High Level Forum

- Goals:
 - National measures and programmes
 - National monitoring mechanisms
 - National targets where possible
- Facilitator: High Level Forum
- Calendar: Set up Forum in 2006



High-level Political Buy-in



- Commission / European Council in **Sustainable Development Strategy** (June 2006):
“avoid overexploitation of renewable resources, apply life-cycle thinking, break link between growth and environmental degradation; build on the EU Strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources”
- Council of Environment Ministers "**welcomes the Commission's communication**" (October 2006).
- OECD, Basel Convention and others adopt **life-cycle impact** concept



One Step further: “Resources meet Products”



- EU Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan in 2007
 - **the Resource Strategy serves as conceptual framework**
 - **the Action Plan focuses on specific measures**
- Preliminary ideas for the SCP Action Plan
 - **Extension of eco-design legislation**
 - **Green private procurement**
- Focus on most damaging areas:
 - **Food & drink; Housing (e.g. buildings); Transport**

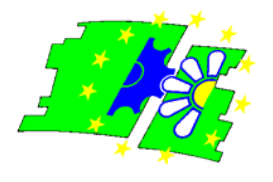


The Way Ahead



- The Strategy defines a **long-term concept** and an **overarching objective** for future resource policy
- It offers **strategic tools and orientation** for policy development
- Challenges:
 - ✓ **Achieve full understanding of impact decoupling**
 - ✓ **Integrate this approach into other relevant policies**
 - ✓ **Turn life-cycle impact thinking into concrete measures**

*The Communication is not the end but the
beginning of a process*



Thank you for your attention

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<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/natres/index.htm>