

Which scientific expertise towards decision-making: The case of Private Companies

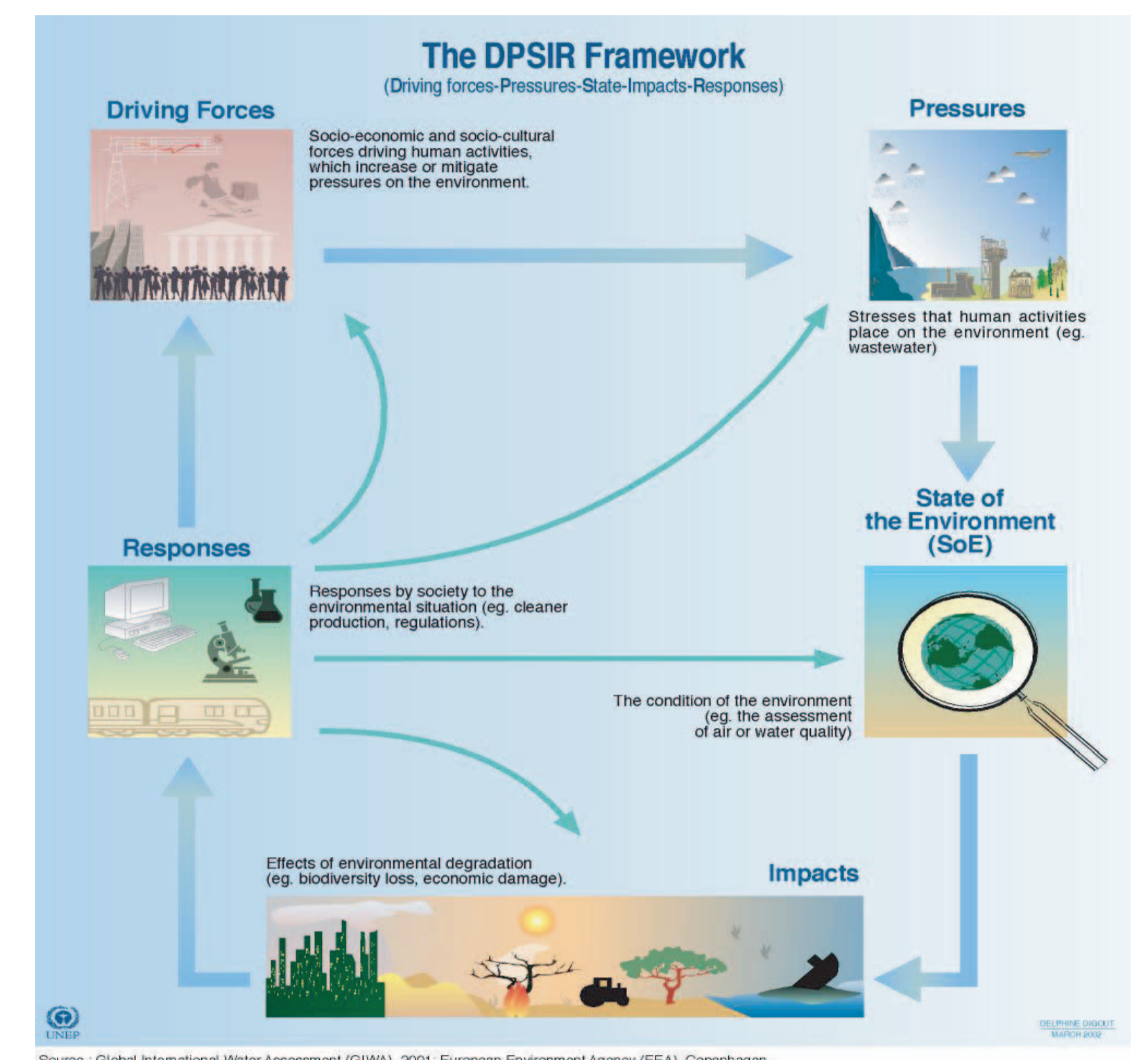
Background

- Biodiversity for Private sector:
It relates more to its economic value of natural or "ecosystems" services that are sustained through the complex simultaneous interaction between many species that has long been integral to economic success
- Biodiversity rises up in environmental and public policy agenda
- Initiatives for the private sector are already existing
- Unawareness on their reliance on biodiversity
- Few substantive actions taken
- Unawareness of the impact of biodiversity loss on their own business
- Wide range of ecosystems services on which people, companies and the world economy rely on:
 - Purification of air and water, detoxification and decomposition of waste; Mitigation of Earth's climate, Moderation of floods, soil fertility, pollination of plants, control of pest and diseases;
 - Provision of food, building materials, wood, fuel crops, genetic resources for medicine;
 - Cultural and aesthetic aspects

The DPSIR Approach

- Adopted in 1998 by EEA
- Issued from the "Pressure- state-response" model
- Model now largely adopted

The PSR framework is based on a concept of causality : human activities exert pressure on the environment and change its quality and the quantity of natural resources (the "state" box). Society responds to these changes through environmental, general economic and sectoral policies" (the "societal responses") (OECD, 1993)*



But

- Model fails to capture the complexity of relationships in complex systems
- Consider the ecosystem of static and passive
- Consider environment as a whole and the society responses willing at a balanced solution
- No pedagogic and educational aspects

A new scientific expertise for a new approach

A paradigm shift reconciling Nature and Culture

An approach emphasizing on the complex relations occurring in ecosystems and of the interactions between biodiversity and the private sector

Scientific expertise

- "The goal of **scientific expertise** is to deliver into the decision-making process, those elements of "pertinent knowledge" that the decision-makers need". (Roqueplo, 2000)**
- Several biodiversity assessments are undertaken but biodiversity is often considered as a side issue by decision makers

Duty of the new scientific expertise on biodiversity

- Should lead to a change of perception of the private sector
 - better identification of the relation with biodiversity (impacts, raw materials, technology provider)
 - asses the reliance of the company on biodiversity and evaluate the "biodiversity risk" (security of supply, reputation, liability and redress, access to capital, land or markets)
- Should lead to an improved status of the biodiversity approach in the private sector should be envisaged
- Should put the decision-makers needs at heart of its mission
- Should put at decision-makers disposal, the tools, techniques and know-how to preserve Nature for their own benefit not as a compensation for the pressures they exert

Hence aiming at putting and considering biodiversity of the private company strategy and not something that the strategy aims at

Orée & IFB Task Force

The Orée Organization and the Institut Français de la Biodiversité are leading a task force on biodiversity in private sector area. This task force gathering the Orée group, IFB and 20 companies has for main goal to establish how to find the means to better integrate biodiversity in the private company strategy. EDF, LVMH, CEMEX, Veolia and others are part of the task force.

Towards a New Scientific expertise: The Consultative process towards an IMoSEB

IMoSEB: International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity

- 2005 - Conference of Paris "Biodiversity: Science and Governance"
- 2006 - Launch of the Consultative process towards an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity
 - Duty: An 18-month consultation to assess the need, scope and options for such a body
 - How: A 90-International Steering Committee involving scientists, governments, IOs, Ngos, International conventions,...
- 2007 - Final recommendations and proposals of the ISC for an IMoSEB

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TOWARDS AN
IMoSEB
<http://www.imoseb.net>

* OECD Core set of indicators for environmental performance reviews, 1993, Paris
** Roqueplo P., Commentary on the Communication "Towards a European research area", 2000