

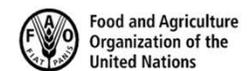
# ipbbs

## Values and decision-making

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**#ValuesAssessment**



# 1. Introduction



- I will focus on the role of values in **decision-making**
- I will also emphasize how **decision-making arenas and procedures** (institutions) affect what **values get priority**
- I will finally look at the need for **transforming decision-making** to (better) cater for sustainability-aligned values

We are facing serious challenges:

- IPBES Global Assessment (2019): **25%** of the world's species are **threatened by extinction**
- WWF (2022): World populations of **wild animals** is reduced by **69 % since 1970**



## 2. Decision-making

- Decisions are of **different types**
  - **Political** (defines rules for political and economic decision-making and actions; allocate public budgets)
  - **Economic** (decisions over use of resources in production and consumption)
  - **Socio-cultural** (issues regarding identity, human-nature relationships)
- **Actors** in decision-making
  - **Political actors** (politicians and citizens (mainly as voters), Local; national and international level; include traditional authorities)
  - **Economic actors** (producers and consumers; both private and public)
  - **Civil society actors** (citizens; NGOs)

Actors	<b>Political actors</b> Hold the authority to define rules for economic activity as well as the rules for policymaking processes themselves	<b>Economic actors</b> Comprise producers, financial investors and consumers – i.e., actors who hold rights to different assets, including natural assets used for production, and people as consumers of these goods and services as derived from nature	<b>Civil society actors</b> The citizens in general and membership-based organizations and social movements organized around values that serve the interests about nature of a given collective
Decisions			
<b>Political decisions</b> Defining and protecting rights with respect to access to and control over natural assets +associated values Mandate/allocate obligations, rights	Government (national to local) and traditional authority regulations – e.g., allocation of rights including ownership to land, design (dis-)incentives (pollution limits, green taxes), establishing protected areas	Private rulemaking (e.g., product standards). Influence through formalized structures between political and economic actors; lobbying; threats with respect to moving production abroad	Protest, demonstration, lawsuits against regulations perceived as unjust; Election support for specific legislation or lawmakers aligned with values
<b>Economic decisions</b> Covers production and consumption decisions over goods and services including investments and disinvestments in natural assets	Decisions on public spending (e.g., infrastructure development, producing goods and services from nature for public service)	Firms, financial actors, collective associations or individuals deciding on investments, production and consumption (e.g., where to source natural resources, what to produce, etc.)	Campaigns against/ boycotts of firms or products misaligned with civil society values
<b>Socio-cultural decisions</b> Regard the cultural dimension in the sense of forming, maintaining or changing people's identity and human-nature relationships	Governments and/or traditional authorities setting rights based approaches for the stewardship of territories and protect local people's identity and/or defence of territory (e.g. to infrastructure development in the context of living in harmony with nature)	Decisions by firm, collective associations, and consumer oriented around supporting ways of life aligned with value (e.g., community supported agriculture, purchasing agreements with co-ops)	Communities (e.g. Indigenous peoples, religious groups and others) and social movements acting for the defence of human or territorial rights, or to protect relevant resources associated to their use or relationships with nature, including, for instance, spiritual connections.

## 2. Decision-making (cont.)

### The role of institutions

- Institutions are the **rules of society** – its conventions, norms and legal rules
- Institutions **protect** certain **values** – meaning that they also obstruct some values → what and whose values count in decision-making
- Institutions are means to **structure decision-making**. They define:
  - **who participates** and in what competence
  - **how values** can be **expressed** – e.g., as prices, as arguments
  - how participants **interact** – e.g., via trade, command, cooperation



