



INHERIT

Setting the Scene: the need for inter-related responses to pressing societal challenges

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A dynamic context

“Public health is wrapped around the reality of change”

“The actions of those seeking to improve public health and wellbeing will vary as circumstances and conditions dictate”

Rayner & Lang (2012)

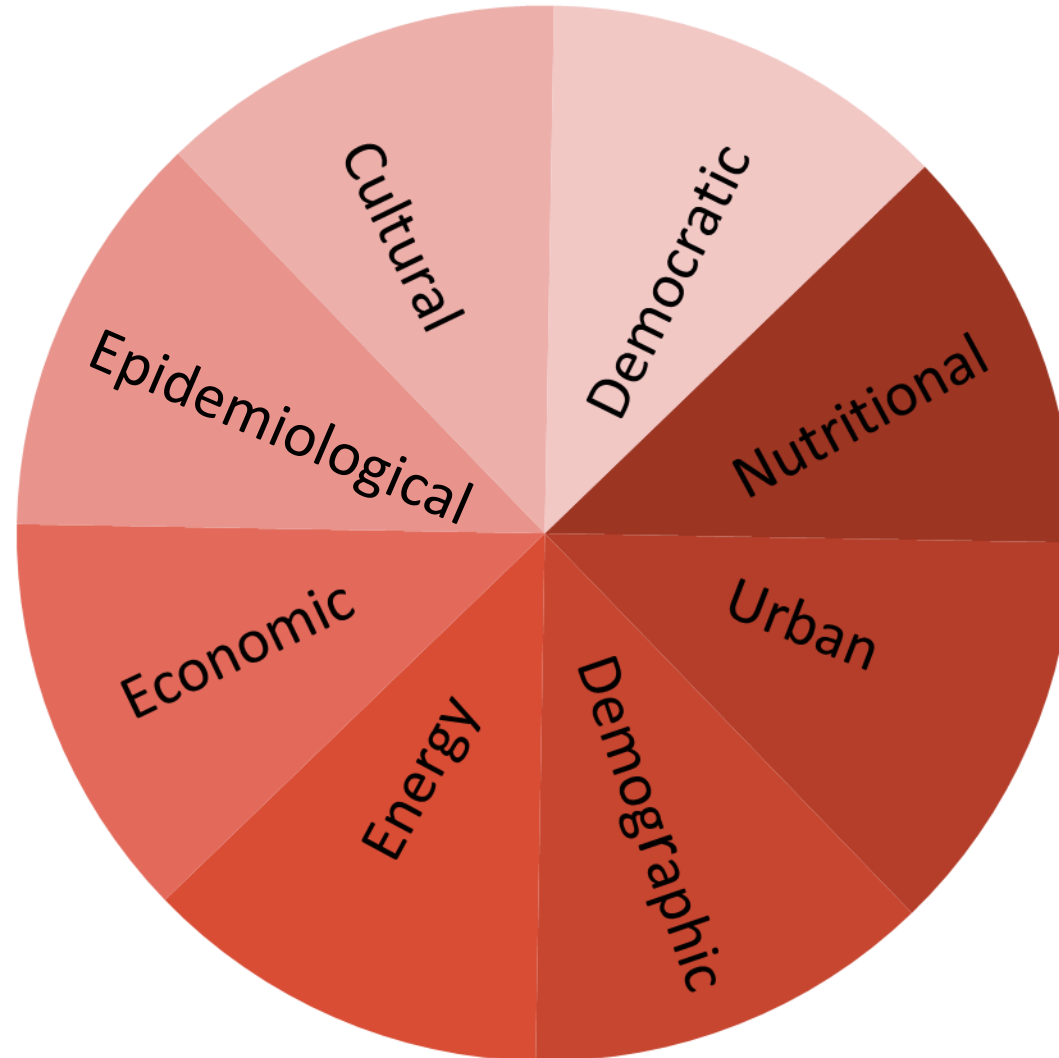
2 distinct, but related, categories of change continually shape and reshape the foundations of public health:

Category 1 - Large scale, long term changes at the level of **society** which act on the material, social, cultural determinants of health and wellbeing

Category 2 - An “**Evolution of Ideas**” determines our basic understanding of how health is created and destroyed

