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Rationalising **BI**odiversity **CO**nservation in **D**ynamic **E**cosystems

(**RUBICODE**)

Project coordinated by Paula Harrison,
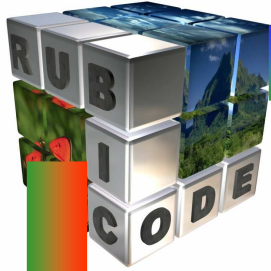Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford
and Rob Bugter (dept.), Alterra

RUBICODE is a coordination action for
'Shaping Conservation Strategies',
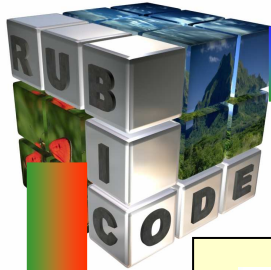running from September 2006 to March 2009

Background of subject

- The European Union has committed itself to stop the loss of biodiversity (by 2010)

- There is a need to translate threats to biodiversity into tangible and quantifiable factors for use in decision-making: '*why should we be bothered*'?

- Conservation strategies do not yet take the effects of the increasing anthropogenic dynamics of our present day world (especially climate change) into account

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Focus point 1: Ecosystem services

What does biodiversity do for us,
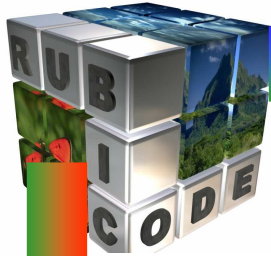why should we be bothered?

↓

Conservation strategies need information on what to protect

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RUBICODE concentrates on the service providers through the SPU concept (Luck et al. 2003)

Service Providing Unit = the components of biodiversity necessary to deliver a given ecosystem service at the level required by service beneficiaries

(KQ1 and 2, indentifying, quantifying, spatial distribution)

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Focus 2: Dynamics

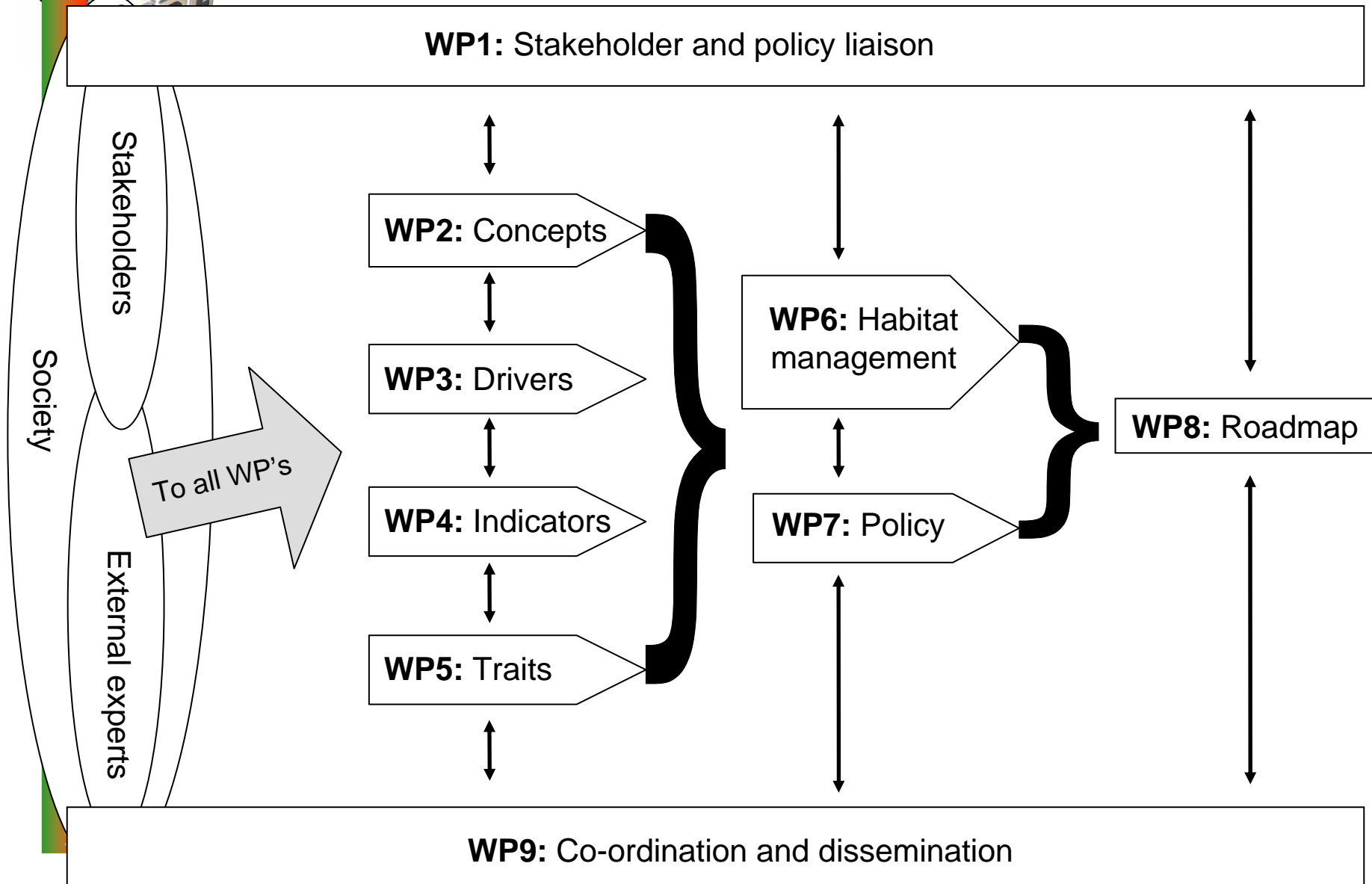Long term anthropogenic dynamics are now largely unconsidered

- Climate change

  – Shifting ecosystems and species distributions

  – More weather extremes

- 'Autonomous' socio-economic changes

  – The political map can change: disintegration of USSR

  – Agricultural practices change

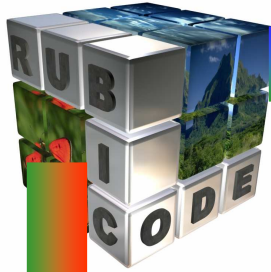 – Pressures from e.g. traffic and recreation increases

What does taking this into account mean for strategies?

(KQ3, effects of dynamic conditions)

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