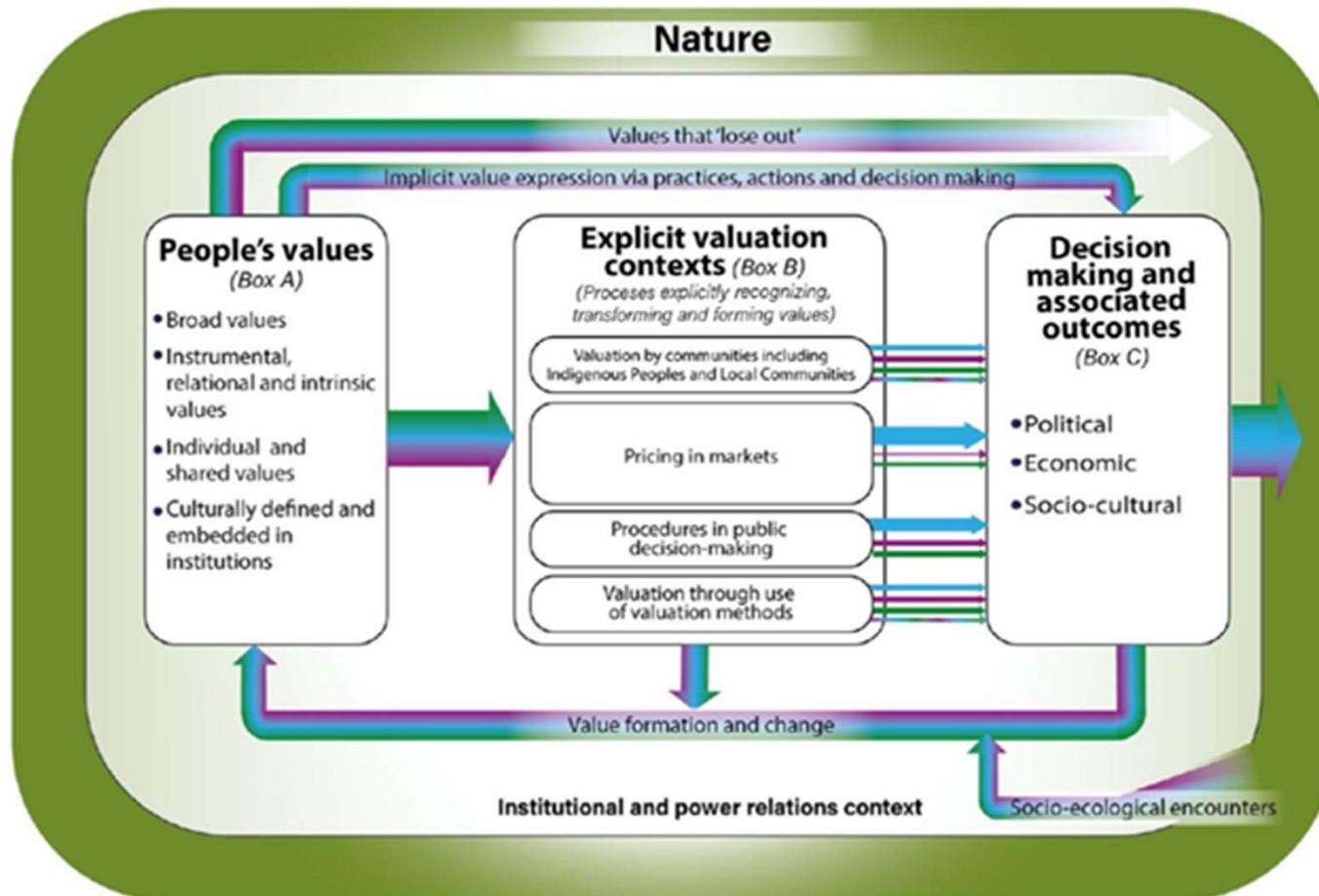
### 3. Values in decision-making



#### Values as included and excluded

- Decisions in **markets**
  - Includes values that can be turned into tradable **commodities** – mainly instrumental values – excludes many values of nature. Individual decisions. The role of **price**
- Decisions in **public forums**
  - Can in principle include **any type of value**. In countries like Norway, expression of values in monetary form – e.g., cost-benefit analysis – is given priority when developing material for decision-support regarding ‘public projects’
- **Socio-cultural**
  - Can in principle include **any type of value**. Creation of worldviews. Identity issues, relations to nature and to other humans through nature as well as other species are key.
- The strong focus on markets and the **limited type of values** that can be expressed through trading is a key factor behind the **nature crisis**