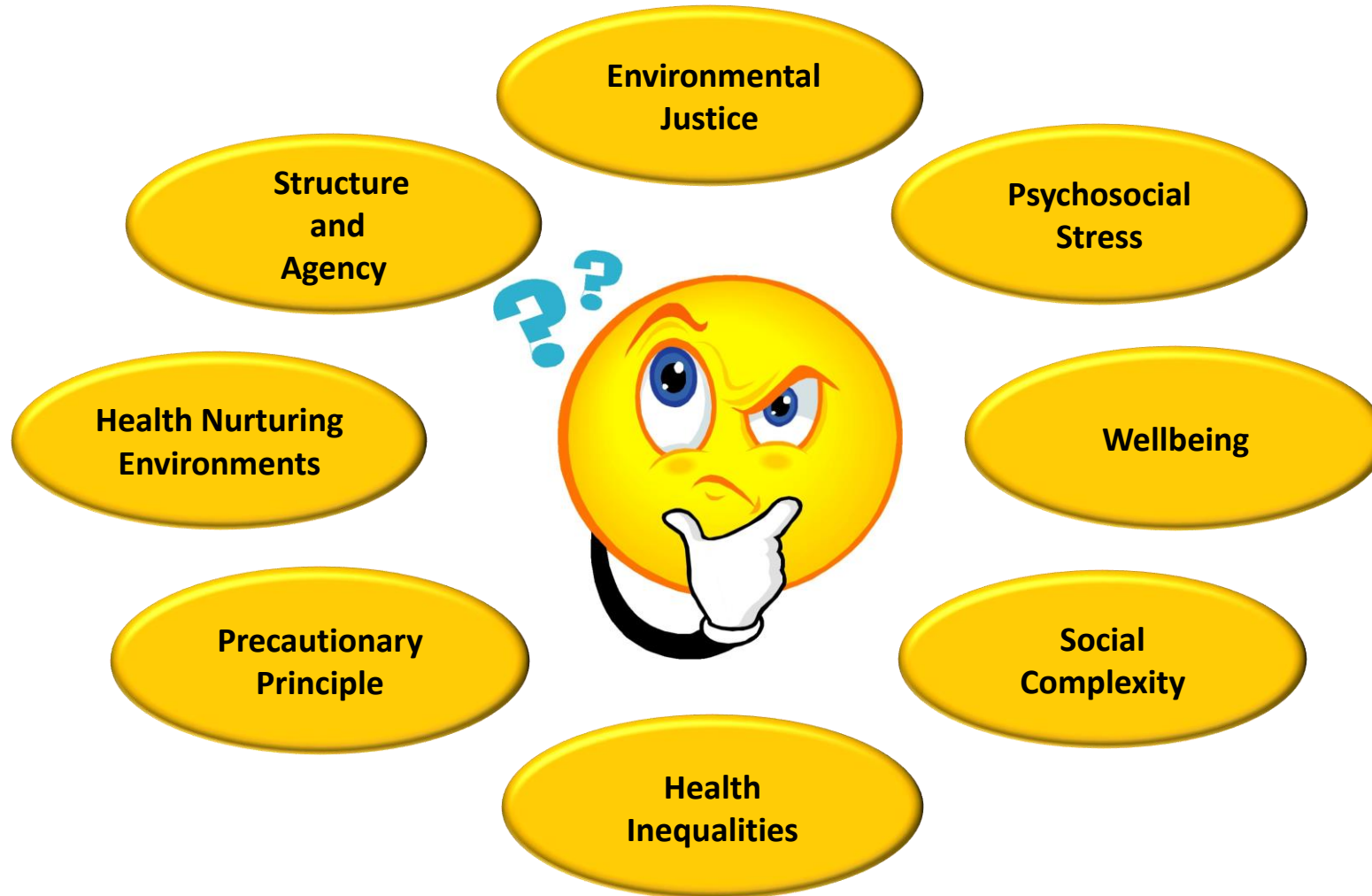
Category 1

Large scale, long term transitions at the level of society



