

# The role of law in the resilience of Arctic socio-ecological systems in the face of climate change

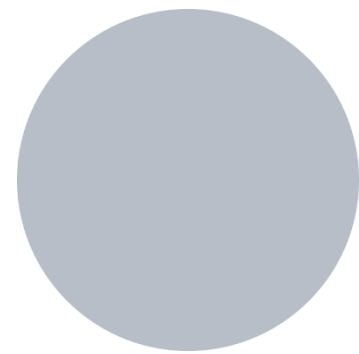
Johanna Sophie Bürkert

Supervised by Beatriz Martinez Romera

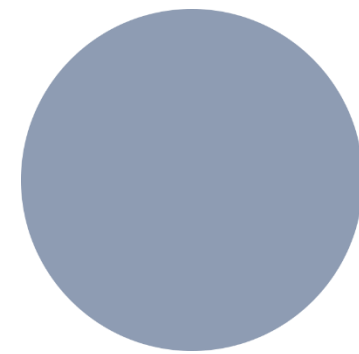
*Centre for International Law and Governance*

**The role of law in the resilience  
of **Arctic** socio-ecological  
systems in the face of climate  
change**

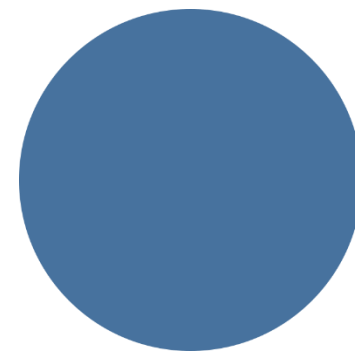
What is the role of **law** in the resilience of Arctic socio-ecological systems in the face of climate change?



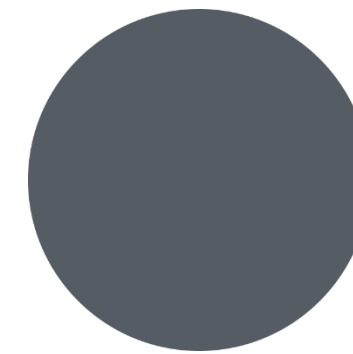
**Arctic & Climate  
Change**



**Socio-Ecological  
Systems**

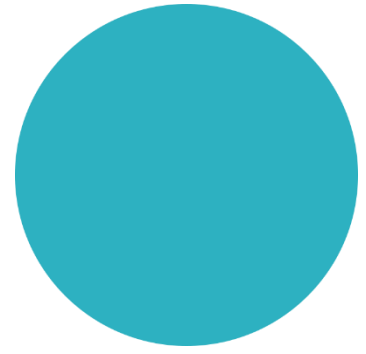


**Resilience**

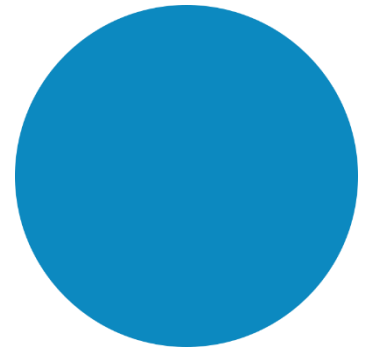


**Law**

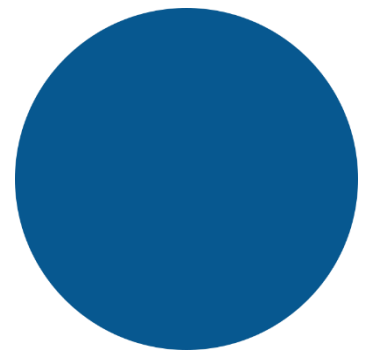




**INTRODUCTION**



**CONCEPTS &  
EVALUATORY FRAMEWORK**



**RESEARCH DESIGN & findings**





# Climate Change in the Arctic

*The backdrop for this research*

- Warming twice as fast as the rest
- Serious impacts on physical, biological and cultural systems
  - Albedo & circulation
  - Marine and terrestrial biota and migration
  - People and their connection to nature
- Especially vulnerable
- **Global** impacts