### 3. Values in decision-making (cont.) Implicit and explicit valuation



- Instrumental
- Relational
- Intrinsic

### 3. Values in decision-making (cont.)

## Value hierarchies, institutions and the time dimension

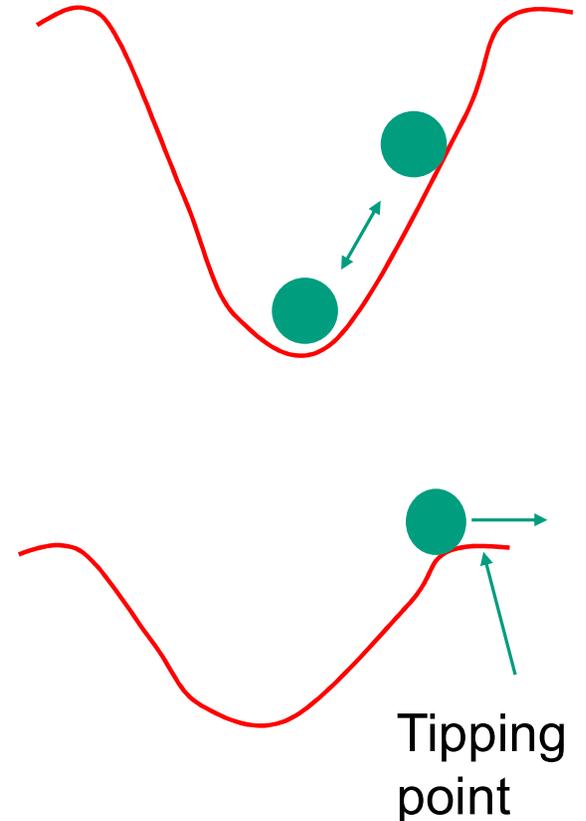


Goals: **Economic growth**  $\leftrightarrow$  **protection of nature values**

- Policies to foster economic growth/GDP (1945  $\rightarrow$ )
- Over time the environmental implications became (necessarily) visible  $\rightarrow$  environmental policy from 1970 and onwards
- At that time, strong interests developed under the 'assumption' that economic expansion is unproblematic for the environment  $\rightarrow$  counteract environmental policy initiatives

Such a **sequential decision-making structure implies low weight on the values of nature**

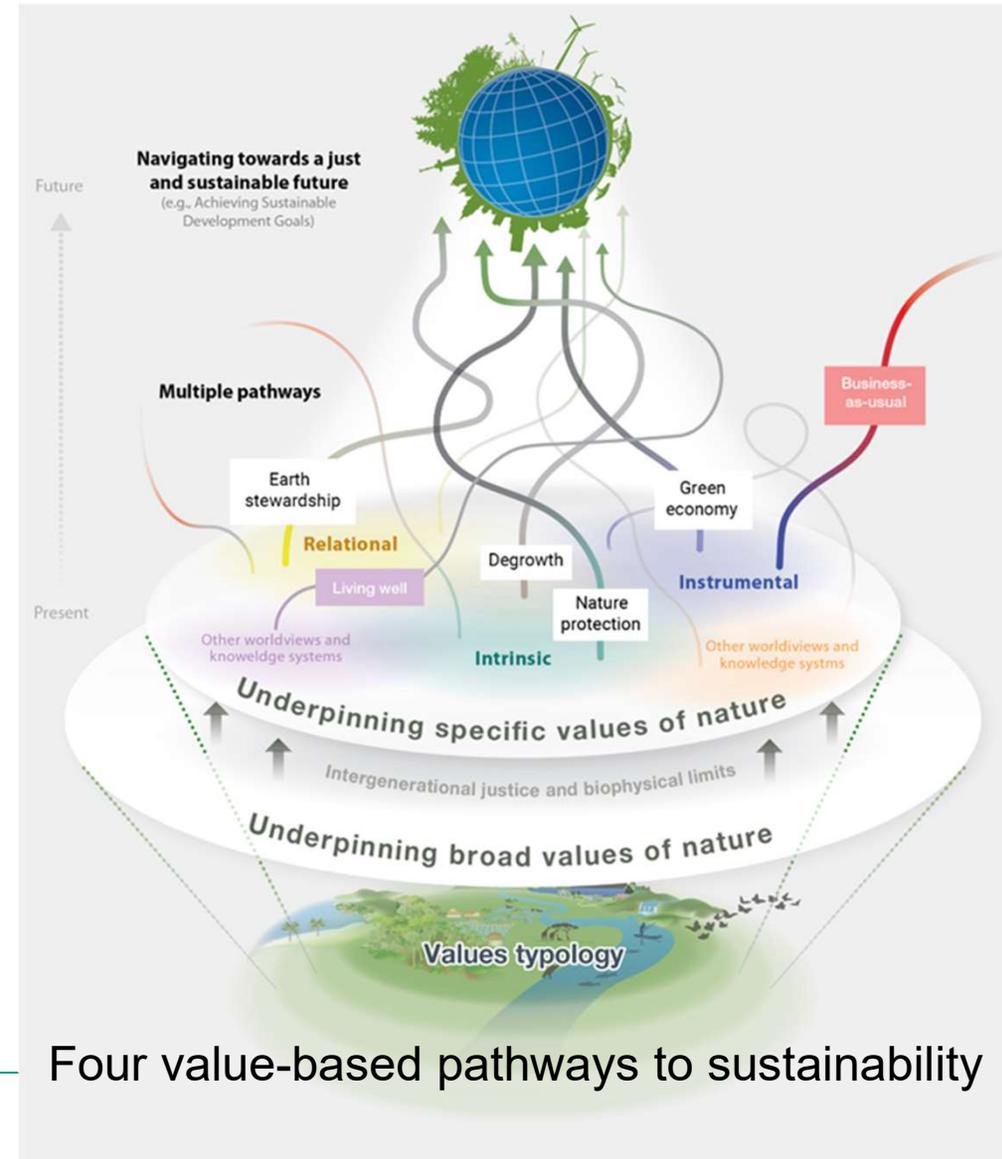
In a nature with **tipping points**, it is dangerous