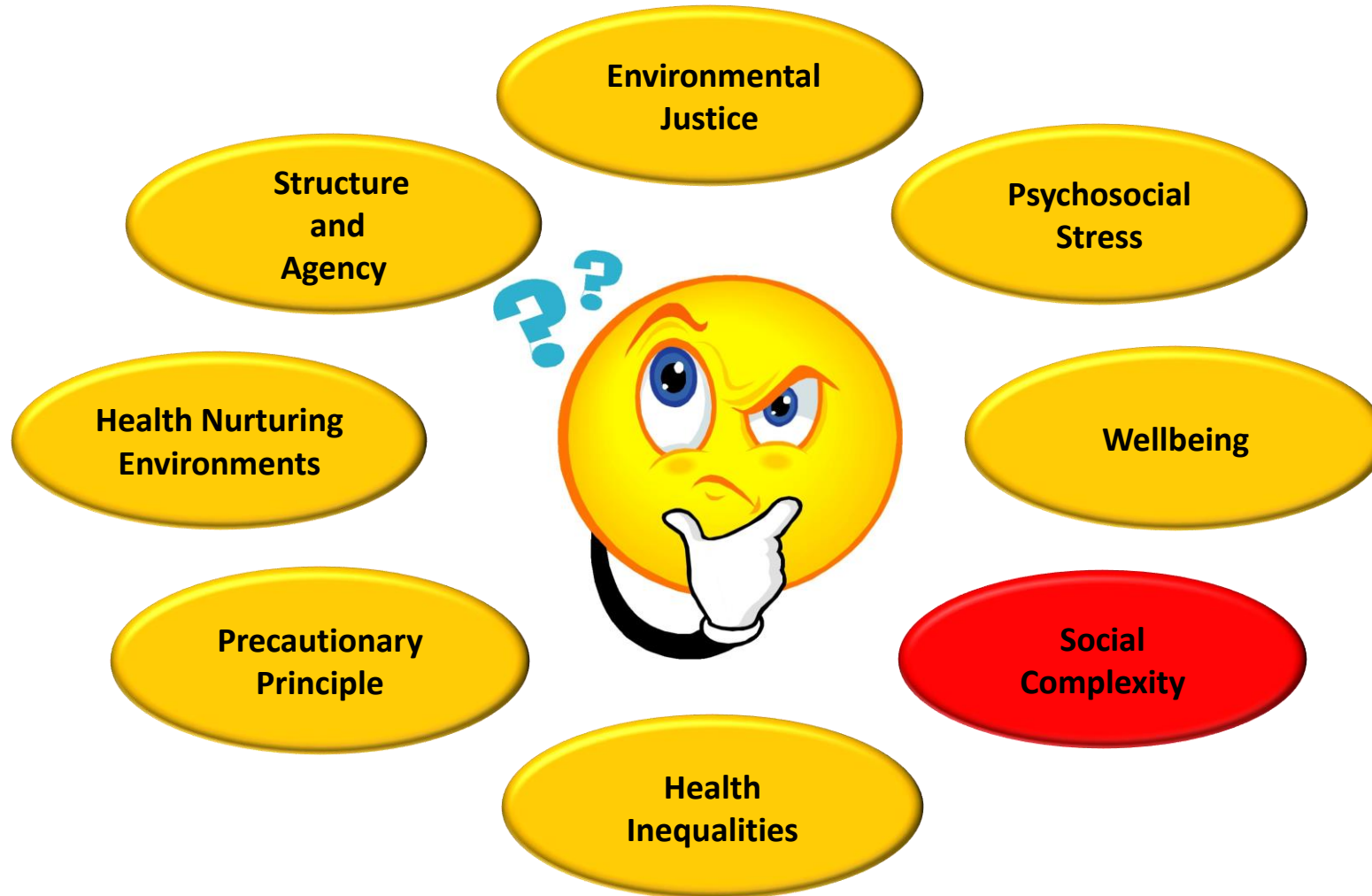
Category 2

The Evolution of Ideas about Health and its Determinants