We consider it worth protecting

# Socio-Ecological Systems theory

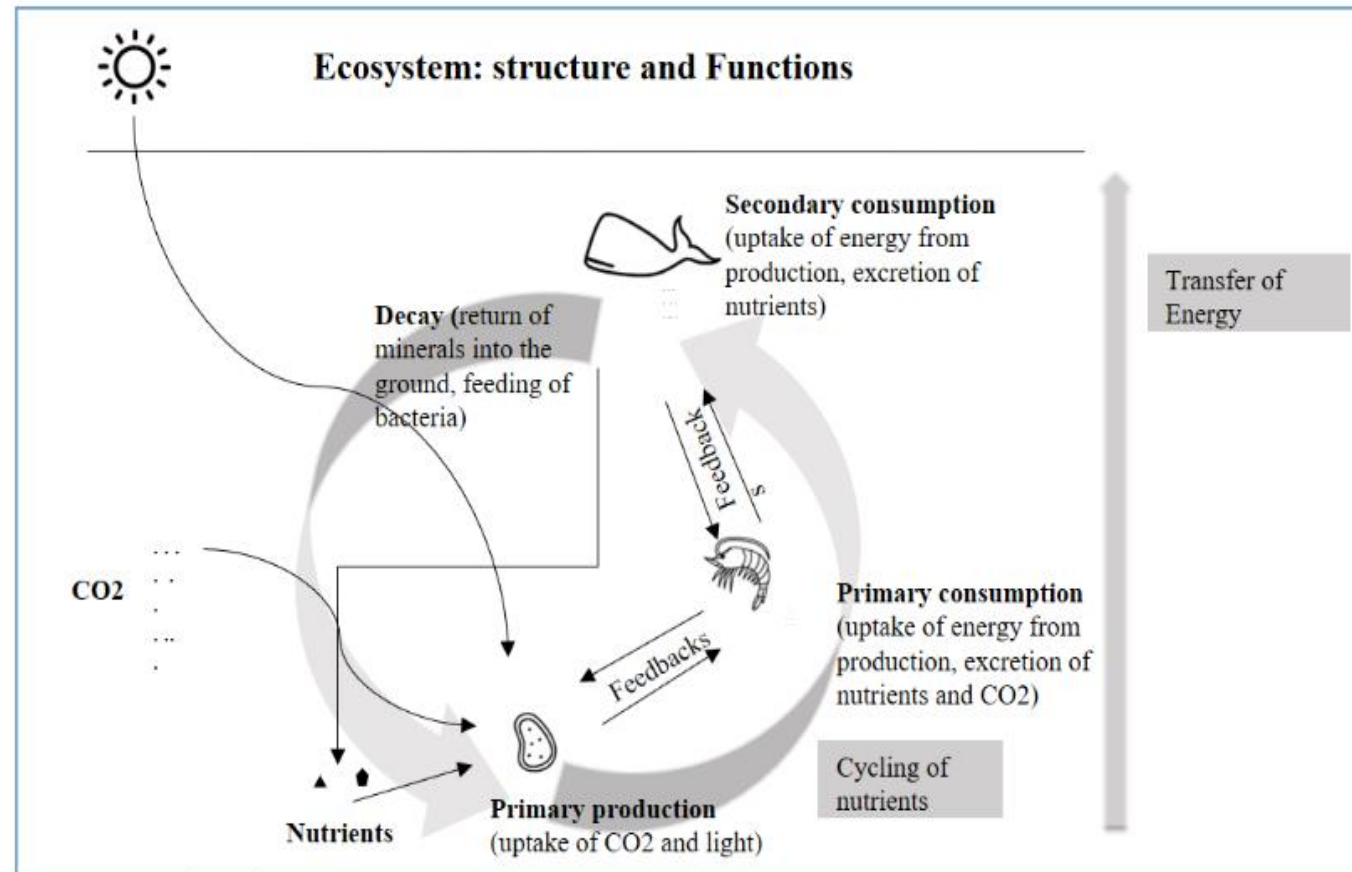
*How people interact with their environment*



