

The gendered nature of ecosystems services

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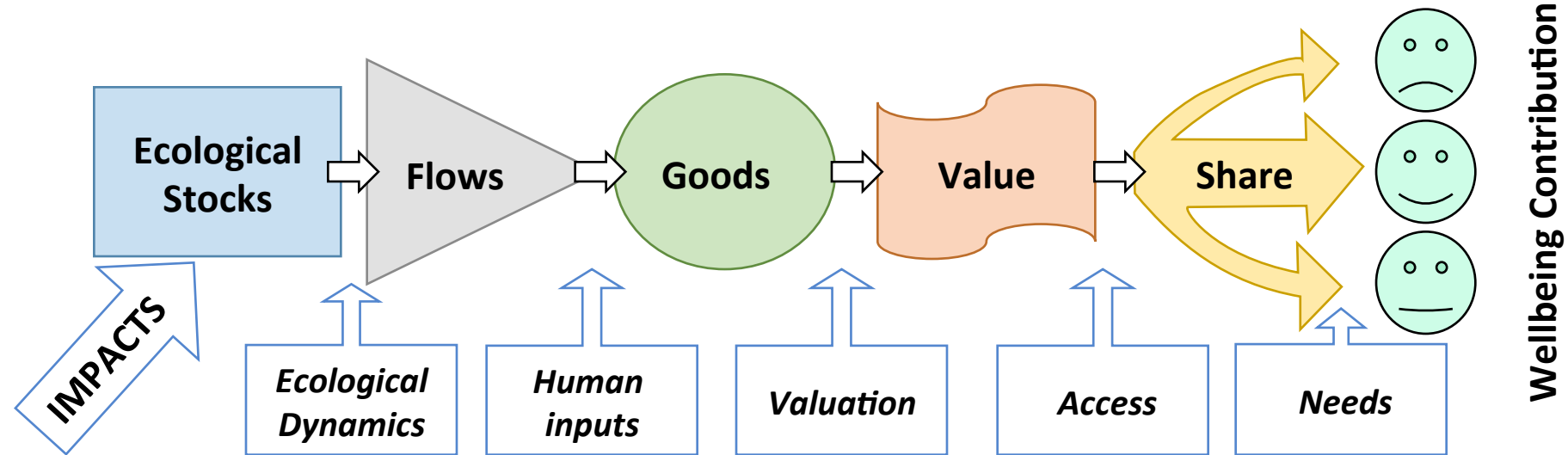
How and why are ecosystem services 'gendered'?

- Women and men value different ecosystems services differently
- Women and men have differentiated access and construct their livelihoods differently
- Women and men have different knowledges and needs
- Women and men emphasis different aspects of well-being
- None of this is 'natural'!

Antecedents – how and why might ecosystem services be gendered?