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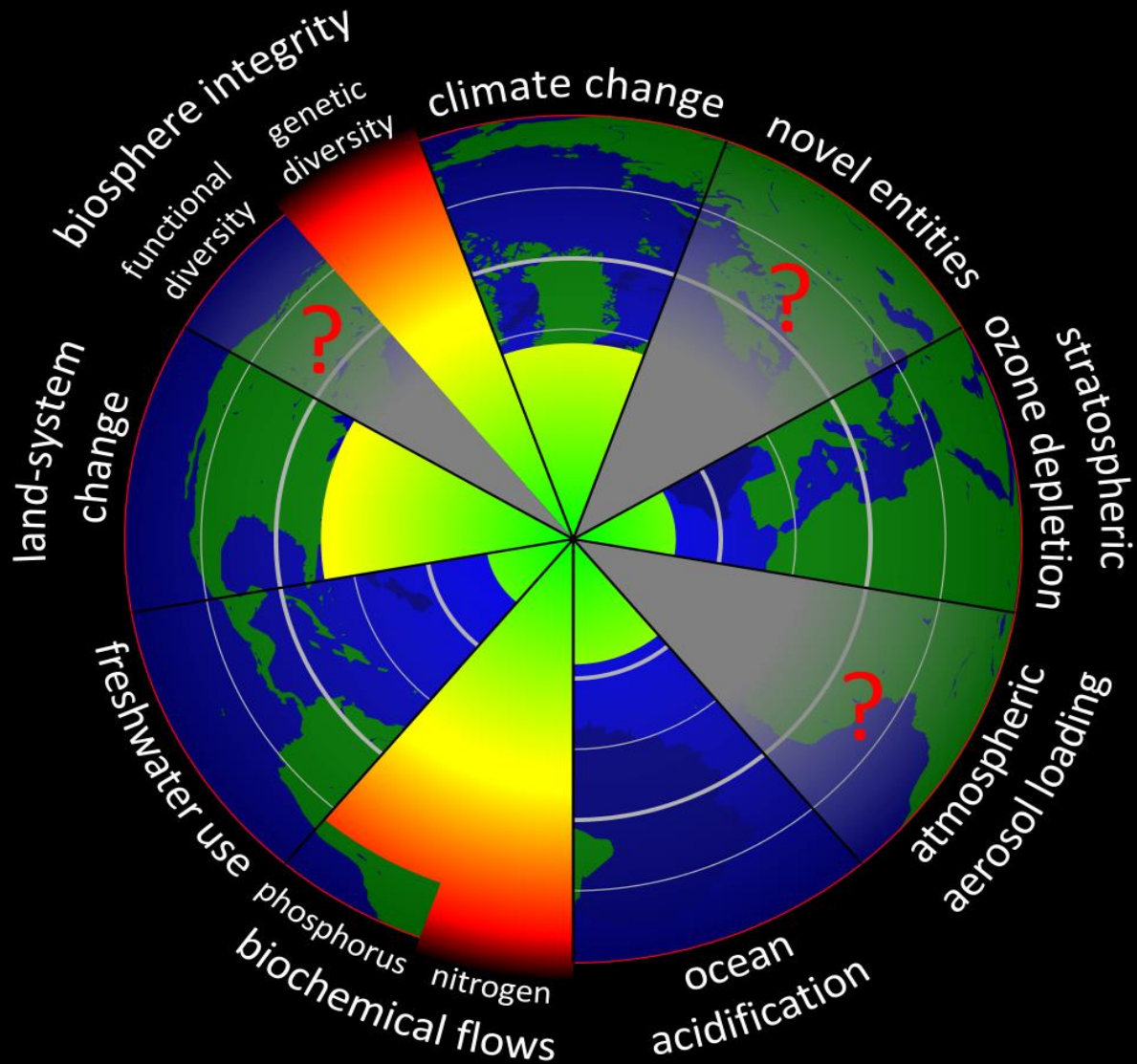


