

Adaptive capacity: From assessment to action in social-ecological systems



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Adaptive Capacity

“The latent potential to respond to change”

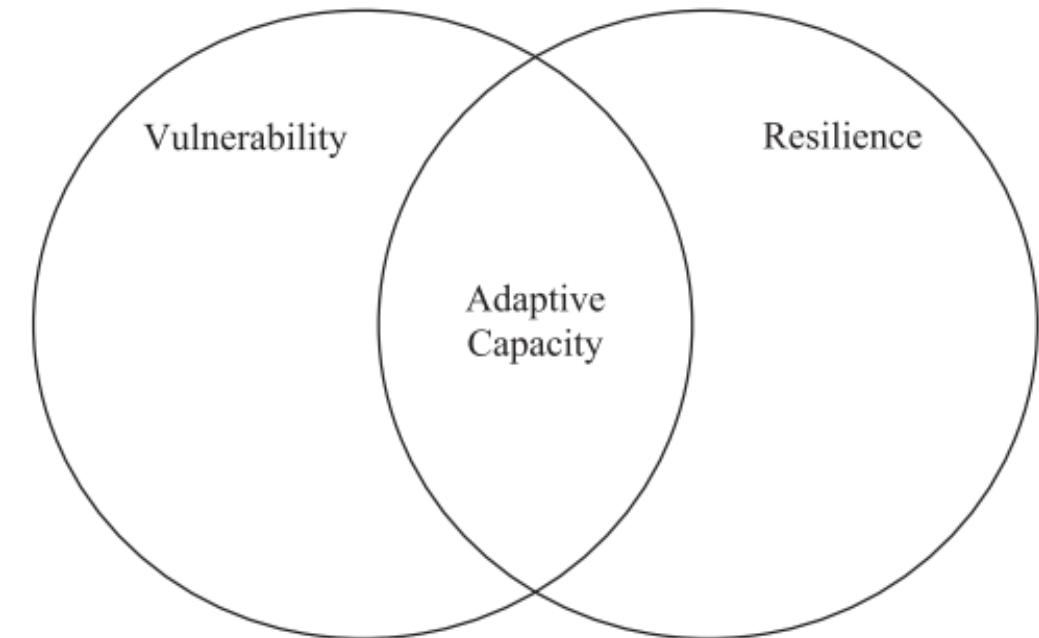


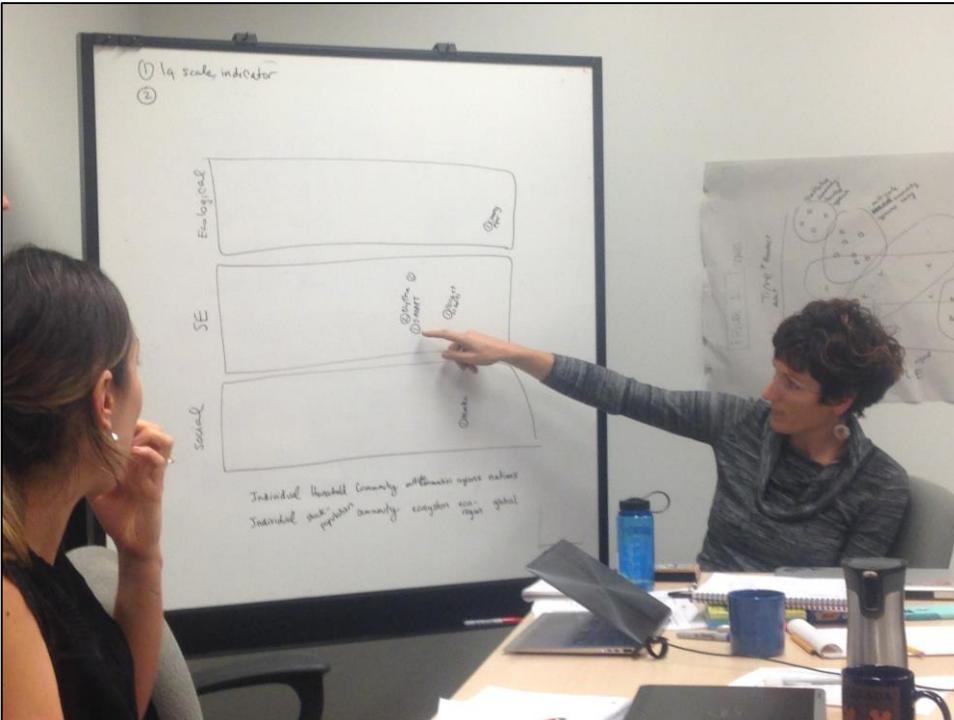
“The central research theme that runs throughout ... is the interaction of human societies and ocean ecosystems with environmental and social change and their **capacity to deal with, and adapt to, the impacts of this change**”