## 4. Values and societal transformation

Transformation towards a sustainable society is a process that has to go deep.

- It will need to involve **all levels of society**
- We need to change its **institutions**
- We need to create a **new normal** for living – not least in industrialized societies. The role of **civil society/ socio-cultural processes** is especially important



Four value-based pathways to sustainability

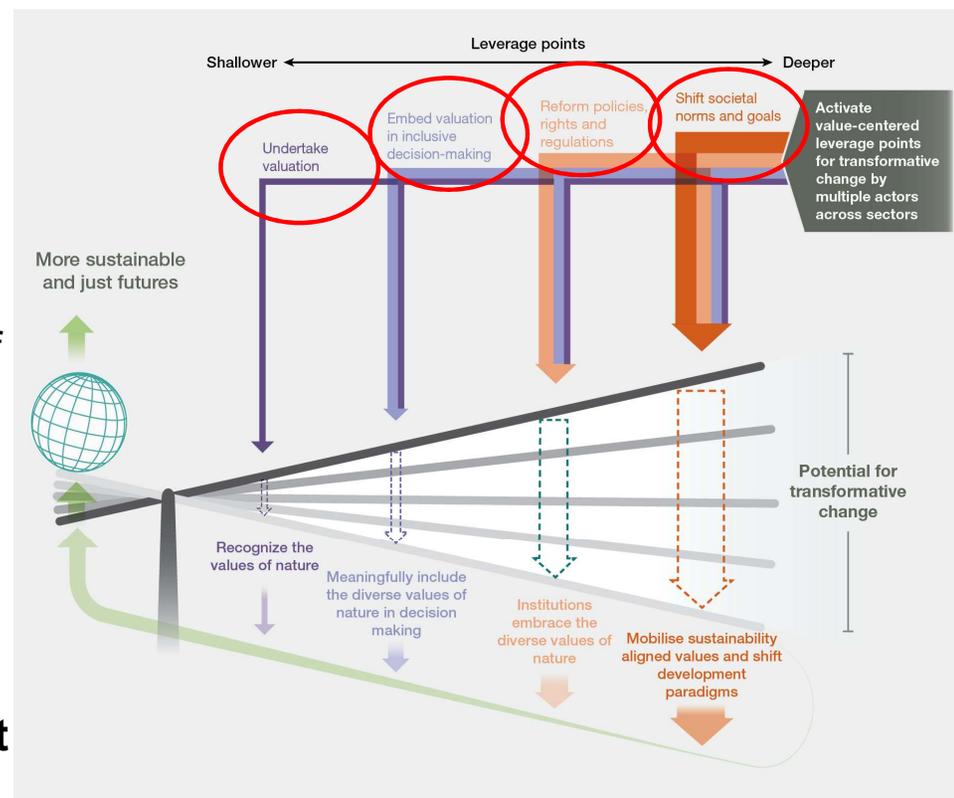
## 4. Values and societal transformation (cont.)