# Socio-Ecological Systems theory

*How people interact with their environment*

1



3

2

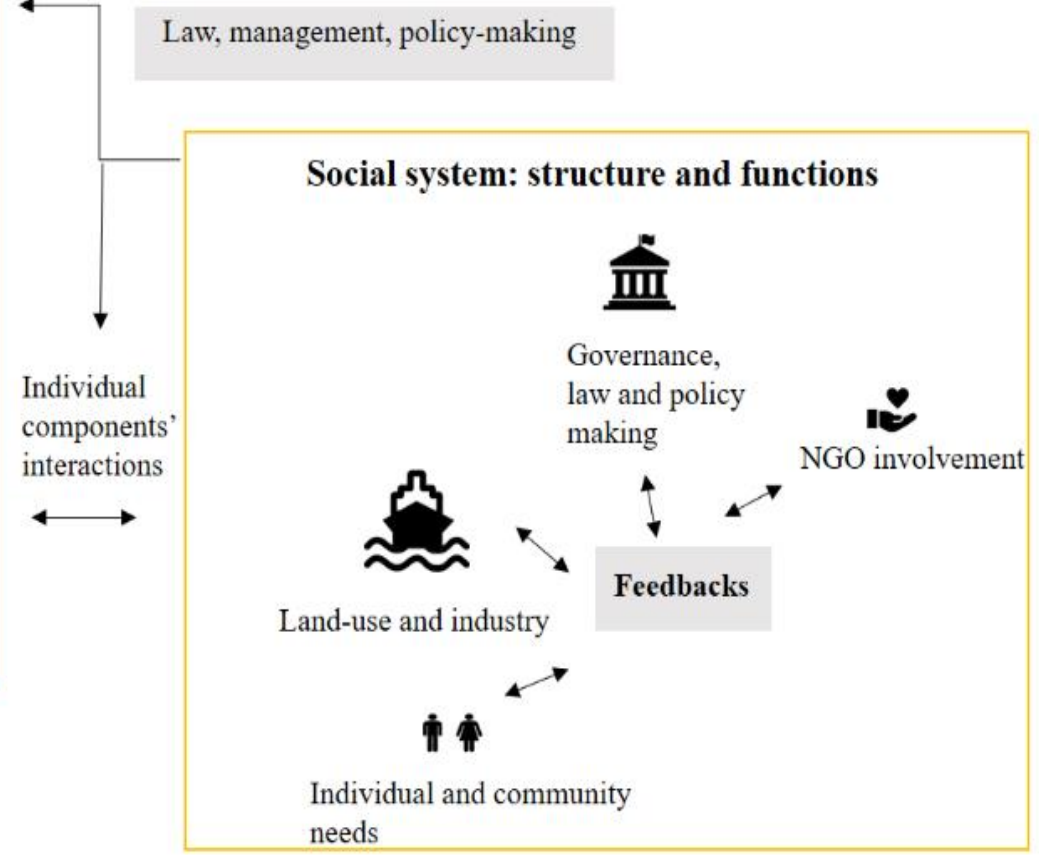
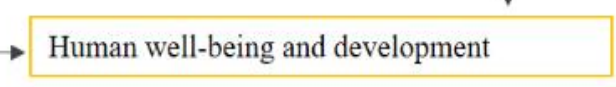
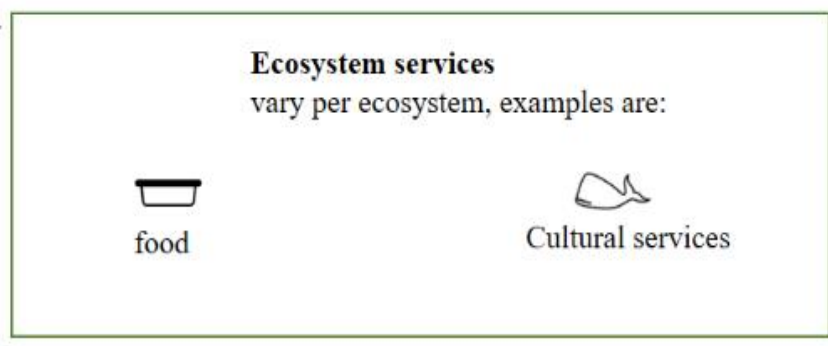


Figure 2: Simplified model of a socio-ecological system

# SES-Resilience

“capacity of social, economic and ecosystems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure as well as biodiversity in case of ecosystems, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation.” (IPCC 2022)

Socially: “capacity of people to learn, share and make use of their knowledge of social and ecological interactions and feedbacks, to deliberately and effectively engage in shaping adaptive or transformative social-ecological change”.