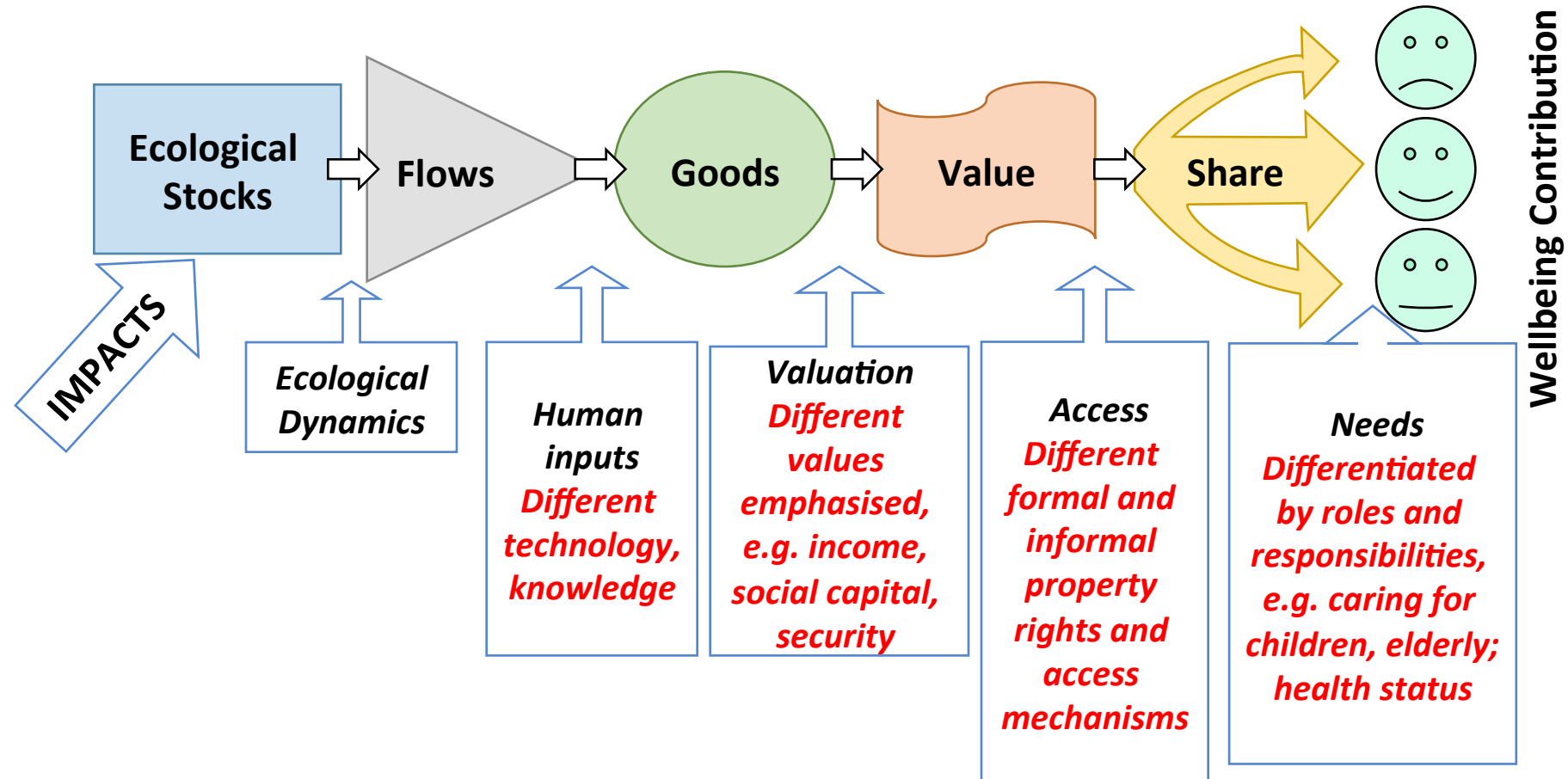
- Ecosystems services literature
- Gender and development / gender in development
 - gender roles/ division of labour
 - different impacts of development on women and men
- Women, Environment and Development/ ecofeminist
 - women have a ‘special’ relationship with environment
 - essentialist arguments and critiques
- Feminist political ecology
 - gendered spaces, knowledge, rights and entitlements
 - wider social relations of gender structure resource use

Ecosystem-wellbeing chains...



The links are mediated by a set of factors – or multipliers – which determine wellbeing outcomes for different people

Gendered ecosystem-wellbeing chains...