# Leverage points for transformations



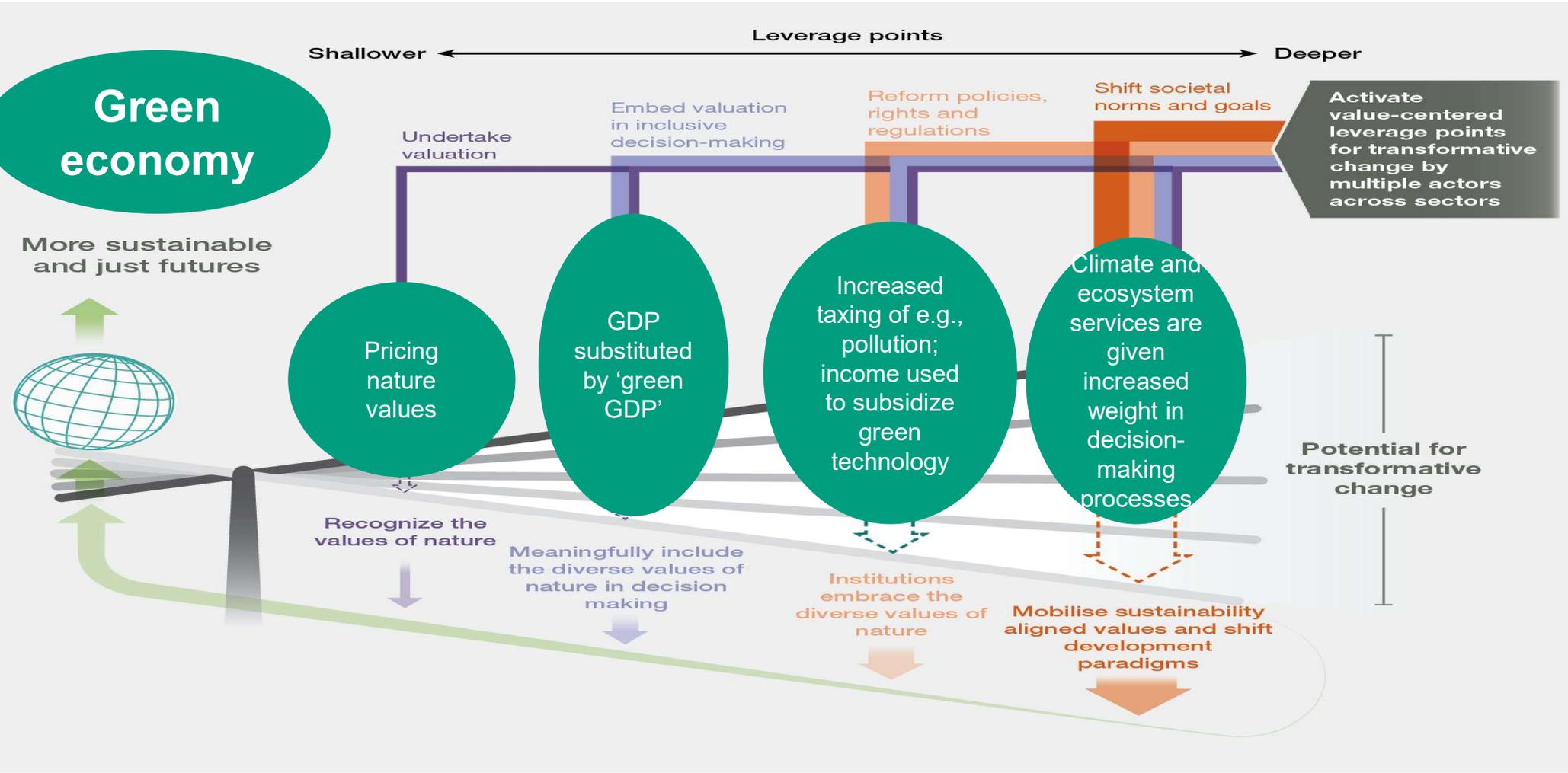
Four leverage points – from ‘shallow to deep’ – may be combined to foster changes to a sustainable society

1. **Recognizing the diversity** of nature’s values through undertaking relevant and robust valuation
2. **Embedding valuation** into the different phases of decision-making processes to allow meaningful consideration of nature’s diverse values
3. **Reforming policy** to realign incentives and institutions with the diverse values of nature and to empower actors to express and act upon their sustainability-aligned values
4. **Creating spaces to deliberate**, develop and **shift societal goals and norms** attuned to the agreed global objectives of sustainability and justice