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An Ecological Transition



To keep Earth hospitable we need to live within 9 specific limits

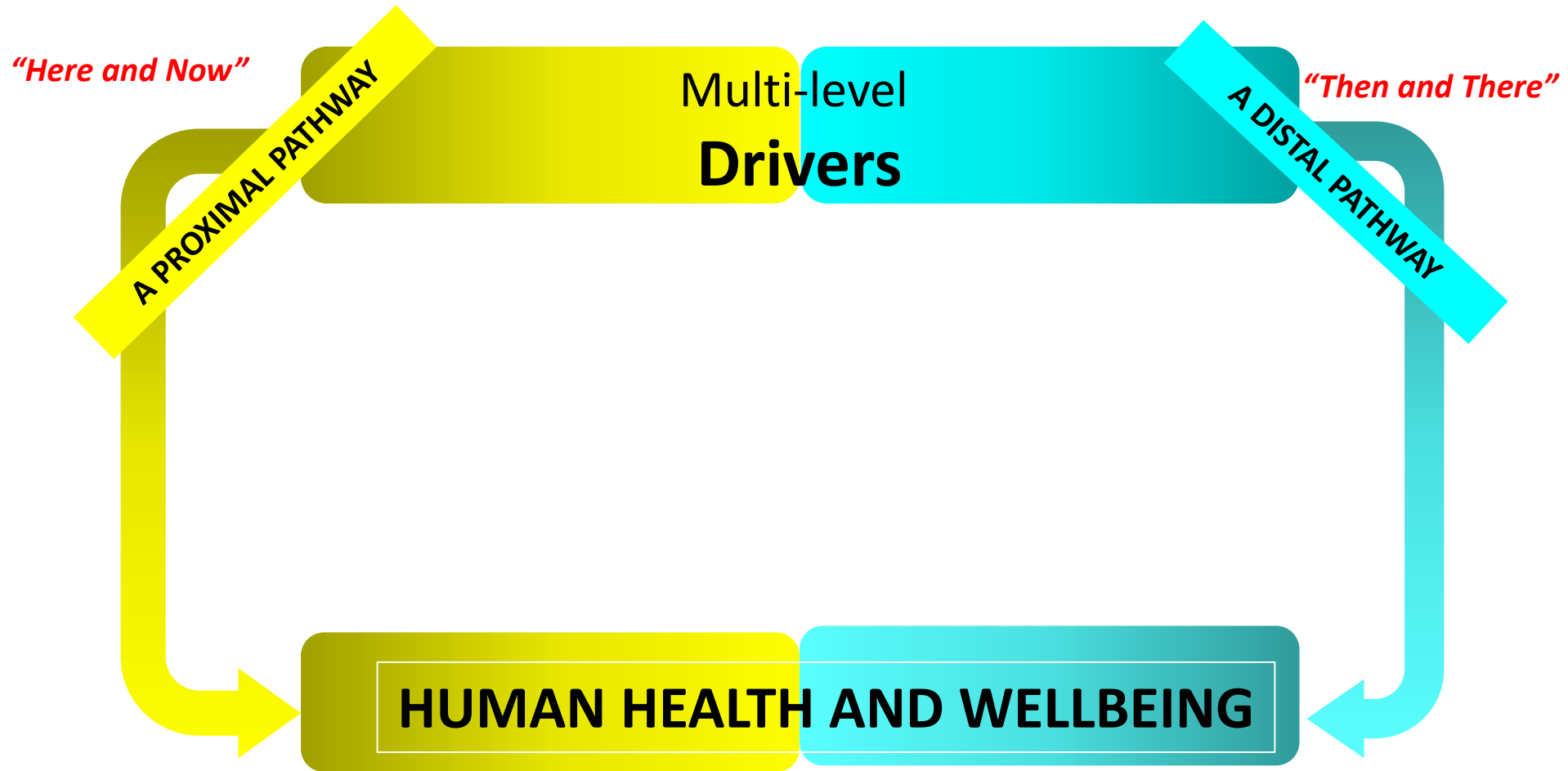
Planetary Boundaries
An Earth Systems framework

Steffen et al (2015)