Gendered needs

- Different physical needs
- Different wellbeing constructions
- Different roles and responsibilities

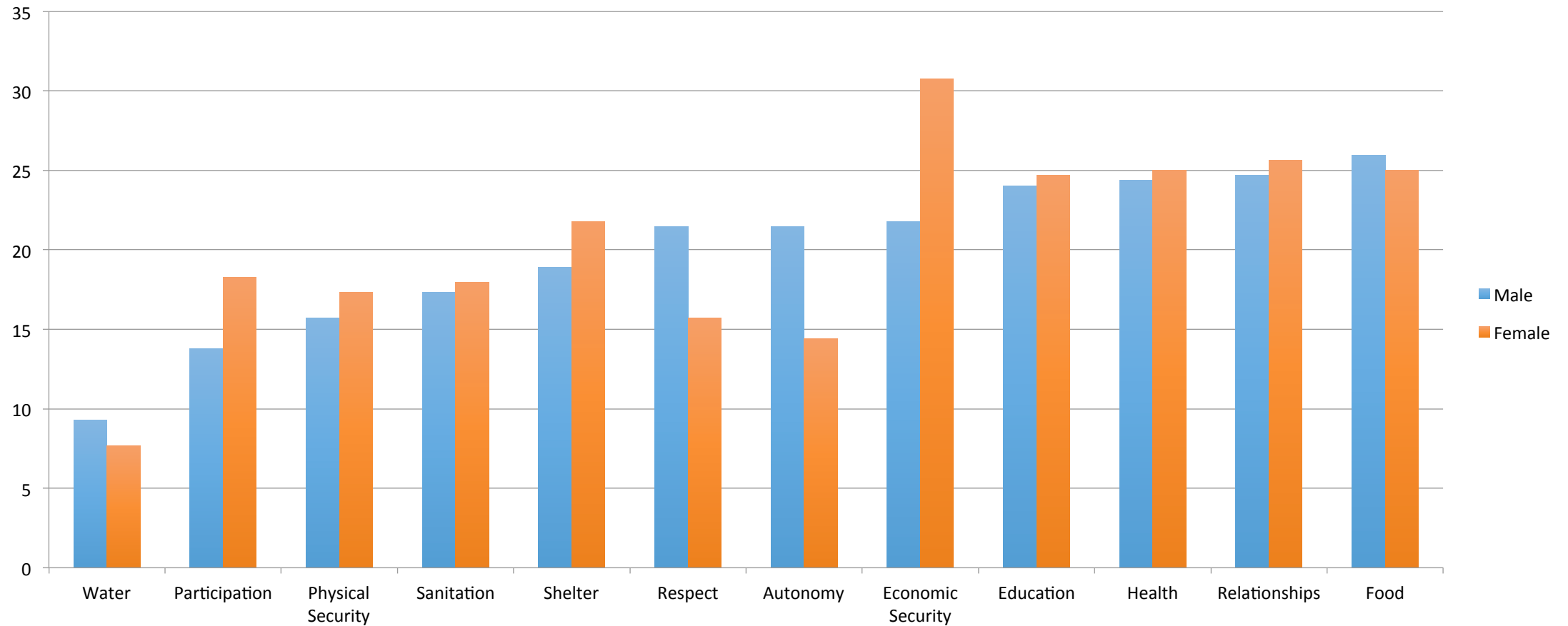


Gendered access

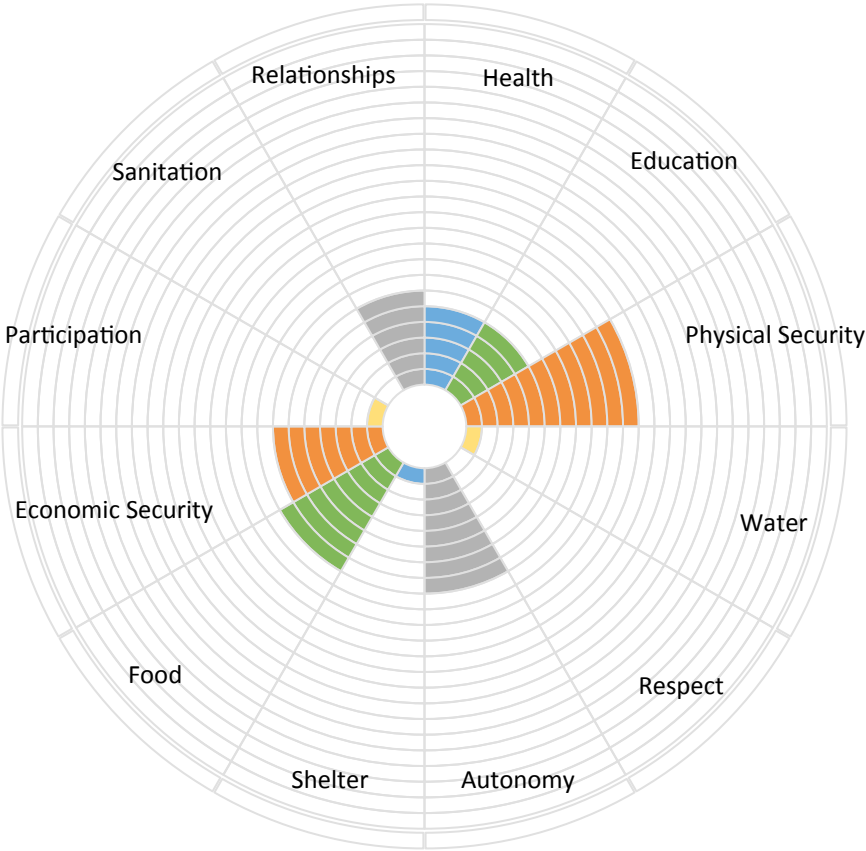
- Property rights and entitlements
- Technology and assets
- Labour
- Markets



What do men and women value about ecosystem services?