“We considered that an examination of social and ecological systems, including the **capacity of these systems to adapt** to the impacts of multiple drivers of change (e.g., climate change, pollution, globalization) and their resilience was a critical need with respect to the future of oceans and coastal regions in the country.”

Adaptive capacity assessments

- Numerous approaches for analysis
- Different:
 - Applications
 - Scales
 - Methods
 - Measures
 - Temporal orientations
 - Strengths and drawbacks
 - Attention to AC of social or ecological systems
 - Attention to slow or rapid change
 - Insights and solutions
 - Implications for communities
- Results – Different? Practicable?
- Relevant? Feasible?
Implementation?





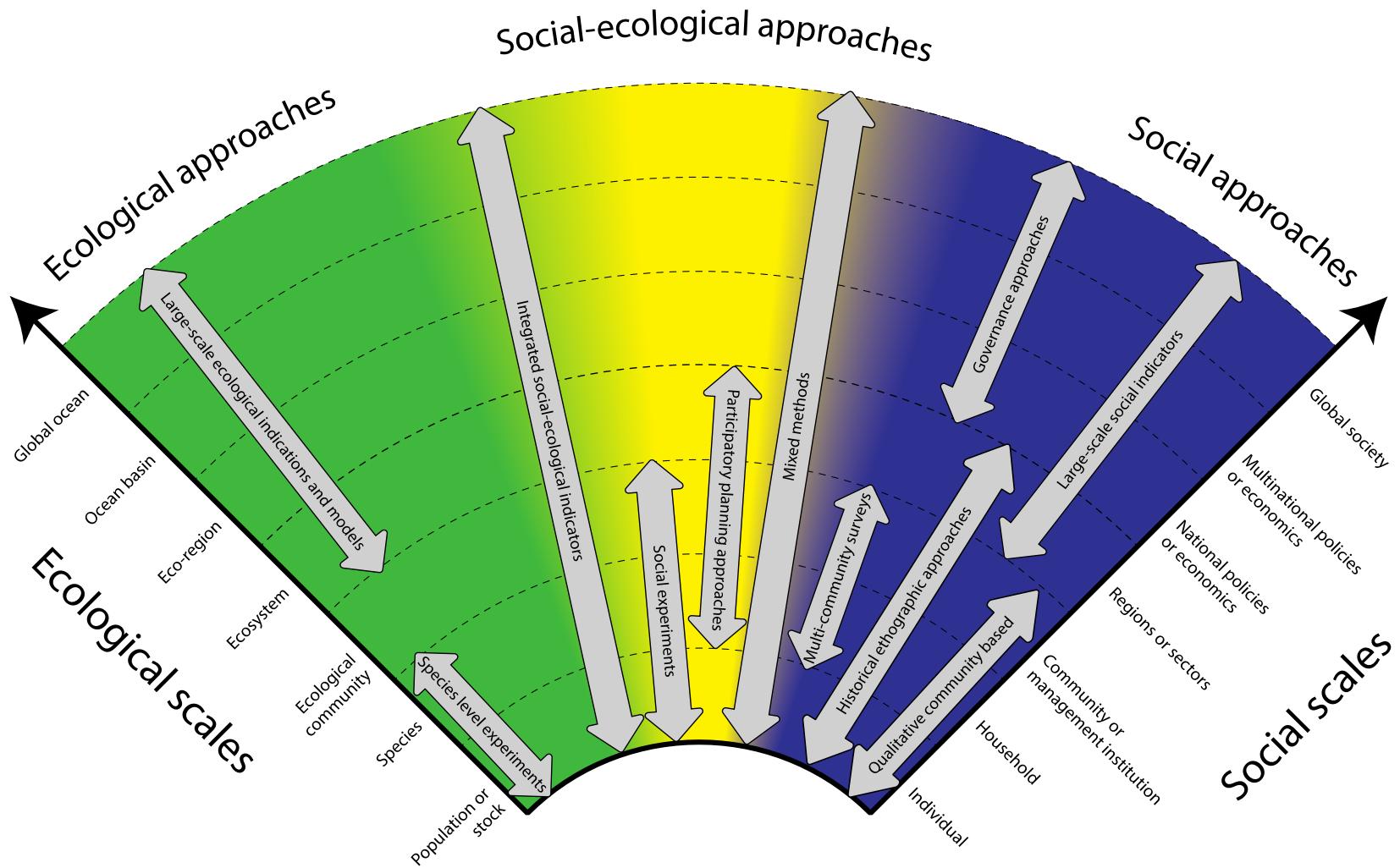
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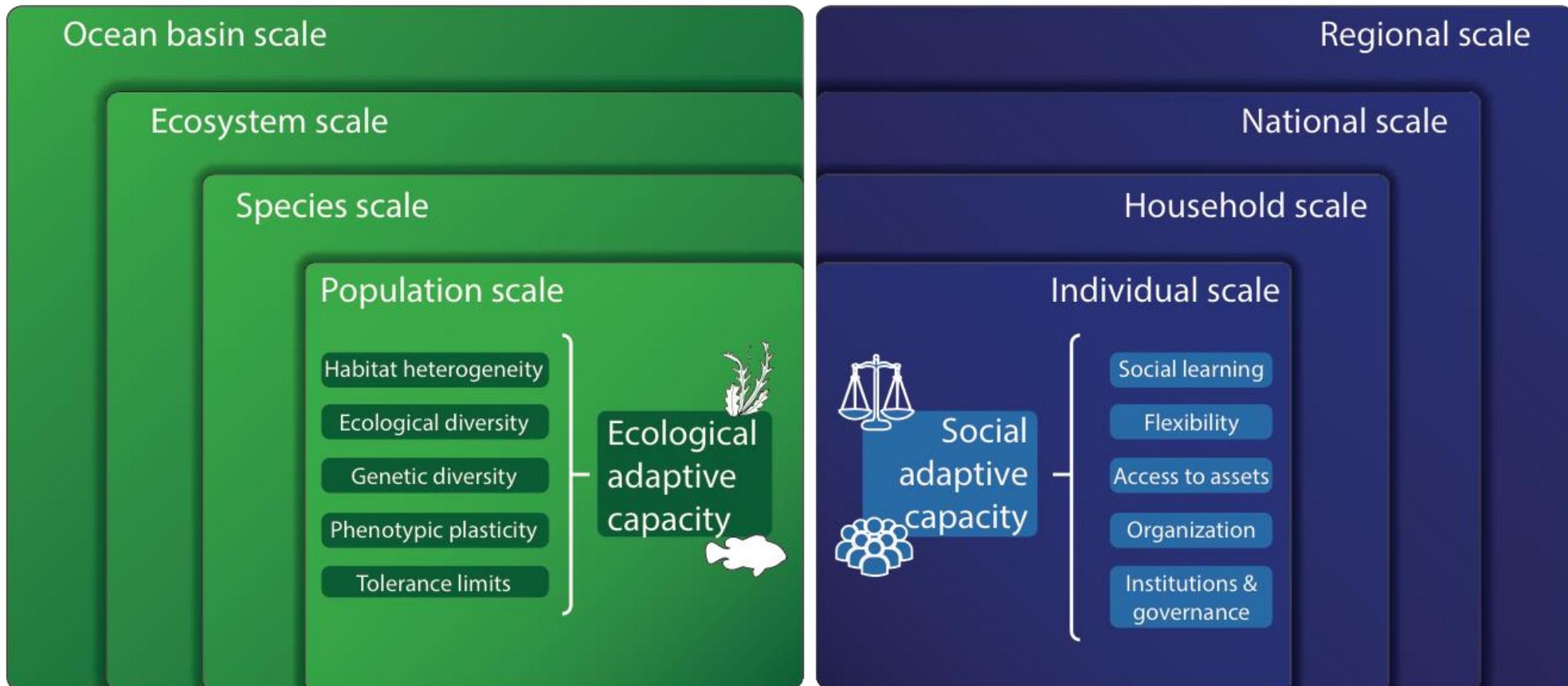
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Adaptive capacity assessments: a range of social, ecological methods, across scales

