

How we depend on biodiversity

Human wellbeing is critically dependent upon biodiversity – in more ways than economic assessments currently demonstrate.

Wellbeing

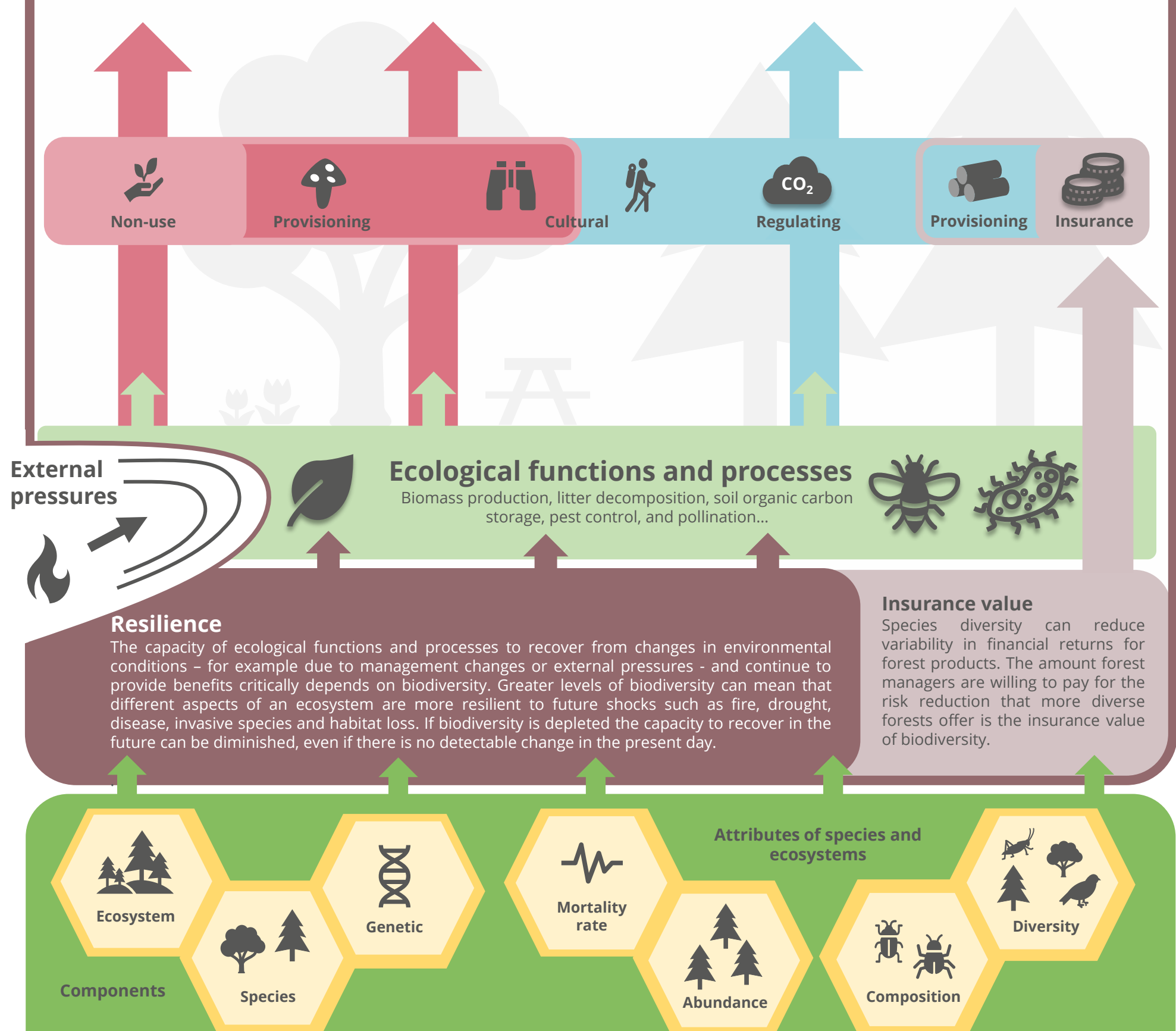
For a fuller view of the contribution of biodiversity to human wellbeing, economic assessment has to value the outcomes (direct benefits, including non-use values) *and* account for the associated dependencies (indirect benefits, resilience and insurance values) on biodiversity.

Direct contribution to wellbeing

Nature-based recreation, foraging/wild foods, appreciation of natural landscapes and the positive contributions of all this to our physical and mental health, as well as **non-use values** for the protection of plants and animals for their own sake, and for the benefit of other people now and in the future.

Indirect contribution to wellbeing

Contributions to the production of physical goods traded in markets (e.g. timber) and services that are not (e.g. air quality). The scale of the contribution and aspects of biodiversity that matter most vary across goods, services and locations.



Biodiversity is the variety, abundance and genetic make-up of plants (trees, grasses, ferns, lichens, and mosses), fungi, and animals (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects). It is multi-dimensional including 'genetic diversity' (the variety of genes within a particular species), 'species diversity' (the variety of species within a habitat or area), and 'ecosystem diversity' (the variety of ecosystems within a given area, including the communities of organisms within it). Further dimensions include species richness, abundance and distribution, functional traits (e.g. predator vs. prey), tropic position (food chain level), and role in ecosystem processes.