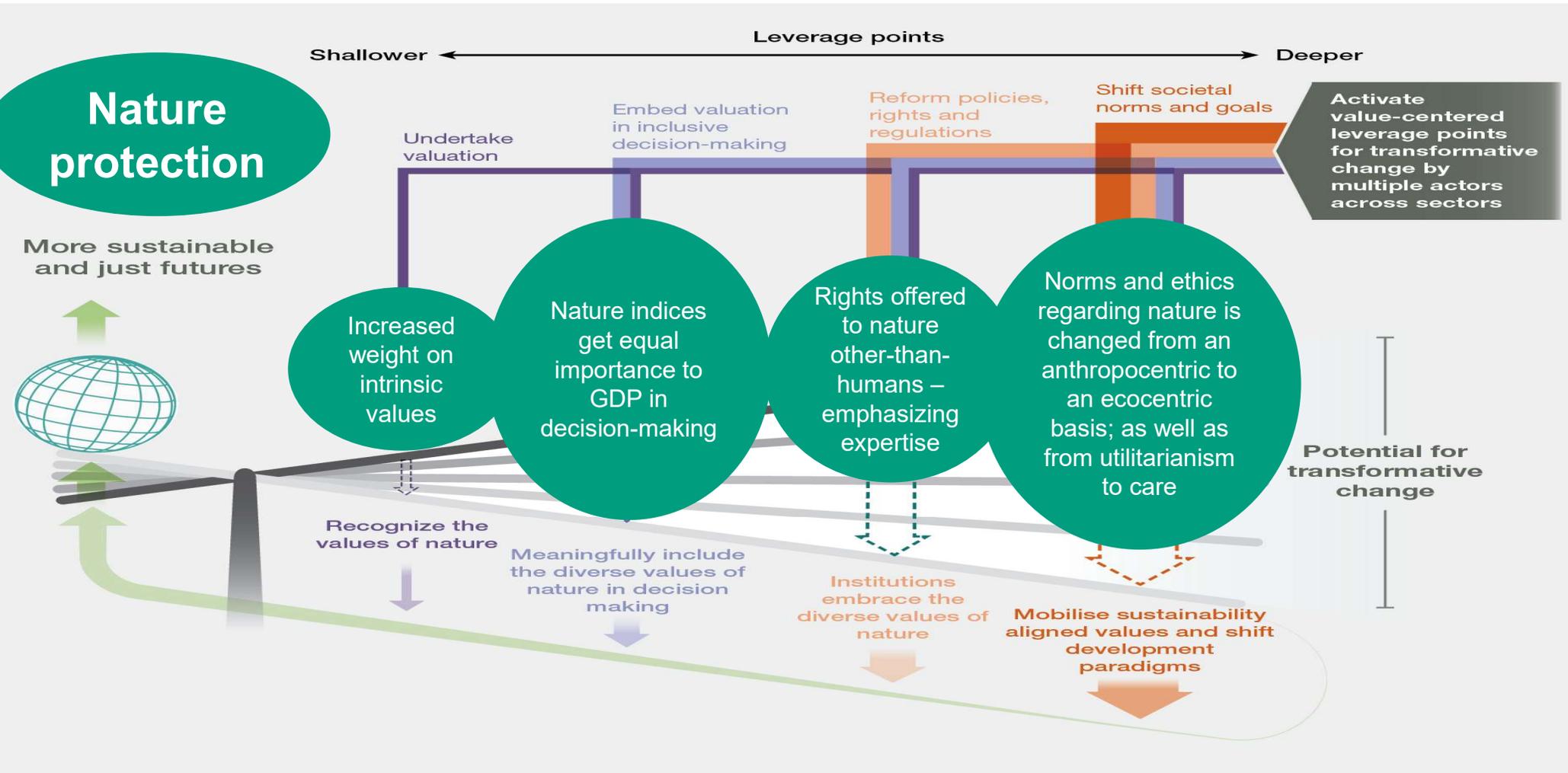
# 4. Values and societal transformation (cont.)