Values of mangrove firewood



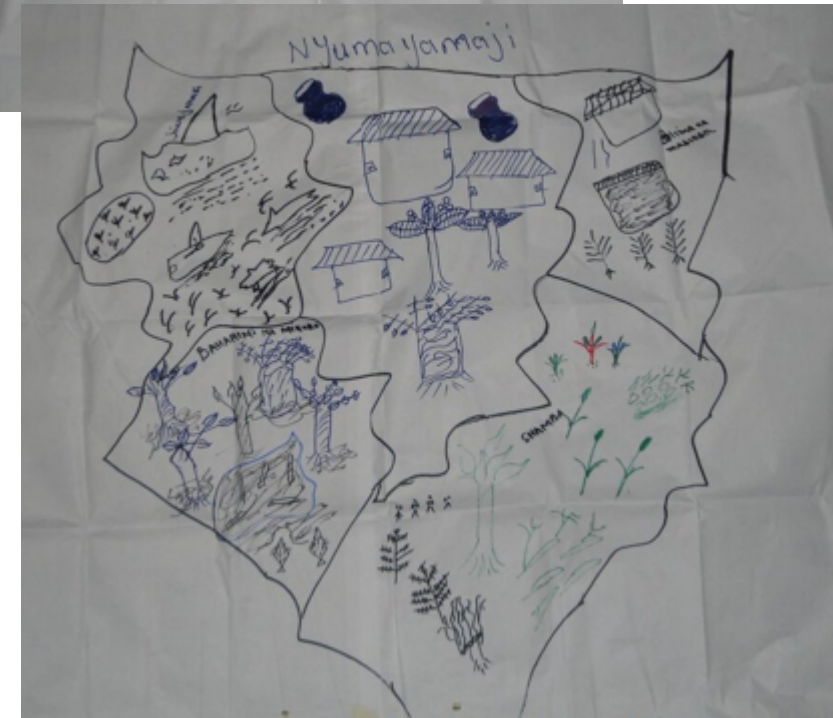
MEN



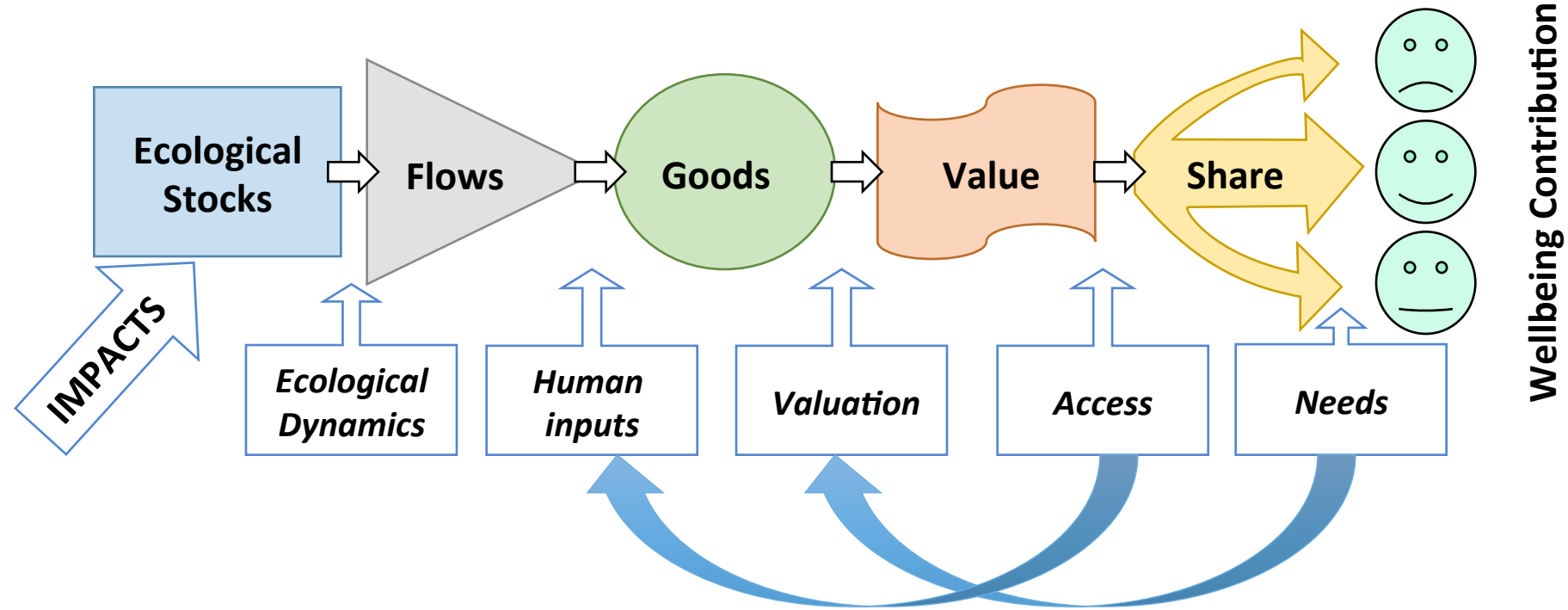
WOMEN

Gendered inputs

- Knowledge and its transmission
- Young men's and women's maps of Wasini Island, Kenya
- *“Usually, the grandfather would pass this knowledge to one of grandsons who seems keen to him. He would show the grandson that this medicinal tree, you can boil its contents to cure a sick child”*
- *“In most cases, when there is a grandmother with this knowledge, she would teach her granddaughter and thus the knowledge is passed over that grand-daughter grows up with that knowledge and she acquires that traditional ancient knowledge”*



But what about feedbacks?



Ecosystem services as a path to women's empowerment?

- Women's income – girls' education
- *“For the women, their top most priority was for them to get income and educate the girls since within Wasini there was a tradition that girls were not to go to school in the past”*
- *“For me, if there would not have been many of these developments, I would not have been able to have attended secondary level of education. The group assisted me in achieving, and many other more, as we were many who were assisted. for me if there was not the women group, I would have not been able to reach the level.”*



Conclusions

- The gendered nature of ecosystem services is not natural – it is socially constructed and relational
- Using the SPACES chain highlights the different dimensions of this, moving us beyond assigning this to gendered roles, access and entitlements
- Recognise that how wellbeing is constructed and how knowledge is transferred
- More systematic analysis required
- Ecosystem services for empowerment



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THANK YOU!