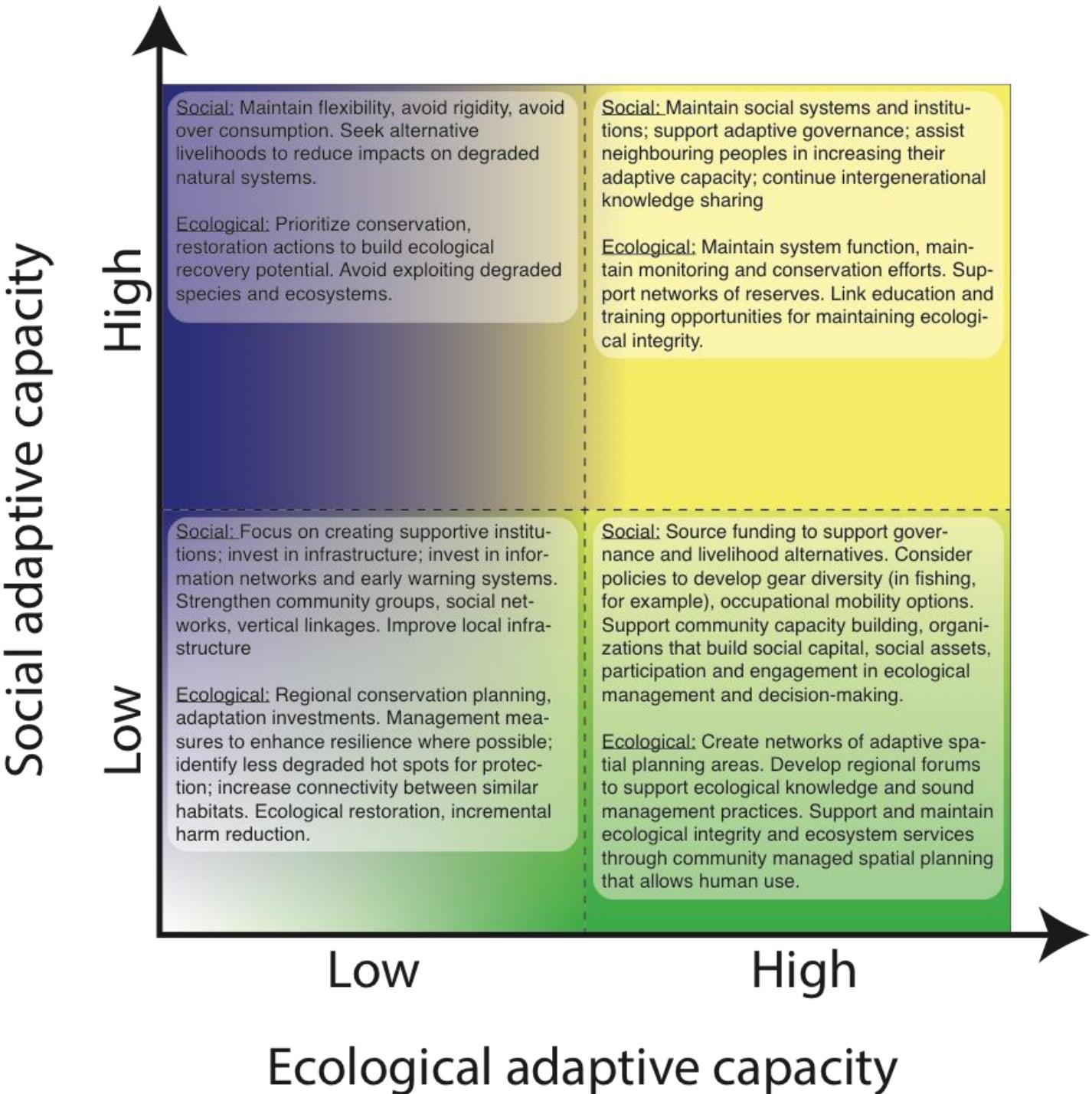


Adaptive capacity assessments: a range of social, ecological methods, across scales



Conceptual framework

- Example systems, states
- Actions to build adaptive capacity



1. Key Questions: Choosing an approach

- Adaptive capacity:
 - Of what?
 - To what?
 - For whom?
 - At what scale?
 - At what orientation?
- What types of indicators and methods?
- What is the purpose of the analysis

also

2. Challenges and considerations for adaptive capacity
3. Good practices to build adaptive capacity

Examples

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