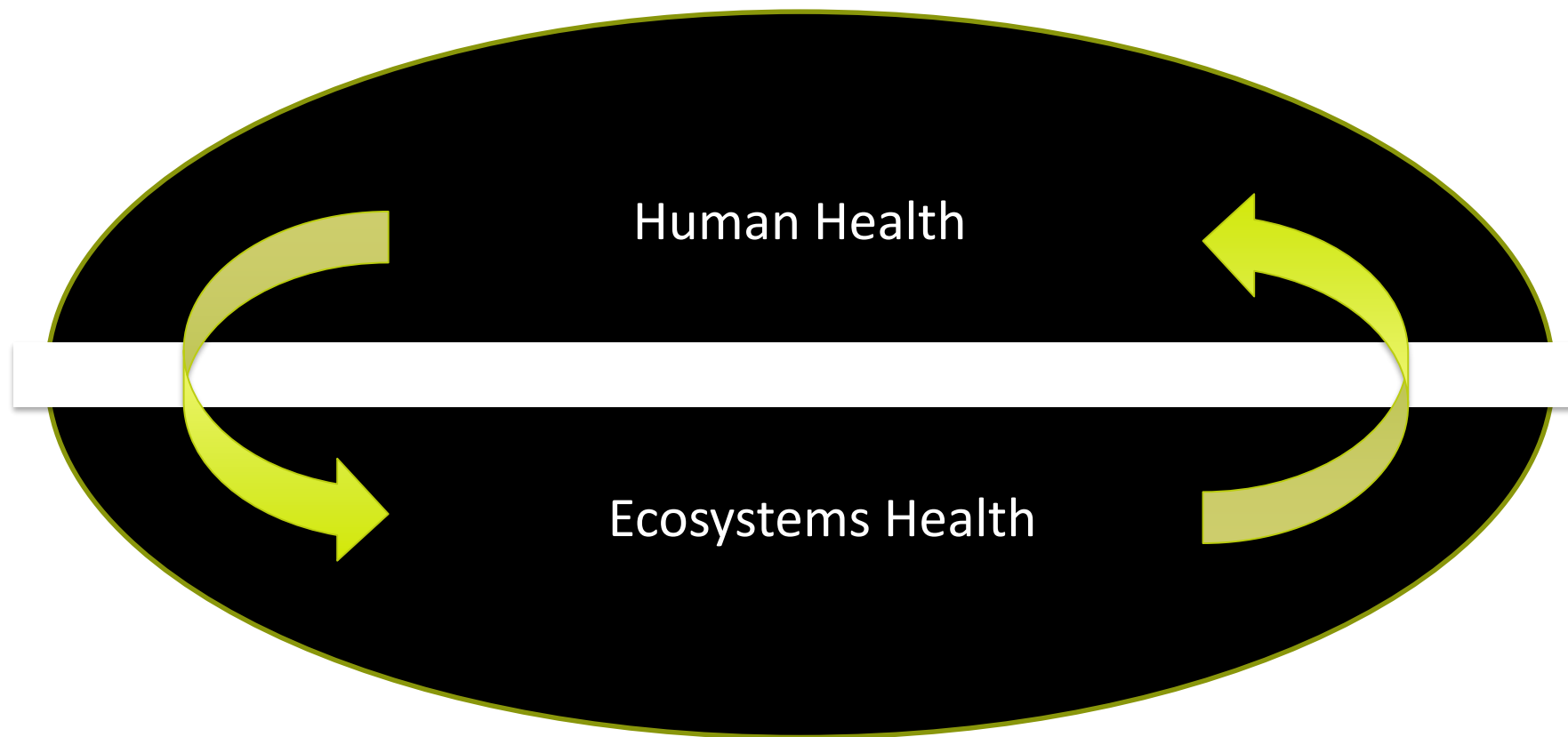
The Implications for Society and for Public Health are Significant

- We can no longer hope to deliver health, wellbeing, health care (and equity in these things) without a radical rethink of the way we live, move and consume
- Public health must think and act on a vastly extended temporal and spatial scale.
- The only logical conceptualisation of public health going forward is an environmental conceptualisation
- Those of us concerned with the relationship between environment, health and wellbeing must embrace a **distal dimension** to our work

Conceptually, there are 2 Pathways from human-driven environmental change to health and wellbeing



Ecological Public Health



Rayner and Lang (2012)

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781844078325/>

“While the new environmental conception of health, “Ecological public health” may seem a difficult and complex task that is now the 21st century’s unavoidable task”

Rayner and Lang, 2012

AS WE LOOK OUT, IN 2017, AT A TASK OF SUCH URGENCY
AND ON SUCH A SCALE.....

ARE THERE REASONS TO BE
CHEERFUL?



1. A supportive international policy context



2. When we look closely, we find



A considerable literature is now building around policies and actions which have potential to deliver co-benefits for health and environmental sustainability, better still, many such policies and actions may deliver the triple win of improved health, greater sustainability and greater equity.