**Adaptability/Adaptive Capacity:** Coping with changes on an ecosystem or social level

**Persistence:** Continuing to exist without crossing any thresholds

**Transformation:** transforming certain pathways that appear to become less and less viable



What's *LAW* got to do with it?

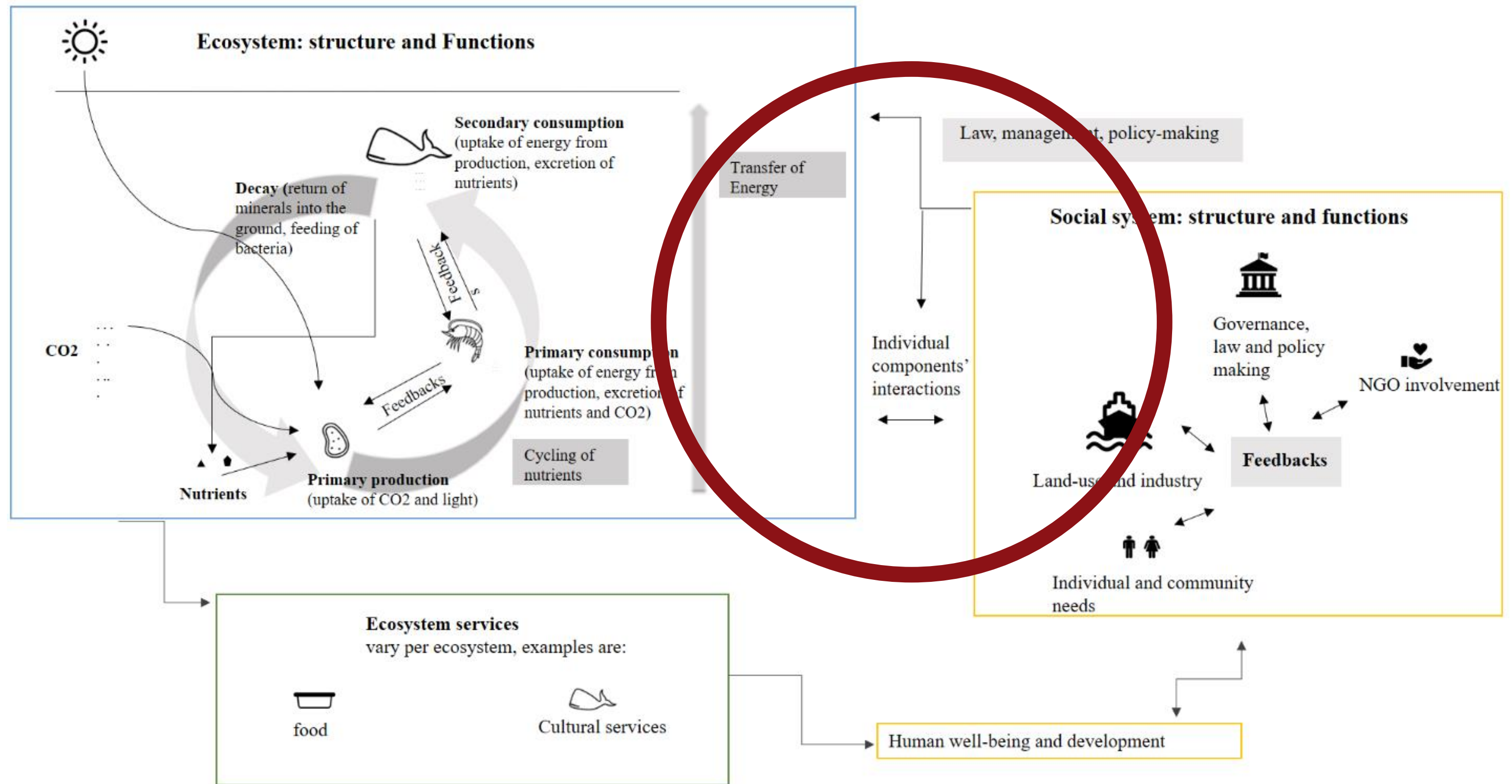
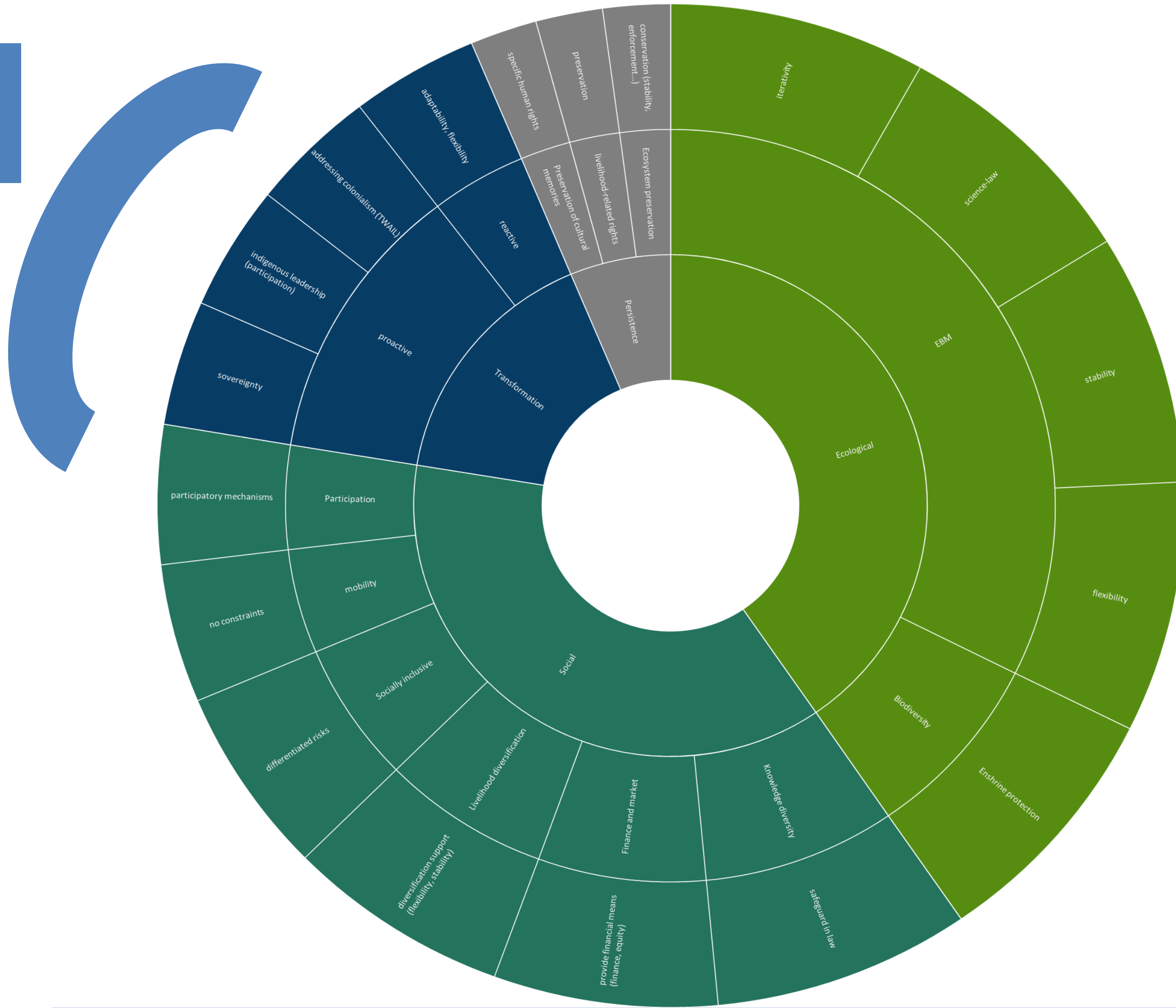


Figure 2: Simplified model of a socio-ecological system

# Coastal Arctic SES resilience wheel

## Panarchy

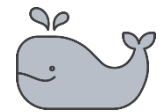
- Connectivity
- Participation
- Coordination
- Scale matching





# Legal Framework

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)
- International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling



- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- ILO Convention No 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and People living in remote areas (UNDROP)



# First findings...



**Thank you**

**[Johanna.Buerkert@jur.ku.dk](mailto:Johanna.Buerkert@jur.ku.dk)**