## Leverage points for the values related roads to sustainability



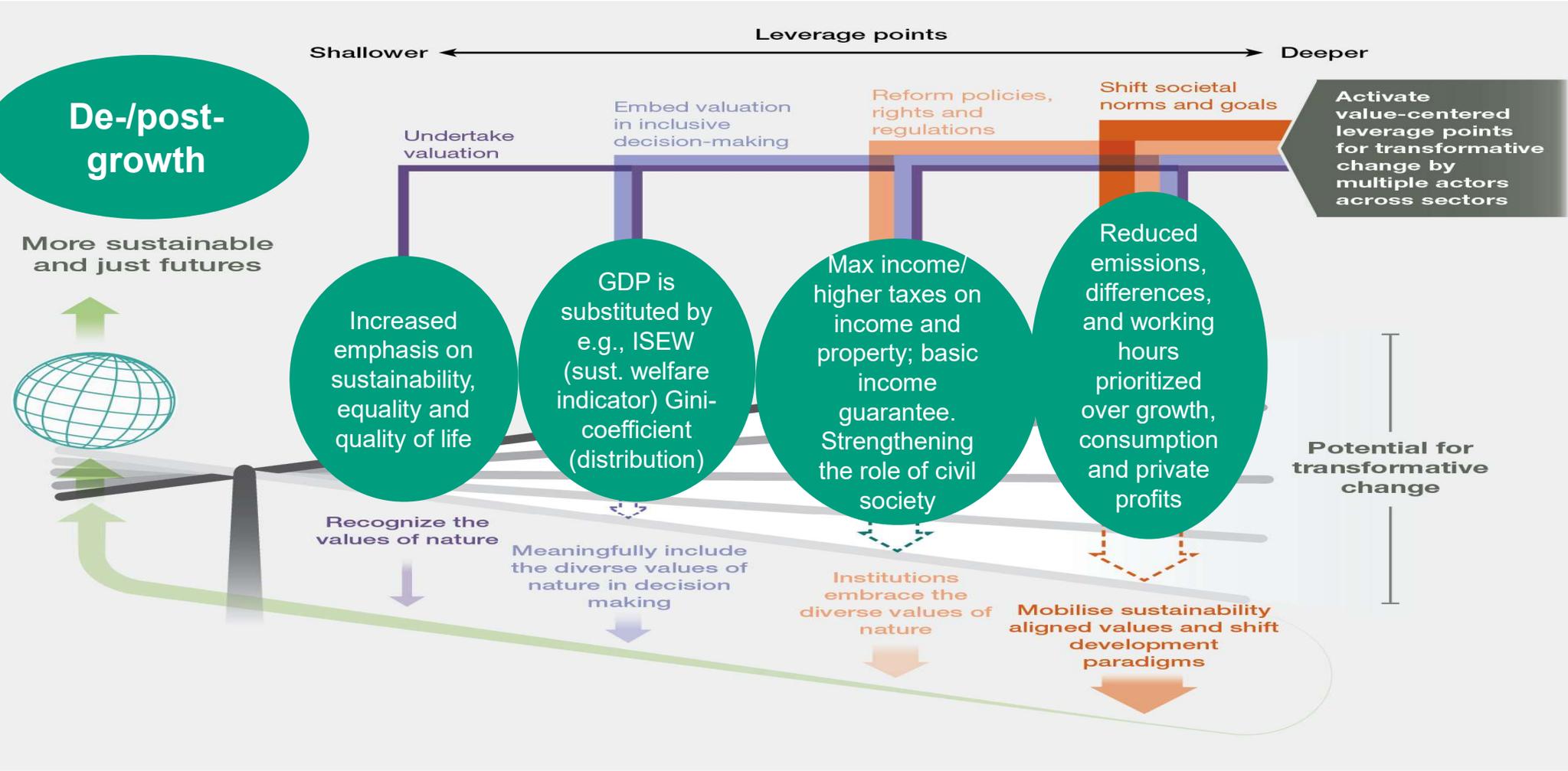
# 4. Values and societal transformation (cont.)

## Leverage points for the values related roads to sustainability



# 4. Values and societal transformation (cont.)

## Leverage points for the values related roads to sustainability



## 5. Conclusion

- Present decision-making systems **do not handle the diverse values of nature well**
- Understanding **why they fail** is essential
- The IPBES Values Assessment have described ways forward. These need to be **operationalized and 'tested'** in various decision-making contexts

